



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 16 November 2017

Attended: Joanna Anderson (sub), Stuart Anderson, Caroline Auckland, Timothy Ball (sub), David Barnett, Adrian Berendt (Chairman), Lorna Blackmore, Mark Booker, Stephen Bowser, Cllr Peter Bulman, Cllr Barbara Cobbold, Irene Fairbairn, Jane Fenwick, Carolyn Gray, Alex Green, Tim Harper, Cllr Lawrence Heasman, Dorothea Holman, Michael Holman, Dean Kenward, Jackie Lloyd (sub), Linda Lewis, Katharina Mahler-Bech, Paul Mason (sub), Cllr Tracy Moore, Marguerita Morton, Altan Omer, Nick Pope, Cllr Catherine Rankin, Kate Sergeant (sub), Cllr James Scholes, David Scott, Cllr Don Sloan, Anne Stobo, Alastair Tod, David Wakefield (sub), Mary Wardrop, Denise Watts, Pat Wilson and Cllr Chris Woodward

TWBC officers present: John-Jackson Almond (Assembly Hall Theatre Director), Diane Brady (Major Projects Manager), David Candlin (Head of Economic Development and Property), Jane Clarke (Head of Policy and Governance), Lee Colyer (Director of Finance, Policy and Development), Jane Fineman (Head of Finance and Procurement), Paul Taylor (Director of Change and Communities) and Mike McGeary (Democratic Services Officer)

Also present: Mrs C Wilson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from: Bill Acker, Sally Balcon, Cllr Ronen Basu, David Bushell, Cllr Ben Chapelard, John Cunningham, Brian Lippard, Charles Pope, Tim Tempest, Cllr Lynne Weatherly and Lucy Willis.

2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE

The Democratic Services Officer had circulated a list of organisations which had achieved the required level of attendance at meetings to be able to vote at the AGM, as determined by the Town Forum's Constitution.

3. MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM, held on 23 November 2016, were submitted. It was noted that these had been presented to the January 2017 meeting, where they had been noted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the AGM, held on 23 November 2016, be approved.

4. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TOWN FORUM'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR

The Chairman of the Town Forum for 2016/17, Adrian Berendt, summarised his report on the work of the Forum over the past year, which was a requirement of its Constitution.

Mr Berendt began by focusing on a key role of the Town Forum, namely to raise concerns, to ask questions and to make suggestions. He also spoke about the importance to the town of 'resident-led' initiatives, with particular reference to the success of the Calverley adventure grounds that were created this year.

Mr Berendt thanked the Borough councillors who attend and support Town Forum meetings and paid particular tribute to the members of the Town Forum for their huge effort across the year – especially to those who served on the working groups. He listed the major contributions made by each of the working group chairmen – with the support of the Forum members involved – and thanked them for their commitment, their tireless hard work, and for taking such an effective lead in responding not only to the many consultation topics across the year but for pressing for action in support of the many communities within the town.

Mr Berendt also drew attention to the Town Forum's focus on some of the social aspects of the town, notably the very interesting presentations from Nourish and associated public health issues. He added that he would like to see this area of the Forum's work develop across the coming 12 months.

Mr Berendt listed some of the key topics which would come before the Town Forum in 2017/18: publication of the new Local Plan; a new Transport Strategy; further developments on the civic complex; and the next phase of the public realm scheme. He said that these topics – and others – would ensure that the Town Forum remained as relevant as ever. He stressed that the Forum would continue to act as a channel for unbiased information and urged more people to join and to volunteer time to help support the activity of the working groups.

Finally, Mr Berendt wished to place on record the Forum's thanks to both the Leader of the Council and to the Chief Executive for their continued interest.

At the conclusion of Mr Berendt's report, Michael Holman said that the past 12 months had been a notably busy year for the Town Forum, where many important issues for the town had been considered. He added that the Town Forum acted as a focal point for matters of concern in the town and sought to maintain an effective line of communication with the Borough Council. On this, Mr Holman said that the channels of communication between the Town Forum and the Borough Council had improved hugely over the past year. He added that this was largely because of the Chairman's diplomatic skills, including much work carried out behind the scenes.

RESOLVED – That the Chairman's report on the work of the Town Forum for 2016/17 be accepted.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2017/18

Mike McGeary, Democratic Services Officer, summarised a report, which set out the election process for the appointment of a Chairman and two Deputy Chairmen of the Town Forum.

Mr McGeary explained that there had been one nomination for the position of Chairman and two for the two Deputy Chairmen positions, as follows: Chairman – Adrian Berendt; Deputy Chairmen – Alex Green and Alastair Tod. Mr McGeary advised that Mr Green had already served three terms of office as Deputy; he added that, while the Forum's Constitution specified two terms as the maximum for holding office, provision was also included for further terms of office, subject to the agreement of members at the AGM.

Alex Green proposed the election of Adrian Berendt as Chairman for 2017/18; this was seconded by Jane Fenwick. David Wakefield proposed the re-election of Alex Green as Deputy Chairman for 2017/18; this was seconded by Linda Lewis. Mark Booker proposed the election of Alastair Tod as the second Deputy Chairman; this was seconded by Michael Holman. These nominations were endorsed unanimously.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That Adrian Berendt be formally declared elected to serve as Chairman for 2017/18, until the date of the 2018 AGM;
- (2) That Alex Green and Alastair Tod be formally declared re-elected to serve as the Deputy Chairmen for 2017/18, until the date of the 2018 AGM.

The meeting concluded at 6.46pm.