

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held at the Albert Rooms, Albert Road, Horley on Friday 19 May 2023

PRESENT

In the Chair:	Cllr Samantha Marshall - Chairman & Town Mayor 22-23
Town Councillors	Cllrs Baird, Barlow, Burnham, Easterbrook, George, Hughes Marr, Saunders, Turner & Wotton
Borough & County Councillors:	Cllr Hannah Avery (Borough & Town Cllr) Cllr Jordan Beech (County & Town Cllr) Cllr Victoria Chester (Borough & Town Cllr) Cllr Richard Biggs (Borough Cllr)
Guest Speaker	Dr. Beccy Bowden, Chief Executive, Community Fund for Surrey
Council Staff	Joan Walsh, Town Clerk; Rachel Botcherby, Sophie Mandak, Helen Maan and Judy Morgan.

Plus 20 members of the public.

Cllr Samantha Marshall welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Baker and Hudson.

Minutes of Meeting held on 29 April 2022

The Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held on 29 April 2022 were presented for confirmation by those present and signed by the Chairman of the Council.

Presentation of Town Award

A Town Award was presented to Mr Bob Jenkinson. A copy of the Citation is attached. In his acceptance speech Mr Jenkinson said that he was proud and privileged to accept the award as the work of the Horley Branch of the British Legion was a group effort by the committee. He added that there had been a good turnout for the Remembrance services and Parade last November and the Legion greatly appreciate all the help and assistance received from the Town Council without which it wouldn't happen. They also appreciate how lovely the Memorial Garden is kept by the Town Council.

Annual Report of the Henry Smith Charity (Horley) for 2022-2023

The report was given by one of the seven Trustees of the charity, Mr J. Williamson. During the past year the charity increased the number of trustees from five to seven, are working on amending their constitution, distributed £11,600 in response to 58 applications focused on the parish of Horley and Salfords. They receive referrals from social and support workers, citizen advice bureau, and are developing links with family link workers at schools, the food bank and food club.

Horley Churchyards

A report was received from Dr Thiru Jesudason, Deputy Church Warden. She thanked Horley Town Council for the continued support in helping with maintenance of the New Churchyard in a way that is aesthetically pleasing and safe for the public. She added that it is a public cemetery for the use of any resident of Horley. She gave an overview of the anticipated costs of grounds maintenance for the coming year as well as a snapshot of the costs incurred in the previous financial year. She added that they continue to rely on and value their volunteers who continue to help maintain a safe environment; taking on tasks that do not require professional help and by keeping the place free of debris. She highlighted the challenges of an ageing population and reduced church attendance and expressed the hope that in future Horley Town Council would consider grant funding to cover the full cost of the annual grounds' maintenance.

Warm over Winter Campaign

Members of the Horley Lions Club which received a grant of £5,000 from the Horley Edmonds Fund gave an overview of the work of the Warm over Winter Campaign.

From October 2022 until the end of March 2023 the Horley Lions WOW team have been able to help households who are referred to the Churches of Horley Food Bank, every week on a Wednesday and Friday with Gas and Electric payments. We have provided support to over 200 households in Horley and 321 people benefitted.

The grant supported direct payments onto household Energy provider accounts. This allowed many households to keep warm and provide hot water for showers and baths. For many families the payments we made were a lifeline to them. The donation allowed us to speak to local schools who could also make referrals to us via the Food Bank for support. We have aligned ourselves with many support organisations such as CARBS, Raven Trust Housing, Local Schools and other Community Support workers.

They expressed their gratitude to the Town Council for the grant funding which helped to enable the success of the campaign to help keep Horley households warm over winter and added that given the ongoing level of need, this would become an annual programme and they hoped to have the support of the Town Council in future years.

Annual Report 2022-2023

The Annual Report was received by those present.

Report of the Chairman of the Council - Councillor Samantha Marshall

The Chairman's report was received.

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

The Chairman's report was received.

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

The Chairman's report was received.

Report of the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee - Councillor Jordan Beech

The Chairman's report was received.

Comments and Questions on Reports

Residents were invited to make comments or ask questions concerning the reports. Topics discussed included the permission to allow development of flats in the town centre with now parking provision, when the repairs to the footbridge over the railway line would be complete, what projects had the Town Council put forward to RBBC for SIP CIL funding, the DCO process for the Gatwick Northern Runway, enforcement actions in cases of antisocial behaviour and remedial action for potholes.

Resolutions

The Town Clerk advised that no Resolutions had been received.

Horley in Bloom & Photographic Competitions

Cllr George outlined arrangements for the competitions for 2023. Horley Town Council looks forward to receiving the entries.

Presentation from the CEO of the Community Foundation for Surrey

The CEO of the Community Foundation for Surrey gave a presentation outlining the vision and work of the Foundation and shared its successes and future needs. She highlighted opportunities for residents to help grow the Horley Edmonds Fund including by leaving a legacy, especially as it was a legacy from Cyril Edmonds that had created that fund initially. The Horley Edmonds Fund is for the benefit of the residents of Horley. The Chairman thanked Beccy Bowden for her presentation.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and those attending virtually.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm. Date of Next Meeting – 17 May 2024 (provisional)

Signed:

Dated: