



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chambers/Meeting Rooms, Market Square, Hailsham, on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

## **Public Question Time**

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting a period of not more than 15 minutes had been assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public present to address the Assembly, or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities of the Town Council) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

Ms A. Cusden, a resident of Eastwell Place stated that she wanted to speak to the agenda item relating to the street light in Eastwell Place. Since the street light had not been working a number of serious crimes had taken place, including an attack and her window being broken. The previous night her neighbour's window had been broken. The whole area was extremely dark and, consequently, she felt unsafe.

The Chairman reported that Councillors Blake and Mrs Ryan had been admitted to hospital. He would organise the sending of a card.

HTC/11/  
7/269 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. S. J. Bentley, W. A. Bentley, J.E. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), N.S. Coltman, Mrs. J. Cook, W. F. Crittenden, R. T. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, B. Marlowe, Mrs. M. Skinner, C Triandafyllou and A. Williams.

270 **Officers in Attendance:** M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk) and D. Saxby.

271 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors J. L. Blake, Mrs M. Burt, N. Collinson, Ms. C. Collinson, S. McAuliffe, G. G. Rowe, Mrs. M. Rowe, Mrs. D. Ryan and M. Ryan.

**Declarations of Interest**

272 None declared.

**Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

273 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/11/6/242-268) held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2011, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

274 **Matters Arising**

None.

275 **Committee and Panel Reports**

**RESOLVED**, after consideration in accordance with Standing Order 18(e), to receive the following reports of Committees, to approve and adopt the recommendations contained therein and the actions taken as reported therein.

- A. Hailsham in Bloom Committee (meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011)
- B. Planning and Development Committee (meeting held 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011)
- C. Staff Administrative Panel (meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011)

Staff Administrative Panel

Minute 35 – Hailsham Business Enterprise Manager

- 276.1 Councillor Williams stated that the Deputy Town Clerk had agreed to take on the role of Business Enterprise Manager in addition to his responsibilities as Deputy Town Clerk, with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012. The new job description had been agreed along with a pay award of one increment which would be reviewed in June 2012. The pay scale of the Town Clerk would also be reviewed at this date.
- 276.2 Another member of staff would be appointed in due course to support the role of the Business Enterprise Manager,
- 276.3 Councillor Coltman expressed thanks to Mr. Caira for his flexibility.
- 276.4 No change to minute recommendation.

**Community Policing**

277 **Police Report**

**RESOLVED** to note the quarterly written report from PS Howard Nevill as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/7/277A to these minutes.

278 **Priorities**

**RESOLVED** to defer this item until the next Council meeting.

**Police Community Support Officers – Partnership Agreement with Sussex Police Authority**

- 279.1 Councillor Williams stated that a productive meeting had been held with Sussex Police. The Police had agreed that Hailsham Town Council's reduced sponsorship of PCSOs would have no effect on its coverage, and there would be no reduction in PCSO levels.
- 279.2 **RESOLVED** that with effect from April 2012 Hailsham Town Council reduces its sponsorship from two PCSOs to one PCSO.

**Accounts and Audit**

280.1 **Precept 2012-2013**

Councillor Coltman presented the updated draft precept for 2012-13 as circulated with the agenda.

280.2 **RESOLVED** to finalise the budget and precept for 2012/13 at the Council meeting in January 2012, following recommendations from the preceding Finance and Budget Oversight Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

281 **Professional Fees – Appointment of Town Clerk**

**RESOLVED** to note and approve in retrospect additional fees of £1,088.67 (Minute SAP/11/2/12 refers) payable to Wealden District for professional services provided in respect of the recruitment of the Town Clerk.

**Public Conveniences (Vicarage Field)**

282.1 Councillor Williams reported his meeting with the leader of Wealden District Council. Discussion ensued, in particular in respect of Wealden District Council offering a ten-year lease only and no commitment to the provision in the town for public conveniences

282.2 Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley declared an interest as she is a Wealden District Councillor.

282.3 Councillor W. A. Bentley declared a personal interest because during discussion the local Primary Care Trust was identified, as he is in discussions with the PCT in respect of healthcare provision in Hailsham.

282.4 **RESOLVED** on a vote of seven for, two against and three abstentions, that the Council Chairman and Town Clerk sign the draft agreement with the addition of:

- a) the option for the lease to be renewed at the end of the original term, and
- b) the option for Hailsham Town Council to surrender the lease with Wealden District Council, and that the start date is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012, as Appendix HTC/11/& 282A to these minutes..

282.5 Councillors N. Coltman, W. Crittenden and P. Holbrook requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

**Street Light Eastwell Place**

283.1 Councillor Triandafyllou stated that he had visited Eastwell Place and confirmed that the area was extremely dark and one light was missing.

283..2 The Deputy Town Clerk stated that a quote had been received from East Sussex County Council to replace the light and restore the electricity to the column. This would cost £1,300. He confirmed that there were adequate funds in the street lighting maintenance budget.

283.3 **RESOLVED** to immediately request East Sussex County Council to repair the broken street light and restore the electricity to it; and to investigate the problem with the neighbouring street light and, if necessary, request ESCC to fix it.

**Bomber Command Tribute – Beachy Head, Eastbourne**

284 The Deputy Town Clerk reported that no decision had yet been made by Eastbourne Borough Council on the request for the placement of a bench at Beachy Head.

## **Revised Schedule of Meetings for 2011-2012**

285.1 **RESOLVED** to agree the revised schedule of meetings as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/7/285A to these minutes.

285.2 Councillor Grocock requested the Deputy Town Clerk investigate the frequency of meetings of the Hailsham in Bloom Committee. The schedule showed monthly meetings; his recollection was that there were fortnightly.

*Clerk's Note:*

*The attached (HTC/11/7/285B) email from Mrs. E Jones and revised meeting schedule dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011 confirms the Hailsham in Bloom Committee as having monthly meetings.*

## **Risk management Strategy and Policy**

286.1 The strategy and policy as revised and updated by the working Group had been circulated with the agenda.

286.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the revised strategy and policy as circulated with the agenda, amended and as Appendix HTC/11/7/286A to these minutes.

## **Town Mayor's Report**

287.1 The Chairman stated that this had been a very busy month for himself and the Deputy Mayor. The feedback was that the Council was doing a good job.

287.2 He thanked all those councillors who had taken part in the Christmas light switching on ceremony and the Yuletide event.

287.3 On behalf of his wife and himself he wished everyone a very merry Christmas.

287.4 Finally, he thanked staff for absorbing the many changes that had taken place during the year.

## **Councillors' Questions/Information Forum**

288 It was agreed the Charles Hendry, MP be invited to Annual Parish meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.34pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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