

Minutes of a Meeting of the Forty Fifth Annual Assembly of the Townspeople of Sevenoaks held in both the Small and the Large Hall at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Sevenoaks on Monday 19th March 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Cllr M A Chakowa– Mayor of Sevenoaks

Cllr S L Arnold	Cllr R J Parry
Cllr N J L Busvine OBE	Cllr S G Raikes
Cllr J M Canet	Cllr P E Towell
Cllr A Eyre	Cllr E T Waite
Cllr R M C Hogarth	Cllr P C Walshe
Cllr Mrs R E Parry	

(12)

Also Present:

Mr Hugo Newall and Mrs Laura Hart, Urban Initiatives Studio
Chief Executive / Town Clerk, Mrs Linda Larter MBE
Assistant Town Clerk, Mr Hugh D'Alton
Committee Clerk, Mrs Michèle MacDonald
Sevenoaks Community Centre Administrator, Mrs Liz Hodgson
Sevenoaks Caretaker, Mr Chris Adams
Sevenoaks Community Centre Caretaker, Mr Martin Dix

63 Members of the Public

Apologies for absence:

Cllr R L Piper
Cllr Avril Hunter
The Right Hon Sir Michael Fallon MP
Cllr Peter Fleming
Mr Harvey Mahn, Sevenoaks Art Club
Mr Ray Russell, Sevenoaks Summer Festival

Prior to the commencement of the meeting members of the public had the opportunity to visit an exhibition of stands, in the Small Hall, provided by local voluntary groups who had received grants from Sevenoaks Town Council and to meet local Town Councillors.

The Mayor, Cllr Maxine Chakowa welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending the meeting in view of the snowy cold evening and advised that the PCSOs in attendance sought volunteers for Speed Watch and asked the public to meet with them after the end of the meeting.

The Mayor reported that the Sunday Times had included Sevenoaks in its 2018 places to live.

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Forty Fourth Annual Parish Meeting of the Townspeople of Sevenoaks held on 20th March 2017 were adopted and it was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor sign the Minutes of that meeting as a true record.

2 PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL 2017/201

The Mayor presented the Annual Report of the Town Council and invited the Town Clerk to summarise the Town Council's achievements to date for the period 2017/2018.

In addition to the Town Council's report, which had been distributed together with the 2018/2019 budget to all at the meeting, the Chief Executive/Town Clerk, Mrs Linda Larter MBE, provided a visual precis of the highlights of the Town Councils' achievements over the past year.

3 PRESENTATION FROM THE CONSULTANTS URBAN INITIATIVES STUDIO, ON THE DRAFT SEVENOAKS TOWN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Mayor invited Mr Hugo Nowell a Director from Urban Initiatives Studio to provide a presentation of the first draft of the Sevenoaks Town Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Mr Hugo Nowell noted that five years ago at the Annual Town Meeting, the public had signalled their support for Sevenoaks Town Council to start work on a Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Plan. The draft Neighbourhood Plan, of approximately ninety pages, would soon be published on the website following meetings with the local planning authority.

Subject to the plan (a) meeting basic conditions (b) passing independent examination and (c) receiving majority support at a referendum, the plan will carry statutory weight and be added to the local plan. Planning applications within the area would then have to be considered against policies contained within it.

Ms Penny Morrison raised the Question: "what happens if the District Authority says no?"

Answer: Necessary changes to meet basic compliance be considered and further discussed by both the District and Town Council. The District Council cannot just 'say no' as the process is set out in statute.

Mr Johnathan Drury raised the Question: "how can the Town Council introduce these as it is not a planning authority?"

Answer: there is a principal sustained in the National Planning Policy Framework which is why one prepares a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The more evidence in the planning documents, the more the Town Council can be proactive to choose sites for new homes and buildings and the more tools the District Authority has to review planning applications according to the wants of the local. The Town Council believes it is right to take a pro-active role in the planning process rather than leaving such matters to developers.

Ms Marie Child raised the Question: Has the ageing population in Sevenoaks been considered in the housing choices?"

Answer: The range of homes considered meet the local needs: e.g. co-housing and other housing modules are enshrined in this plan covering the whole of Sevenoaks Town.

Mr John raised the Question of School Transport as in holiday periods there are no traffic issues yet simultaneously school campuses are growing

Answer: The Town Council has included sustainable transport within its Neighbourhood Development Plan and the Town Council together with the District and County Council would work together to provide a coherent strategy.

Mr Peter Dobson raised the Question Is the of the number of dwellings proposed within the Neighbourhood Development Plan sufficient to meet the levels which must delivered by the Town Council?

Answer: Across Northern Sevenoaks, sites for circa1000 homes have been identified. Sevenoaks Town Council has no statutory duty to deliver or allocate land for housing, it is taking part in the process because it believes it boosts the voices of local people and ensures a pro-active approach to development is being taken.

Mr Tony Hayball raised the Question how relevant is this document as soon as it is published it will be out of date.

Answer: The Neighbourhood Plan is being produced in parallel with the emerging Local Plan to ensure maximum compatibility, it will therefore not be out of date as soon as it is adopted (subject to examination and referendum). The neighbourhood plan and all documents which make up the wider local plan are periodically reviewed to ensure their relevance.

4 MAYOR'S PRESENTATION OF GRANT CHEQUES TO LOCAL VOLUNTARY GROUPS

The Mayor presented cheques to the following organisations:-

- £500 – Mr Chris Holgate, Treasurer Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group, towards building a website
- £350 – Mrs Jill Webster, Sevenoaks Literary Festival, to hire speakers for the annual free event for local schools to attend.
- £600 – Mrs Margaret Holgate, Festival Secretary, to finance the hire of a piano and performance space for competitive classes and Prize winners' concert.
- £250 – Mrs Margaret Willis, on behalf of Friends of Rheinbach, in support of twinning activities [Germany].
- £5,000 – Mr John Levett, on behalf of The Sevenoaks Summer Festival, for funding towards the annual festival fortnight as Sevenoaks Town Council is its main partner.
- £500 – Mr John Levett, representing the Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra, to provide a free Youth Jazz Workshop to all schools on 26th June 2018.
- £300 – Mrs Eleanor Burns on behalf of D'Vine Singers, towards a Hardship Fund for vulnerable members to partake who cannot afford the weekly sub.
- £700 – Cadet Warrant Officer Bradley Relyea, on behalf of the Sevenoaks Air Cadets 2158 Squadron towards training weekends in the UK ready for cadets participating in the Exercise Partisan Shadow - "following the trail the soldiers took in WWI through the dolomites"
- £100 – Sergeant Josephine Hammon on behalf of Cadet Kathryn Winkett, to enable her to participate in the Exercise Partisan Shadow - "following the trail the soldiers took in WWI through the dolomites"
- £2,000 – Mr Matthew Ball, to help towards the publication of his book" Sevenoaks: The Great War and its Legacy".

Mr Harvey Mahn's apologies had been noted. The cheque for £200 for the Sevenoaks Art Club, would be posted.

5 **COMMENTS AND QUERIES FROM LOCAL PEOPLE ON ANY MATTERS RELATING TO SEVENOAKS**

The Mayor invited the public to ask any question or to raise queries relating to Sevenoaks.

No further questions were posed by the public in attendance.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8:10pm.

MAYOR