



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 4th October 2010 at 8.00 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public.

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.

The Chairman presented Mr. Roy Cousens with his award for Best Kept Front Garden in the 2010 Hailsham in Bloom Competition.

HTC/10/
2/300 **Present:** Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley, W. A. Bentley, J. L. Blake, B.F. Burchmore(Vice-Chairman), R. E. C. Burnett, N. S. Coltman, Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, W.F. Crittenden, J. H. Garvican, , Mrs. D. Haffenden I.G. Haffenden, Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. C. E. Kempe, R. F. Kempe (Chairman), B. Marlowe, J. Puttick and Mrs. M. Rowe.

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

302 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors J. E. Bentley-Astor, B. Cock, T. W. Haffenden and G. G. Rowe.

303 **Declarations of Interest** - None received.

Casual Vacancy – Upper Horsebridge Ward

304.1 Two applications had been received for the casual vacancy in the Upper Horsebridge ward to be filled by co-option in the names for Ms J Fessey and J. Hulbert.

304.2 It was agreed to hold a ballot by signed ballot papers and for ballot papers to be destroyed at the end of the meeting.

304.3 The result of the ballot was as follows:

Ms J. Fessey – 6 votes
J. Hulbert – 12 votes
1 abstention

304.4 **RESOLVED** that Mr. J Hulbert be co-opted to fill the casual vacancy in the Upper Horsebridge ward.

Acceptance of Office

305 Councillor J. Hulbert signed the Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

Police Report

306.1 Members received and noted the quarterly Police Report that had been circulated with the Agenda, and as Appendix HTC/10/2/306A to these minutes. Inspector Wakefield spoke to the report and invited questions.

306.2 Inspector Tony Wakefield made a number of key points:

- Restructuring of the Wealden Division resulting in the area covered by Hailsham Officers being reduced by 45% to around 20% of the Wealden area.
- 15% reduction in crime in the Wealden area; the best across the Sussex Police area.
- JAG (Joint Action Group) has been re-launched and will be meeting across the district including Hailsham. This will now be community lead and parish/town councillors will be invited to provide the community involvement.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

307 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC//10/1/200-220) held on 5th July 2010, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

308 None presented.

309 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC//10/1x/221-232) held on 23rd August 2010, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

310 None presented

Adoption of Standing Committee Reports (Minutes)

311.1 **RESOLVED**, after consideration in accordance with Standing Order 19(e), to receive the following reports of Committees, and subject to the amendments below after consideration of the reserved paragraphs (minutes), to approve and adopt the recommendations contained therein and the actions taken as reported therein.

311.2 A. **Environment and Leisure Committee** - 6th September 2010 (ref: EL/10/2/76-89)

311.3 B. **Burials and Properties Committee** - 13th September 2010 (ref: BP/10/2/90-104)

- 311.4 C. **Finance, Policy and Resources Committee** - 20th September 2010 (ref: FPR/10/2/105-142)
- 312 **RESOLVED** to proceed through the “reserved” paragraphs consecutively (or as decided) and to resolve action before proceeding through to the next reserved item.
- A. Environment and Leisure Committee
- 313.1 Minute 85 – Maurice Thornton Playing Field
- Councillor Coltman asked if the Fitness Club had received permission to use the Maurice Thornton Pavilion.
- The Deputy Town Clerk stated that so far permission has only been granted for the Fitness Club to use the Maurice Thornton Playing Field.
- 313.2 No Change to minute recommendation.
- B. Burial and Properties Committee
- 314.1 Minute 98 – Street Lighting – Day Burning Columns
- Councillor Coltman stated that he was concerned about the environmental implications of the proliferation of day burning lights.
- The Deputy Town Clerk stated that he had attended a meeting hosted by the Sussex Association of Local Councils with parishes and Towns affected by this problem. EDF Energy had been in attendance. Despite protests from councils, EDF Energy was unwilling to pay for any of the necessary work needed to rectify the problem of day burning lights despite not advising councils that they were undertaking work.
- 314.2 No change to minute recommendation.
- 315.1 Minute 99 – Street Lighting Arrangements for New Housing Developments
- Councillor Coltman stated that he was concerned that Hailsham Town Council would be dragged into future problems between developers and residents over the provision of street lighting.
- Councillor W. Bentley stated that this concern had been raised with East Sussex County Council at the last Strengthening Local Relationships meeting, and that it had been agreed to arrange a meeting with planners from East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council. He Confirmed that East Sussex County Council had stated that lack of street lighting was not necessarily a reason to not adopt roads.
- 315.2 No Change to minute recommendation.
- C. Finance, Policy and Resources Committee
- 316.1 Minute 120 – Mobile Steam Cleaning Service
- Councillor Coltman stated that the purchase of the steam cleaning machines was an example of good intentions but not thinking the implications through. As there was

not enough external work available thought should be given to not keeping both steam cleaning machines. In the future all proposals should be thoroughly investigated with the full financial implications being confirmed before being considered and agreed.

316.2 No Change to minute recommendation.

317.1 Minute 126 – Estimates Sub-Committee.

Councillor Coltman stated that he agreed that all tasks undertaken by Hailsham Town Council were important, it was also important that the tasks are performed whilst producing a 0% movement in the precept.

Councillor I Haffenden stated that this had been achieved in the last two years. No other town or parish council in Wealden could boast this and it was something to be proud of.

317.2 No Change to minute recommendation.

318.1 Minute 128 – Draft Email/Internet Policy

Councillor Garvican stated that he had made enquiries about the provision of an email encryption system. A variety of options were available and he would brief the Town Clerk on her return about the one he felt most suitable. There would no cost to individuals but could cost £7.50 for each email address for a business.

Councillor Haffenden thanked Councillor Garvican for his endeavours.

318.2 No Change to minute recommendation.

319.1 Minute 134 – Community Partnership – PCSO Partnership Agreement 2011/12

Councillor Coltman noted that the cost of sponsoring two PCSOs in 2011/12 would be £61,500. He asked if this had been agreed, or would it be a matter for the Estimates Sub-Committee.

It was confirmed that it would need to be considered by the Estimates Sub-Committee.

319.2 No change to minute recommendation.

320.1 Minute 135 – Skate Park – Maurice Thornton Playing Fields

Councillor Coltman stated that the work on this project was proceeding well and wished to place on record his appreciation of the work being done by the Town Farm Residents' Association.

320.2 No change to minute recommendation.

321.1 Minute 136.2 – Appointment of Sub-Committee

Councillor Mrs. Bentley stated that she would like to sit as a member of the Sub-Committee that met with developers on current and future residential and commercial developments.

- 321.2 Minute amended to read:
RESOLVED to appoint a sub-committee with a remit to liaise with developers, Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council on current and future residential and commercial developments within the parish of Hailsham, progress the aspirations for community provision as set down in the Hailsham and Hellingly Masterplan and report back to this committee; the sub-committee to comprise of Mrs. S. J. Bentley, J. Blake, P. Holbrook, R. Kempe and a representative from Hellingly Parish Council.

Special Resolution

- 322.1 **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Standing Order No. 46 to rescind the resolution of the Council to install a barrier halfway across the exit, in between the safety gate and existing barrier at Battle Road Play Area (Minutes E&L/10/1/9.2 and E&L/10/2/84.2 refers).

- 322.1 This motion was carried unanimously

Motion 149

- 323.1 Members considered the following motion submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders NO.13-18 by Councillor J. L. Blake.

- 323.1 That officers be requested to report to the next Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on alternative ways in which the Council might in 2011/2012 achieve an unchanged precept and a contingency of 6% of total net expenditure, taking account of Government statements regarding future public sector pay policy.

- 323.3 Councillor Blake spoke to the Motion. He stated that there had been a long, inconclusive discussion at the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 20th September in respect of the Staffing Review. The Town Clerk at that meeting had stated that the Staff Review was difficult to undertake without a steer from councillors about what they wanted the Review to achieve. This motion was in order to facilitate the Review and the efficiencies needed to achieve it.

- 323.4 Councillors Coltman and I. Haffenden spoke in favour of the motion.

- 323.5 **RESOLVED** that officers be requested to report to the next Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on alternative ways in which the Council might in 2011/2012 achieve an unchanged precept and a contingency of 6% of total net expenditure, taking account of Government statements regarding future public sector pay policy.

Skate Park Maurice Thornton Playing Fields

- 324 **RESOLVED** to recommend that the £6,000 funding made available via the Safer Wealden Partnership is allocated to help fund the above project.

East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service

- 325 **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk attends the special meeting of the ESFRS that is "to consider the outcome of the consultation on the Rural Review" – Thursday 21st October 2010

District/Parish Conference – Wednesday 3rd November 2010

- 326 **RESOLVED** that Councillors B. Burchmore, N. Coltman and R. Kempe attend the District/Parish Conference on Wednesday 3rd November 2010.

Seaforth Farm Surgery Redevelopment

- 327.1 Councillors considered a request from the redevelopment consultants to meet with representatives of the Town Council to discuss plans for Seaforth Farm Surgery.
- 327.2 **RESOLVED** to agree to the request from the redevelopment consultants to meet Hailsham Town Council members and Hellingly Parish Council, to discuss the plans for the redevelopment of the Seaforth Farm Surgery; and to confirm how the current plans of the local health trust will deliver health services in Hailsham, and how the development of Seaforth Surgery fits into that.

Quintins Shopping Centre Redevelopment

- 328 **RESOLVED** to agree to the request from the redevelopment consultants to meet Hailsham Town Council members and Hellingly Parish Council to discuss the plans for the redevelopment of the Quintins Shopping Centre.

Christmas & New Year Office Opening Hours 2010/2011

- 329 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham Town Council offices close from lunchtime on Friday 24th December 2010 and re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2011. Staff will be required to take 3.5 days annual leave.

Town Mayor's Report

- 330.1 The Chairman stated that he attend a number of functions where he had met a number of people from across the county; a number had commented how pleased they were to note that Hailsham High Street had attracted a number of new shops.
- 330.2 The Chairman thanked Councillor Burchmore and Councillor Mrs. Kempe for attending some Mayoral engagements.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

- 331 None presented.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.47pm.

CHAIRMAN