

## HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held at the Edmonds Community Hall, Albert Rooms,  
Albert Road, Horley on Friday 28 April 2017**

### PRESENT

<b>In the Chair:</b>	Cllr Mike George - Chairman & Town Mayor  Sam Gyimah MP
<b>Town Councillors</b>	Cllrs J Baird, S Banwait, R Biggs, J Hudson, A Kitajewski, H Kitajewski, L Mabbett, Samantha Marshall, Simon Marshall, V Marshall, R Olliver D Powell and H Randall
<b>Borough Councillors:</b>	Cllr David Powell (Mayor of Reigate & Banstead) Cllr Christian Stevens Cllr Graham Knight
<b>County Councillors:</b>	Cllr Kay Hammond
<b>Guest Speakers (Gatwick Airport Ltd)</b>	Alison Addy, Head of Community Engagement Andy Sinclair, Head of Airspace Strategy & Engagement
<b>Town Clerk</b>	Alan Jones
<b>Deputy Clerk</b>	Carol Fenton
<b>Clerk Elect</b>	Joan Walsh
<b>Parks Warden</b>	Roy Martin

**Plus 40 members of the public.**

Cllr George welcomed everybody to the meeting.

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Ross-Tomlin, Cllr A Lynch, Cllr J Baker, Cllr K Etheridge, Cllr D Jackson, Cllr F Stimpson, B Kendall, P Moxley and J Williamson.

### Minutes of Meeting held on 29 April 2016

The Minutes of the Horley Town Meeting held on 29 April 2016 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 Bloom Competitions

The Launch of this year's competitions, including the Photographic Competition, was noted. Thanks were recorded to this year's sponsors, Surrey County Council, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, MAD Ideas, Crest Nicholson and Taylor Wimpey.

### **Smith's Charity**

The unaudited accounts of Smith's Charity, for the year ending 28 February 2017, were presented by Mr D Yates (Trustee) and received by those present. Mr Yates gave a brief outline of the history of the Charity. (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 gave thanks to the Town Council for the continuing grant towards the maintenance of the New Churchyard. She also thanked Cllr James Baker for organising volunteers from County Care Independent Living to assist with maintenance of the Old Churchyard. (The full report is appended to the signed copy of the minutes.)

### **Horley Edmonds Community Fund**

The Chairman explained to those present that in 2007 the Town Council was left a share in the estate of Cyril Edmonds, as a charitable gift for the benefit of the residents of Horley. £105,000 was subsequently placed in the Horley Edmonds Community Fund, administered by the Community Foundation for Surrey, the interest from which to be used for grant awards to local residents and groups. It was noted that, as of 31 March 2017, the fund was worth £121,649.79. (A copy of the Fund Statement is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.)

### **Annual Report 2016 – 2017**

The Annual Report was received by those present.

### **Report of the Chairman of the Council - Councillor Mike George**

The Chairman's report was received. Cllr George concluded by thanking the Town Council staff for their continued support, in particular the Town Clerk, Alan Jones, who would be retiring later in the year. (A copy of the report is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.)

### **Report of the Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee - Councillor James Baker** (Report presented by Committee Vice-Chairman, Cllr Simon Marshall)

Cllr Simon Marshall presented the report. He concluded by thanking sponsors and local businesses for their ongoing support for Town Council initiatives. (A copy of the report is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.)

### **Report of the Chairman of the Planning & Development Committee - Councillor Richard Olliver**

Cllr Richard Olliver presented his report. He concluded by reminding those present that members of the public were always welcome to attend Planning Committee meetings, as well as all other Town Council meetings. He also explained that, whilst the Town Council was a consultee for planning applications in Horley, final decisions were taken by the Planning Authority, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. (A copy of the report 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. She concluded by thanking Surrey County Council and Reigate & Banstead Borough Council for their generous funding towards Town Council projects and urged anyone who had not done so to sign up to receive the Town Council e newsletter. (A copy of the report is appended to the signed copy of these minutes.)

### **Public Discussion Period and Questions**

Several residents voiced their dissatisfaction at the lack of any recent information regarding the Borough Council's proposed Business Park. Cllr Olliver responded that the Town Council required much more information, before being in a position to make any sort of a comment. The Chairman added that the Town Council regularly stressed the need for the Borough Council to update the public, to avoid the start of unnecessary rumours. Borough Cllr Graham Knight added that Horley Borough Councillors were equally unhappy with the lack of information and were constantly asking questions about the proposal.

A local resident, who was a regular user of a mobility scooter, voiced his concern about the poor standard of many local footways in the town centre area. Cllr Hammond responded that there were plans for the Chairman of the Surrey County Council Highways Committee to visit Horley to look at such matters, although funding for roads and footways had been significantly reduced.

A number of residents spoke of intolerable aircraft noise, following the re-drawing of Gatwick Departure Route 4 and said that the Civil Aviation Authority should be required to return Route 4 to its previous position. The Chairman confirmed that this was the subject of a resolution to be considered later in the meeting.

A former Town Councillor congratulated the Town Council on the opening of the new skate park at Horley Recreation Ground. With regard to the new housing being built at Westvale Park, he stressed the need for Doctor's surgeries and schools to be open as soon as there was demand for them. The Chairman replied that the Town Council was continually exerting pressure on the Borough Council to put these facilities in place in a timely fashion.

A member of the Strawson Hall Management Committee spoke of the ongoing struggle to re-build Strawson Hall, following its destruction by arson in 2015. He explained that new plans for the building had been submitted, following the withdrawal of Early Years funding for the original planned extension to the Hall. The Strawson Hall Committee member thanked everyone for the donations received so far but stressed that further support was needed to enable the re-building to commence.

### **Resolutions**

The Clerk advised that the following Resolution had been received:

"Horley Town Council should lobby the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to reverse its current position, and return Gatwick departure Route 4 (whether using new or conventional navigation technology) to the geographical position and dispersal pattern it occupied prior to 2013 (where it had kept the peace for decades in all communities north of Gatwick , with negligible complaints about noise ) ." (Proposer: Richard Banks, Seconder: Christine Banks)

A vote was taken and the Resolution was passed.

***RESOLVED: that the Resolution be placed on the agenda of the Annual Meeting on 16 May 2017, for consideration by the Town Council. (The resolution was subsequently supported by the Town Council and letters of support sent to the Civil Aviation Authority, Secretary of State for Transport and Sam Gyimah MP.)***

### **Presentation on Gatwick Airport**

A presentation was given by Alison Addy, Head of Community Engagement at Gatwick Airport Ltd (GAL) and Andy Sinclair, Head of Airspace Strategy & Engagement. Alison spoke about the large numbers of local people working at the airport and GAL's growing involvement with the local community, supporting the Horley Carnival, the Horley Christmas Lights and South & South East in Bloom.

Andy Sinclair spoke about the amended Route 4. He explained that Route 4 had been changed to use new technology and had been re-designed in the centre of the Noise Preferential Route. He said the first re-design of Route 4 had led to a large number of planes over-flying Horley. The number of overflights had now significantly reduced and would continue to be monitored. He advised anyone opposed to the Route 4 position to lobby the Department for Transport.

Residents responded that planes were still overflying Horley and the problem was exacerbated by the concentration of flights on the central swathe of the Route. They suggested that the Route be better designed, to enable planes to climb quicker.

Andy Sinclair confirmed that GAL was also lobbying the Department for Transport for a change to the policy of concentration of flights within the central swathe of a route, believing that the dispersal of flights would improve the local situation.

Several people voiced their frustration at the new Complaints System, introduced by GAL in 2016. Alison Addy explained that the new system allowed people to make more complaints and enabled GAL to obtain useful information. Andy Sinclair agreed to investigate why there was often no feedback after complaints had been registered.

It was noted that the Noise Management Board, which currently only dealt with flight arrivals, was to have its role expanded to include flight departures, as had originally been intended.

The Chairman thanked Alison and Andy for their presentations and question and answer session. He also praised Town Councillor David Powell for his hard work as Borough Mayor during the past Municipal Year.

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm. Date of Next Meeting – 27 April 2018

**Signed:**

**Dated:**