Seaford Town Meeting

Minutes of the Town Meeting held at The View at Seaford Head, Southdown Road, Seaford on Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Present from Seaford Town Council:

Councillors L Freeman (Mayor), D Argent, P Boorman, M Brown, C Campbell, R Chambers, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, I Murray, L Wallraven and L Worcester.

Young Mayor Jessica Batchelor and former Young Mayor, Gabrielle Edwards.

Mr J Corrigan (Town Clerk), Mrs L Clark (Support Services Manager) and Miss G Raeburn (PA to the Town Clerk).

Approximately 110 members of the public were also in attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions by the Mayor

The Mayor welcomed the attendees and outlined the format of the evening.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held 28th April 2015 were agreed by the meeting.

3. Seaford Town Council Strategic Objectives

The Town Clerk gave an overview of the Strategic Objectives recently agreed by the Council and an insight in to the ways in which the Council plan to achieve these.

A question was asked by a member of the public regarding the potential small parcels of land to be sold by the Council, the Clerk confirmed that these were small plots of land that currently have no use and that the public would be consulted on these as part of the Neighbourhood Plan consultation that is due to go to every household in the town soon.

A member of public asked how individuals could get involved and contribute to development ideas for the town. The Clerk advised that by signing up to get email updates from the Council directly, individuals would easily become aware of developments and projects and therefore be able to contact the Council with any comments.

4. Reports from Recipients of Large Grants

Verbal and visual reports were given by representatives of recipients of large grants awarded by Seaford Town Council in 2015-16 from the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Community Transport for the Lewes Area (CTLA), Seaford Allotments & Leisure Gardens Society, Seaford Bonfire Society, Seaford Community Events Committee, Seaford Musical Theatre & SMT Juniors, St Wilfrid's Hospice, Waves Seaford Ltd and SeeAbility.

Seaford Community Events Committee carried out fundraising during the year and presented cheques of £100.00 each to the former Mayor's Charities, CTLA and Seaford Lifeguards.

5. Mayor's Community Awards

Former Mayor, Councillor Dave Argent, presented the annual Mayor's Awards, for individuals and organisations that have helped support and enrich the town and its residents or have inspired others with their personal stories and accomplishments.

The awardees were Zena Gibbs (for her continued work with Access in Seaford & Newhaven), Tony Delaney (for his work with Seaford Fairtrade Group since its creation in 2005), Robert Peedle MBE TD (President of Seahaven branch of the Royal Society of St George) and Keith Blackburn (Chairman of Seaford Community Partnership and Seaford Tree Wardens).

The Annual Don Mabey award was presented to Seaford's Town Crier and Sergeant at Mace, Peter White. Councillor Argent gave a short speech on Peter's contributions to the town and his dedicated commitment to the roles and responsibilities he undertakes, particularly in his role of Town Crier

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which he has been doing for almost 40 years having been appointed in 1977. Councillor Argent thanked Peter, on behalf of the Town Council, the town and its visitors and residents, for all he has done and continues to do for Seaford.

Councillor Argent presented cheques of £1,033 each to his two chosen charities whilst in the Mayoral Office, CTLA and Seaford Lifeguards, for the total amounts fundraised during his year as Mayor and thanked both charities for all the work they do for the local community.

6. Young Mayor's Awards

The Former Young Mayor, Gabrielle Edwards, announced the nominations for the Young Mayor's Awards; Dom Avey, Hannah Bearns-Lowles, Patrick Brackenridge, Aimee Eaton, Lily Harman, Faye Hunter, Liam Jacques, Edward Norman, Joshua and Bethany Philips, James Searle and Ben Woodward, and presented them each with a nomination trophy and certificate.

Gabrielle gave an overview of the award categories and announced the winners as follows:

Child of Courage – Hannah Bearns-Lowles

Young Community Champion - Aimee Eaton

Contribution to the Arts – James Searle

Young Carer - Joshua and Bethany Philips

Gabrielle presented a cheque for £450 to her chosen charity whilst Young Mayor, Teddy Treats Children's Charity.

Gabrielle thanked some of the individuals that had supported her over the past year; Jasmine Pollard, the former Mayor's/Young Mayor's Secretary for Seaford Town Council; Councillor Dave Argent, former Mayor of Seaford; and her mum, Carol Edwards for all the support and guidance she has given her.

7. Question & Answer Time

Councillor Steve Saunders, Mayor of Newhaven

Wished to thank former Mayor, Councillor Dave Argent, and the Mayoress, Marian Argent, for all their support during the year in Mayoral office that they showed to Newhaven Town Council, working together with them and other local towns and hoped that this relationship will continue in the future between towns and Mayors.

Young Mayor, Jessica Batchelor

Took the opportunity to thank the former Young Mayor, Gabrielle Edwards, for all she had achieved for the town and its youth during her year in office.

Councillor Mark Brown, Seaford Town Council

L. J. Freema

Took the opportunity to thank the officers at Seaford Town Council for arranging the 2016 Seaford Town Forum.

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

Councillor Lindsay Freeman

Mayor of Seaford