



## ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM

### ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS TOWN FORUM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 28 November 2013

**Attended:** Cllr Bob Backhouse, Sally Balcon, David Barnett, Lorna Blackmore, Stephen Bowser, Cllr Ben Chapelard, John Cunningham, Cllr Caroline Derrick, Michael Doyle, Helen Featherstone, Jane Fenwick, John Forster, Alex Green, Tim Harper, Michael Holman, Sue Kaner, George Lawson (sub), Katharina Mahler-Bech, Cllr Mrs Catherine Mayhew, David Morris, Marguerita Morton, Cllr David Neve, Altan Omer, Angela Phillips, Cllr Nicholas Rogers, Cllr James Scholes, Kate Sergeant (sub), Anne Stobo, Peter Taylor, David Wakefield (Chairman), Mary Wardrop and Philip Whitbourn (sub)

**TWBC officers present:** Rosemarie Bennett (Parking Manager), Adam Chalmers (Democratic and Community Engagement Manager), Lee Colyer (Head of Finance and Government) and Mike McGeary (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also present:** Léonie Harrington, Glen Horn, Cllr David Jukes (Leader of the Council), Cllr Jane March (TWBC Cabinet Portfolio-holder for Tourism, Leisure and Economic Development) and Cllr Alan McDermott (Portfolio-holder for Planning and Transportation)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were reported from: June Bridgeman, Michaela van Halewyn, Dorothea Holman, Bill Kern, Margaret Watts and Cllrs Peter Bulman, Trevor Poile, David Scott, Lynne Weatherly and Frank Williams.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE

The Democratic Services Officer had tabled a list of organisations which had achieved the required level of attendance at meetings to be able to vote at the AGM, as determined by the Town Forum's Constitution.

#### 3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE TOWN FORUM'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR

The Chairman of the Town Forum for 2012/13, David Wakefield, summarised his report on the work of the Forum over the past year, which was a requirement of its Constitution.

The report highlighted what had been achieved during 2012/13, with a focus on the successful outcomes achieved by the Town Forum's five working groups. He thanked the working group chairmen – and their respective members – for the hard work and effort that they had expended and, more widely, the Town Forum group itself for what it had achieved under its new structure of bi-monthly meetings.

The Chairman drew attention to the section of his report entitled 'having fun'. He invited all Town Forum members to join him on Saturday 14 December at 1.45pm

on the Pantiles, where it was proposed that the group use the Santa Express to ride up to the ice rink in Calverley Grounds, where they could enjoy some traditional German food and drink, provided by 'Klaus and Claus' from Wiesbaden, attending for their third year running.

**RESOLVED** – That the Chairman's report on the work of the Town Forum for 2012/13 be accepted.

#### **4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FOR 2012/13**

Adam Chalmers, TWBC's Democratic and Community Engagement Manager, summarised a report, which set out the nomination process for the appointment of a Chairman and two Deputy Chairmen for the Town Forum.

Mr Chalmers explained that there had been no nominations for the position of Chairman and only one nomination for a Deputy Chairman position, namely Cllr Bob Backhouse. Accordingly, he suggested that the Town Forum might wish to initiate a review of its constitution, to examine what changes might be suitable, in order to encourage more nominations for the key positions.

In the meantime, it was suggested that the current Chairman, David Wakefield, be appointed to continue to serve in that capacity for a six-month period, during which time the review of the constitution could be completed.

The Town Forum was invited to come forward with the name of a second Deputy Chairman at the meeting, i.e. outside the formal nomination process, if it wished to do so, but no nominations were put forward.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (1) That, in the absence of any nominations for the position of Chairman for 2013/14, David Wakefield be formally appointed to continue to serve as Chairman, for a period of six months i.e. until 28 May 2014;
- (2) That Councillor Bob Backhouse be elected to serve as one of the Deputy Chairmen for 2013/14, until the date of the next AGM;
- (3) That, in the absence of sufficient nominations this year, the Town Forum agrees to review its nomination process set out in the constitution.

The meeting concluded at 6.45pm.