

Minutes of a Meeting of the Forty third Annual Assembly of the Townspeople of the Town of Sevenoaks held in the Large Hall at the Sevenoaks Community Centre, Sevenoaks on Monday 21st March 2016 at 7:00 pm.

S L Arnold – Mayor of Sevenoaks

Cllr N J L Busvine OBE	Cllr R M C Hogarth
Cllr J M Canet	Cllr R E Parry
Cllr M Chakowa	Cllr R J Parry
Cllr A S Clayton	Cllr S G Raikes
Cllr A Eyre	Cllr P C Walshe

(11)

Also Present:

Chief Executive / Town Clerk, Mrs Linda Larter MBE
 Assistant Town Clerk, Mr Hugh D'Alton
 Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs Ann White
 Committee Clerk, Mrs Michèle MacDonald
 Sevenoaks Community Centre Administrator, Mrs Liz Hodgson
 80 Members of the Public

Apologies for absence:

STC Cllrs E Parson, R L Piper and P E Towell
 SDC Cllr M Dickens
 KCC Cllr Mrs M Crabtree

The Mayor, Cllr Mr Stephen Arnold, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. The Mayor informed all present at the meeting that Sevenoaks Town Council was one of 11 councils out of 9000 in the country to be awarded with the National Association of Local Councils' [NALC] Quality Gold Award Scheme and congratulated the Town Clerk and officers in recognition of their hard work and stated that he was pleased this occurred during his Mayoral year.

1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Forty Second Annual Parish Meeting of the Townspeople of Sevenoaks held on 23rd March 2015 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 2015/2016

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 2015/2016.

In addition to the Town Council's report, the Chief Executive/Town Clerk, Mrs Linda Larter MBE, provided a presentation of a few of the Town Councils' achievements over the past year.

The Town Clerk invited questions and welcomed the public to email her at a later date with any questions relating to the Annual Report, which had been distributed at the meeting, to council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk.

3. PRESENTATION BY DAVID GAMBLE

Mr David Gamble, Chairman of the Sevenoaks Society, provided a presentation relating to the Sevenoaks Local List informing all that in addition to the nationally listed buildings, the

Sevenoaks Society is recommending listing buildings of interest within the town of Sevenoaks. This includes buildings, walls, pillar boxes, lamp standards and railway tunnels to name a few.

To date work has concentrated on the wards of The Town, St John's and Kippington. The next and final year will concentrate on Northern, Eastern and Wildernessee wards.

Sevenoaks is the first town in Kent to have undertaken such research and its model is of interest to many other parts of the country.

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

The Mayor presented cheques to the following organisations:-

- £750 – Mr David Bellwood, Treasurer Relate & West & Mid Kent towards IT equipment.
- £500 – Mr Chris Holgate, Treasurer Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group to help with running costs to enable the disabled to attend clinics.
- £200 – Ms Tina Milman, Sevenoaks Literary Festival [previously known as Sevenoaks Literary Celebration] to enable local school children to attend the annual event free of charge.
- £750 - Mrs Angela Newey, Sevenoaks & Swanley Citizen's Advice Bureau to purchase secure doors for filing cabinets to hold confidential files.
- £250 – Mr Michael Pembrey on behalf of the Friends of Pontoise to support twinning activities [France].
- £600 – Mrs Margaret Holgate, Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival, to hire a piano for the 66th Festival in 2016.
- £400 – Mrs Ann Cadwallader, Volunteer Sevenoaks Home Library Service for the provision of library books to housebound and disabled.
- £250 - Mr Mike Wither on behalf of the Friends of Rheinbach to support twinning activities [Germany].
- £200 – Mrs Susan Horsfield, volunteer South East Open Studios to assist with advertising of events.
- £5,000 – Mr John Levett, Sevenoaks Summer Festival funding towards annual festival fortnight as the Town Council is it's main sponsor.
- £500 – Mrs Marsja Priston, Manager of Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra to provide a free Youth Jazz Workshop to local young musicians during June 2016.
- £458.46 – Mrs Kelly Fox, Circle Support for an in-house craft project to raise funds.
- £500 – Mrs Jacky Hintze, Choir Leader of D'Vine Singers to return to the venue at the Vine Baptist Church.

5 GENERAL QUESTIONS FROM LOCAL PEOPLE

The Mayor invited the public to ask any questions to or raise queries relating to Sevenoaks:

Mr John Humphrey raised the question about the appearance of 95 and 97 St John's Hill and the empty stores have been empty for over 20 years. The Town Clerk will pass the concern to the relevant body.

Mr Simon Raikes thanked all the volunteers who had received grant cheques for their contribution to the local community.

Mr Roger Fishwick from Linden Chase enquired about the Sevenoaks District Council proposals for the decking of the Bradbourne Car Park on Bradbourne Park Road stating that it was out of character with the residential area. The Town Clerk advised that as no planning application had been submitted for this proposal the Town Council had not formed a view. When the application has been submitted and validated the Town Council will be notified of the application at the same time as the local residents. At this point it was suggested that local residents contact the Town Council with their objections and nominate a representative to speak against the application when it is considered by the Town Council's Planning Committee.

Mr Nicholas Busvine OBE informed all at the meeting that the public have the right to come and speak for three minutes at any meeting, however reference particular planning applications to be considered at the Planning Committee they must call and register their attendance with the Assistant Town Clerk by 12 noon on the day of the meeting. As soon as the public receive notification from the District Council regarding planning matters, please call Mr Hugh D'Alton to register attendance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:03 pm

MAYOR

