

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held at the Edmonds Community Hall, Albert Rooms,
Albert Road, Horley on Friday 29 April 2016**

PRESENT

In the Chair:	Cllr Richard Olliver - Chairman & Town Mayor
Town Councillors	Cllrs J Baird, J Baker, S Banwait, R Biggs, K Etheridge, M George, J Hudson, D Jackson, A Kitajewski, H Kitajewski, L Mabbett, Samantha Marshall, Simon Marshall, V Marshall, D Powell, H Randall and F Stimpson.
Borough Councillors:	Cllr Joan Spiers (Mayor of Reigate & Banstead) Cllr Tony Schofield
County Councillors:	Cllr Kay Hammond
Guest Speaker	Peter Faulding, Specialist Group International Ltd
Town Clerk	Alan Jones
Deputy Clerk	Carol Fenton
Planning Officer	Joan Walsh
Parks Warden	Roy Martin

Plus 32 members of the public.

Cllr Olliver welcomed everybody to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Ross-Tomlin, Cllr G Knight, J Spratt, A Baird, J Baird, M Goldsmith, R Bethell, G Partridge, A Partridge, B Kendall, V Jones, J Williamson.

Minutes of Meeting held on 27 March 2015

The Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held on 27 March 2015 were presented for confirmation by those present and signature by the Chairman of the Council.

Court Lodge in Colour (Juniors)

Presentations were made to the prize winners in the recent competition.

Horley in Spring

Presentations were made to the prize winners in the recent competition.

Smith's Charity

The unaudited accounts of Smith's Charity, for the year ending 29 February 2016, were presented by Mr D Kilborn (Administrator and Trustee) and received by those present. A copy of the accounts is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Horley Churchyards

A report was received from Dr Thiru Jesudason (Chair Churchyard Committee & Church Warden, St Bart's Church). She explained that the maintenance of the Old Churchyard had been taken over by volunteers and its condition was much improved. The New Churchyard was maintained by Countrywide Grounds Maintenance to new specifications drawn up by Cllr David Powell, assisted by others from the Town Council. The Diocese had instructed that a Tree Survey be carried out of both Churchyards, following which a large ash tree had to be urgently felled. The Town Council had provided a grant of £4,000 and a grant of £500 had been received from the Gatwick Community Trust. (The full report is appended to the signed copy of the minutes.)

Horley Edmonds Community Fund

A report was received from Laura Thurlow, the Deputy Director of the Community Foundation for Surrey. A copy of the report is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Annual Report 2015 – 2016

The Annual Report was received by those present.

Town Plan 2016 – 2019

The Town Plan was received by those present. The Chairman explained that the Skate Park was to be replaced in the coming year and it was hoped that a Café might be built at Horley Recreation Ground within the next 2-3 years.

Report of the Chairman of the Council - Councillor Richard Olliver

The Chairman's report was received. A copy is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Report of the Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee - Councillor Simon Marshall

Cllr Simon Marshall presented his report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Report of the Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee - Councillor Mike George

Cllr Mike George presented his report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Report of the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee - Councillor Samantha Marshall

Cllr Samantha Marshall presented her report, a copy of which is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.

Public Discussion Period and Questions

Local resident Gary Whitworth questioned why the Business Park was not referred to in the Town Plan. Cllr George responded that there had been no planning application to date and added that it would be very ill advised for the Town Council to voice an opinion until this was in place. Once this had happened the Town Council would put forward its views, which would take account of the views of members of the public. Gary Whitworth responded that the people of Horley needed the chance to give their opinions, as had happened with the Second Runway proposals. Cllr George replied that the Town Council would take a similar approach regarding the Business Park if there enough requests from members of the public, but stressed again that this would only happen once a planning application was in place.

Local resident Roy Sherwin expressed his concerns that projects such as a Café in the Recreation Ground would lead to large increases in the level of Precept being charged to Horley residents, something he had tried to mitigate when he secured the Double Taxation Agreement with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. In reply Cllr Samantha Marshall expressed the Town Council's appreciation of Mr Sherwin's efforts, however with the Town Council's Reserves now at an acceptable level, members wished to build up Earmarked Funds for future projects. She also pointed out that the Town Council always aimed to give good value for money, especially with a Precept which was only two thirds of the National Average for similarly sized Town Councils. Roy Sherwin responded that he believed it was the responsibility of Reigate & Banstead to fund capital projects in Horley such as the Skate Park and proposed café.

Resolutions

The Clerk advised that the following Resolutions had been received:

1. "Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has so far failed to publish a plan for the consultation of local people. The 'Airport City' plans were announced over 6 months ago and local campaigners were promised an outline of the Consultation process by the end of March. The leader of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council has been running 'Horley Consultative Group' meetings but has selected just 6 people to attend these meetings and excluded all others. The content of these meetings has been kept private and to date no agenda or minutes have been published. The Airport City business park would have a huge impact on Horley and its residents. We feel that it is vitally important that all Horley residents are fully consulted in an open and transparent way. We propose that once the planning application is submitted Horley Town Council send all Horley residents information about the plans and in addition to this initiate an independent survey of local opinion through a variety of different methods."

(Proposer: Richard Barnett; Seconder: Tessa Barnett)

2. “The proposed 'Airport City' business park would be built on the rural surrounds of Horley contradictory to many of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council's own policies. In view of the long list of concerns raised, and the 4,500 people who have signed the petition against the business park, we think that it is time The Town Council recognise public feeling and support local people. We urge Horley Town Council to support local residents by standing up and speaking out against this proposal.”

(Proposer: Alice Backhouse; Seconder: Anna Szkoda)

RESOLVED: that the Town Council respond to the Resolutions at an appropriate time.

Presentation by Peter Faulding, Chief Executive of Specialist Group International

Town Councillor David Powell introduced Mr Faulding to those present and explained that he and his amazing team had recently cleared very serious blockages in both the River Mole and Burstow Stream in Horley.

Peter Faulding explained that his Company was formed in 1995 and provided round the clock specialist rescue and protester removal responses to police, fire and other Government Agencies. Peter went on to explain that he was regarded as a specialist in confined space search rescue and forensic search and his company had been instrumental in uncovering vital evidence in multiple high-profile cases over the years.

The Chairman thanked Mr Faulding for his very enlightening and at times amusing presentation.

Local resident Mrs Helen Peters thanked the Town Council for all it did for local residents and added that she and her husband would shortly be moving away from the area.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Date of Next Meeting – 28 April 2017

Signed:

Dated: