



MINUTES of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the **TOWN COUNCIL** held virtually on **21 July 2021**

Present: Anne Eves Town Mayor
Janice Henwood Deputy Town Mayor

Graham Allen*
Andrew Barrett-Miles*
Emma Coe-Gunnell White
Matthew Cornish
Peter Chapman
Robert Duggan
Robert Eggleston
Lee Gibbs
Simon Hicks
Tofojjul Hussain
Joseph Foster
Sarah Lawrence*
Sylvia Neumann
Max Nielsen*
Kathleen Willis*
Roger Cartwright*

* *Denotes non-attendance.*

(19.00)

245. OPEN FORUM

5 members from the Lions Club were in attendance and left after item .

246. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Max Nielsen, Andrew Barrett-Miles, Kathleen Willis

247. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Eggleston stated that he is a Trustee of the Beehive and therefore had an interest in item 9. Cllr Foster declared an interest in item 7 as he is a Trustee of the Food Pantry.

248. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor paid tribute to Tony Parris who had served the Burgess Hill Community for 30 years as a Lion having joined the organisation when he lived in Croydon in 1991. His wife Val joined soon after that.

One of the events he got involved in was cycling to Arnhem in Holland on a post office bicycle (he was then working for the post office).

When they moved to Burgess Hill, Tony and Val joined the Haywards Heath club initially because Burgess Hill District Lions did not accept ladies at that time. Since joining the Burgess Hill District, Tony has served as Club President twice, as Zone Chairman and as Region Chairman, not to mention most other positions in the club. Among the notable adventures he has been on were four aid trips to Belarus.

Now aged 80, Tony has decided to step back, become a Privileged Lion and reduce his involvement.

The Mayor presented him with a certificate and thanked him for his contribution.

Mr Parris thanked the Mayor and council saying that recognition was not the reason for his efforts.

Cllr Duggan reported that he had received an invite to the Cyprus Hall AGM but that neither he nor Cllr Henwood could attend. Cllr Chapman was nominated and agreed to attend.

249. COUNCIL MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 4 May 2021, having been previously circulated, were **AGREED** and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

250. PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Councillor Henwood presented the minutes of the meeting,

In addition to the normal planning matters the committee had been consulted on the proposed 2 new schools planned for the Northern Arc.

The Minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee held on Monday 17 May, Monday 7 June, and Monday 28 June 2021 were **AGREED**.

251. FINANCE KEY AREA GROUP NOTES

Cllr Hicks presented the Notes of the Finance KAG held on 24 June 2021. He reported that there had been a surplus of £55k over the last financial year. The KAG had reviewed the current budget and agreed the annual governing statement

The Notes were **AGREED**

252. GRANTS PANEL: NOTES OF MEETING

Cllr Hicks presented the Notes of the Grants Panel held on 5 July 2021. The panel's *raison d'être* was to promote benefits for Burgess Hill residents. They had agreed an initial £3,100 and this had increased to £3,775 after due consideration had been given to the application by the Round Table. Special dispensation had been given to Round Table to hold a barbeque for those participating in their event.

The Notes were **AGREED**

253. FUTURE OF THE HELP POINT

A presentation had been given to councillors and a copy thereof distributed.

Resolved:

That the suggestions for the future of the Help Point as set out in the presentation be approved but that the specifics of the suggestions be considered in more detail by the Customer Services KAG.

254. BEEHIVE: PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD

The Council had submitted an application for £4.8 million to the Public Works Loan Board for the construction of The Beehive. The PWLB had responded with 6 questions which the RFO was dealing with. They were unhappy with the format of the Council resolution submitted and requested that the format be amended.

Cllr Eggleston said that the response was encouraging and that the PWLB had suggested that three applications of £1,6million be made rather than one large amount of 4.8million.. The main amount would be approved but the split into 3 would allow the PWLB to ensure that due diligence was being exercised and the project properly managed. It is hoped that a decision would be made by the end of August.

There was no urgency to fund raise at this stage. There is also a fair amount of section 106 monies which could be applied for once the loan is approved.. £43,000 including gift aid had been pledged at this stage.

The Bat survey had been completed and come back clear.

The architect is drawing up a brief for the non-material elements of the planning permission and the council is in discussion with MSDC regarding land matters and the compound. It is hoped that demolition would start in autumn.

RESOLVED:

At the Burgess Hill Town Council meeting held on 21 July 2021 it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £4,8million over the borrowing term of 50 years for the construction of The Beehive Arts and Community centre. The annual loan repayments will come to around £170,000.

It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.

255. FORMAT OF MEETINGS

Meetings at which formal decisions are made (Council and Grants panel) have to be held in person. Some councillors felt that personal meetings were better while others argued that it was much easier to attend virtual meetings and more members of public had participated when the meeting was virtual. It was agreed that Chairmen of KAGs would decide on whether to hold a meeting virtually or in person.

In response to a question as to whether all councillors are invited to all KAGs, the CEO said that not all councillors were invited to Staff and Member KAGs because of the sensitivity of what was sometimes discussed. It was explained that this is normal practice and that it was unnecessary for Councillors to know private details of staff.

Working parties should continue to be held virtually.

256. DIARY DATES

The Diary Dates were **NOTED**

257. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was proposed that, in the public interest, the public and press be temporarily excluded.

258. Meeting terminated at 20.05