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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Local Government Electors for Polegate held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Polegate Community Centre at 7 p.m.

Those present 79 members of the public, 10 Town Councillors, 1 County Councillor, 2 representatives from ESCC Highways 3 members of Youth Development Services, 1 First Polegate Scout Group.

### **1. Welcome by the Mayor**

Cllr T Voyce, Polegate Town Council Mayor, welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Assembly. Cllr T Voyce explained that he had been elected as Town Mayor on 10<sup>th</sup> May. He has been Town Councillor for 11 years of which 7 years was Chair of Planning Committee. Cllr Voyce stated it was his intention to build on the previous Mayor's achievements and to fly the flag for Polegate.

Cllr Voyce stated that this was not a formal Council Meeting a short agenda would be followed.

### **2. To receive the minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

The minutes were "taken as read" and signed by the Town Mayor.

### **3. Matters Arising from those minutes**

No matters arising.

### **4. Guest Speakers**

Cllr T Voyce introduced the guest speakers, Norman Baker MP, Mr M Pashler regarding the new Crown Caddy Recycling Scheme, Mr K Williams regarding E-Planning and Inspector T Wakefield regarding Policing matters within the Wealden Area. Mr N Hancock and Mr B Lenton ESCC (Traffic Calming measures along Pevensey and Dittons Road)

#### **Norman Baker MP**

Mr Norman Baker MP thanked the Mayor for inviting him to speak at the meeting and he thanked the members of public for electing him as their MP. Mr Baker will be continuing to have his surgeries at the

Council Offices. Mr Baker announced that he had been appointed Transport Minister in the Department of Transport. Mr Baker then asked if there were any questions. Various questions from members of public were asked concerning travel, the coalition government and how it will affect local issues such as housing strategies and waste management strategies.

**Mr Mike Pashler Head of Waste and Commercial Services**

Mr Pashler said that he was here to inform residents of the changes that are proposed to happen next year to the waste recycling collection service. A kerb side collection was introduced many years ago but it doesn't deliver to all properties. This is now not cost effective and needs to be updated. The system has been trailed very successfully in other areas and it is being introduced in phases in the rural areas first and then it will be introduced in the urban areas. Polegate area will hopefully be around April 2011. The new system will introduce two boxes to sit in the landfill and the green bin. In the landfill, the box will hold plastic bottles and cans and in the green bin the box will hold newspapers and yellow pages. The idea is that it will only take one refuse lorry per week to collect the rubbish. The lorry will have two compartments. The saving to Wealden District Council will be approximately £250,000 per year. Various questions were asked from members of the public which included size of bins, opening times of rubbish bins, micro-chipping of bins and excess rubbish that is not collected by the refuse collectors.

**Mr Kelvin Williams Head of Planning and Building Control**

Mr Williams stated that Wealden as a planning authority it is one of the busiest in England and Wales. They received 2784 planning applications last year, 311 tree matters, 1500 building regulation applications and carried out 6500 inspections. Wealden had about 1000 planning enforcement cases, 4000 land searches and 6 ombudsman complaints. Electronic planning consultations has come from the Government to get away from paper and becoming a paperless society. WDC receive 40% of their applications on line. When they consult with the Parish and Town Councils then this has to be produced in paper form. WDC consult with Highways and English Heritage via E-planning. This will be rolled out in December 2010. There is a pilot scheme on going at this time with various Parish and Town Councils. Members of the public can access WDC website to view planning applications. The South Downs National Park will possibly delegate all planning applications back to WDC as they take office in April 2011. Various questions were asked by members of the public including talking at a planning committee, viewing large planning applications on line and reassurance that voices are heard by WDC on planning applications.

**Mr Nathan Hancock Principle Engineer, ESCC**

Mr Hancock explained that he is responsible for looking at Highways works once a planning application has been approved by WDC. He works with the developer and to look at the design they have for roads and any alterations that they may require. Mr Hancock was asked about the lighting along Dittons and Pevensey Road in conjunction with the traffic calming and also the mini-roundabout that is proposed with the proposed development. Mr Hancock explained that as part of the development, the developers will be upgrading the street lighting to national level. Various questions were asked by members of the public concerning highways issues including Sayerland Road, Station Road parking spaces and off street parking.

### **Inspector Tony Wakefield, Sussex Police Authority**

Inspector Wakefield explained that he had come from Eastbourne and looks after Wealden and Neighbourhood Policing. He has been here since November 2009. He introduced PC L Keenan. Inspector Wakefield asked everyone to get involved in Policing in their local area. In the Wealden Area there had been 2.5 domestic burglaries a week last year. Inspector Wakefield stated that we live in a very low crime area. He introduced Neighbourhood panels and again asked everyone to get involved. They choose the local priorities in both South and North Wards. Inspector Wakefield introduced "Operation Time". It is aimed to deal with low level anti-social behaviour. It has been in Eastbourne for sometime. It involved the residents keeping the Police informed of any anti-social behaviour. There is an application form to be completed. Most anti-social behaviour happens on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and can involve young people and alcohol. Once the form is completed the Police will phone the resident up to inform them that the Police are in the area and the resident will be given a mobile phone number. This will be in direct contact with 6 officers in a van that is monitoring the area. Other agencies are involved such as Youth Services and Schools. Neighbourhood Watch is being reviewed at this present time. The PSCO's were known by most members of the audience. Various questions were asked by members present including cycling on the pavements and fines imposed. The question of Commuter parking was mentioned and the parking outside of Polegate School. This is being monitored by Sussex Police. Education for all drivers is required so that they park sensibly. Inspector Wakefield informed members that very recently they had employed a full time member of staff to look at all Highway issues for Wealden. The possibilities of mobile speed check signs were discussed.

#### 5. Opportunity for Public to ask questions.

The Mayor introduced the Deputy Town Mayor Cllr Malcolm Cunningham. The question of disabled parking at the Railway station was asked by a member of the public. Cllr M Cunningham explained that the spaces in between the station and the Co-op

have two spaces which are for dropping off and collecting only. The Railway car park is run by a private company and so is the Co-op car park. There are only a few disable bays and they get filled very quickly.

The Mayor asked the Town Clerk to read questions that had been handed in at the beginning of the meeting. The Clerk explained that some had already been answered by the guest speakers during the course of the evening. The questions were

- Pot holes in and around the local area – these will be handed to Cllr D Shing as County Council. The Clerk stated that any pot hole that is reported to the office gets forwarded on to Highways for them to repair.
- A27 repairs – These again will be forward on to Highways.
- Why does Polegate Town Council have so many confidential sessions? The Mayor stated that these will be either financial, legal or staffing matters. The Mayor stated that the Council would endeavour to state on the agenda what is being discussed under "Confidential".

The Mayor thanked all the support staff for their help. Cllr Voyce announced that the Mayors Summer Tea Party would be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July at St Johns Church at 2pm. Anybody that is interested in attending please see the Town Clerk in the Council Offices.

The Mayor stated that the Youth Development had been at the back of the room and if anyone was interested in seeing what they did then please speak to them.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.