

**Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held at Sevenoaks Town Council Offices
On Monday 14th December 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr S L Arnold (Mayor), Cllr A Eyre (Deputy Mayor), Cllr N J L Busvine OBE, Cllr J M Canet, Cllr M A Chakowa, Cllr A S Clayton, Cllr R M C Hogarth, Cllr Mrs R E Parry, Cllr R J Parry, Cllr R L Piper, Cllr S G Raikes, Cllr P E Towell and Cllr Mrs P C Walshe.

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr O Schneider, Cllr E Parson and Cllr E T Waite.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

45 members of the public were present.

The Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Stephen Arnold, welcomed and thanked all for attending the meeting of the Christmas Council and invited the members of the public to put forward any questions.

The Chairman of the Sevenoaks Allotment Holder's Association [SAHA], put forward the following two questions to the Mayor:

- i. Why did the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee drafting the SAHA lease, not consult nor discuss this with SAHA prior to the meeting on 16th November 2015?
- ii. Would the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee be prepared to speak to SAHA now, in order that the complaint may be dropped?

The Mayor confirmed that a response would be provided at a later date.

311 DISPENSATION

There were no requests for Dispensation

312 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

313 MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5TH OCTOBER 2015

RESOLVED: To receive, note, adopt and sign the Minutes of the Meeting as a true record.

314 PLANNING MEETINGS

RESOLVED: to receive, note and adopt the Minutes of the Meetings held on:

- a) 12th and 26th October 2015
- b) 9th and 23rd November 2015

RESOLVED: to receive, note and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2015 as a true record.

AGREED: to discuss the submission of planning comments relating to Planning Applications at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

315 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES' MEETINGS

RESOLVED: to receive, note and adopt the Minutes of the Meetings held on 2nd and 30th November 2015.

316 OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

RESOLVED: to receive, note and adopt the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2015.

317 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2015

RESOLVED: to receive and note the verbal update from the Town Clerk following the two Christmas Lights Switch On Events held on:

- a) Wednesday 25th November 2015 for the lights turned on in Dartford Road, St Johns Hill and Bat & Ball.
- b) Friday 27th November 2015 for the lights turned on in the Town Centre.

It was NOTED that many compliments were received regarding the new festive lights. The Town Clerk expressed her thanks to the main sponsors, Specsavers, and all others who had contributed towards the costs of the Christmas Lights in the Town and confirmed that further areas of the Town would be considered in the future. The Town Clerk invited all to put forward comments to her via email townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk ready for the Christmas Lights Switch on Debrief meeting to be held early in the New Year 2016.

RESOLVED: the Town Council congratulate the Town Clerk and her team on how wonderful and splendid the Christmas Lights look in the Town and the for success of the Christmas lights Switch On Events. Members also thanked the stall holders in the High Street for their perseverance despite the rainy stormy weather.

318 SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

The Mayor thanked the volunteers involved in supporting the Town Council's 2015 South East in Bloom Silver Gilt and expressed his hope that 2016 would see Sevenoaks Town being awarded Gold.

The Mayor presented the following with their certificates:

- a) St Nicholas Church - Paul Williams collected the certificate
- b) Adrian Cheeseman Sevenoaks Living Landscapes – Adrian Cheeseman collected the certificate

Having received their apologies, the Mayor noted that Sevenoaks School, Knole House and the Rockdale Housing Association would also be receiving their certificates.

RESOLVED: The Town Council also congratulate the Open Spaces Team for keeping the Town as attractive as it is.

319 PRESENTATION OF PAINTING

The Mayor presented the Town Council with a painting "Hillside Farm Deeside"; an acrylic by the local artist Sheila Steward.

320 MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS

RESOLVED: the functions attended by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor or their representatives and the forthcoming Civic Events being organised by the Mayor during 2015/2016 be received and noted. The Mayor thanked the local community for their support in their attendance of events in the Town.

321 PRESS RELEASE

RESOLVED: to reiterate the:

- a) Town Council's achievement with the new No 8 Bus Route around Sevenoaks Town centre and to republish the map of the route
- b) success of the Christmas Fair on the Vine
- c) First Prize for the Best Dressed Window be awarded to Sevenoaks Bookshop.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the Meeting at 7:36pm.

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Mayor of Sevenoaks

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Dated