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Community House,
Meridian Way,
Peacehaven,
East Sussex,
BN10 8BB.

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held at Community House at 7pm on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Present:

Councillors: Cllr D Donovan (Chair of Council), Cllr W Veck (Vice-Chair of Council), Cllr M Campbell, Cllr S Wood, Cllr M Rosser, Cllr A Harman, Cllr I Alexander, Cllr I Sharkey, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr K Gordon-Garrett, Cllr N Fabry, Cllr P Davies, Cllr S Studd, Cllr S Griffiths, Cllr L Bradley.

Officers: George Dyson (Town Clerk), Zoe Malone (Responsible Financial Officer), Zoe Polydorou (Meetings & Projects Officer), Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Karen Bray (Information & Community Facilities Officer), Vicky Onis (Committees & Assistant Projects Officer), Steph Georgalakis (Public Relations Officer), Michael Ripley (Senior Caretaker).

Public: 37 members of the public in attendance.

1. Welcome delivered by Peacehaven Town Mayor, Councillor Debbie Donovan

Cllr Debbie Donovan welcomed everyone to the meeting, read out a statement on Civility & Respect, ran through the building fire procedures, and asked that mobile phones be put onto silent.

2. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cheta and Cllr Ashby-Parkin.

3. To approve and Sign the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting, Thursday 23rd April 2024

Proposed by: Cllr Veck **Seconded by:** Cllr Studd

The minutes of the annual town meeting on Thursday 23rd April 2024 were **accepted** as a true record.

4. Presentations from Peacehaven Town Council Committee Chairs

Cllr Donovan asked that all Councillors briefly introduce themselves to the meeting and what Committees they sit on.

All Peacehaven Town Councillors introduced themselves, and the Committee Chairs gave a brief overview of what their respective Committees have achieved in the past year, reflective of the reports included in the Annual Report which had been circulated before and at the meeting.

Cllr Donovan also gave a summary of the Mayor's report she has written, and Cllr Gallagher spoke on the Neighbourhood Plan.

5. Presentation on the History of the Peacehaven Post

Local resident, Derek Barton, gave a presentation on the history of the Peacehaven Post, a magazine first published in September 1921, the presentation covered the contents of the Post, the people behind it, the development of Peacehaven, and some examples of articles from the Post.

6. Refreshment Break

The meeting was suspended at 20:01 for a refreshment break and reopened at 20:23.

7. Public Questions to The Council

The Chair of the Resident's Association spoke about the work that they undertake and invited those present to attend their meetings.

A resident spoke to advise the meeting that he has spoken with a highways worker who informed him that the contractors are using a cheaper filler to fill in potholes in the town to save East Sussex Highways money, and to request that we request this practice stops.

The resident also advised that light aircraft are now regularly flying over Peacehaven, and that there should be some contact with the aviation authority to discuss the risks.

Another resident asked about the link to Lewes District and Eastbourne Borough Councils, Cllr Ian Alexander spoke as a District Councillor, who answered that the only shared services are the management team.

A resident also asked about development in Peacehaven, Cllr Campbell advised that the density analysis, completed as part of the Lewes District Local Plan, suggests that only about half of developments that have been given planning permission have been developed, although noted that the data is now slightly out of date.

Another resident spoke about the provision of seats at Friar's Bay steps.

Another resident advised that in September last year, the Royal Mail Sorting Office building in Peacehaven flooded, and the postal staff are still having to travel into Brighton to ensure Peacehaven gets its post, he requested that Councillors put pressure on Royal Mail to get a date on the Peacehaven building opening again. Cllr Rosser spoke in support of this, Cllr Alexander spoke about some of the background about responsibility for the repairs. Cllr Veck suggested that contacting the MP, Chris Ward, might be the best way to progress this. The Town Clerk will write to Royal Mail to establish the facts relating to this.

Another resident asked about what's happening with the Meridian Centre Development, and why Morrisons haven't been doing anything. Cllr Alexander advised that whilst Lewes District Council grant planning permission, they do not have the power to make them develop. Several others at the meeting echoed these comments about Morrisons.

Another resident spoke about the news on devolution, and in particular whether the Council will be able to sway whether Peacehaven gets absorbed into Brighton & Hove or East Sussex. Cllr Fabry reassured the meeting that there is a preference to remain with East Sussex.

There was a further comment about the poor state of pavements around the town. Cllr Gallagher advised that specific examples would need to be provided in order to make reports as necessary to the County Council, but to ensure they are reported to Councillors. Cllr Campbell further added that the Planning & Highways Committee will bring this forward as an agenda item for discussion.

A volunteer from the SCDA thanked the Town Council staff who support them each week and spoke about the work that the SCDA Community Supermarket does in Peacehaven.

8. Meeting Closes

The meeting was closed at 21:05.