



# 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 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 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.

None presented.

HTC/11/5/221 **Present:** Councillors: W. A. Bentley, J.E. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), , Mrs M. Burt, Ms C. V. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, N.S. Coltman, Mrs. J. Cook, R. T. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, B. Marlowe, S. McAuliffe, G.G. Rowe, , Mrs. D. M. Ryan, M.J. Ryan, Mrs. M. Skinner, S. K. Towner, C Triandafyllou and A. Williams.

222 **Officers in Attendance:** Mrs. E. G. Jones (Town Clerk), M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk) Mrs. M. Hagger and D. Saxby.

223 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley, J. L. Blake and Mrs. M. Rowe.

224 **Declarations of Interest** – None given.

## **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

225 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the Annual Meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/11/4/195-220) held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2011, as amended, printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters Arising**

226 None.

227.1 The Chairman asked permission to move agenda item 9 – Bomber Command Tribute-Beachy Head, Eastbourne to agenda item 4, to allow Squadron Leader Reg Holdstock to present the item and to leave the meeting at an earlier point.

227.2 This was agreed.

## **Bomber Command Tribute-Beachy Head, Eastbourne**

- 228.1 Councillor Mrs. Burt spoke to this agenda item. She said it was important that Hailsham as a town was involved in the memorial to the Airmen of Bomber Command to be erected at Beachy Head.
- 228.2 Squadron Leader Holdstock was invited to address the meeting. He thanked the Council for considering the proposal.
- 228.3 **RESOLVED** to
- a) provide a wooden bench seat to be located at the memorial site, suitably inscribed in the name of Hailsham Town Council,
  - b) arrange for planning permission and any other permissions required to install the seat at the memorial site, and
  - c) allocate up to £1,500 for the purchase of the bench.

### **Committee and Panel Reports**

- 229.1 **RESOLVED**, after consideration in accordance with Standing Order 18(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.
- 229.2
- A. Planning and Development Committee (meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011)
  - B. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee (meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011)
  - C. Staff Administrative Panel (meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011)
  - D. Hailsham in Bloom (meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> September 2011)
- 229.3 **RESOLVED** to proceed through the “reserved” paragraphs consecutively (or as decided) and to resolve action before proceeding through to the next reserved item.

Finance & Budget Oversight Committee – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Minute F&BO/11/5/37 – Accounts & Audit – Budget 2012/13

- 230.1 Councillor Grocock stated that the Hailsham in Bloom budget had been reduced by £2,000, and he wanted this reinstated.
- 230.2 On a show of hands Councillor Grocock’s proposal was agreed by 11 votes to 7.
- 230.3 **RESOLVED** that the Hailsham in Bloom budget for 2012-2013 be £6,000.

Minute F&BO/11/5/38 – Additional Potential Budget Pressures/Bids for 2012/13

- 231.1 Councillor N. Collinson stated that the resolution was short-sighted and the Council needed to put resources into the regeneration of the town centre. The original proposal for a dedicated officer to be employed a cost of £30,000 was made to achieve this objective.
- 231.2 Discussion ensued in respect of how the Council could put staffing resources into the regeneration of the town centre.
- 231.3 **RESOLVED** to explore other funding opportunities for this project, including reviewing at a Staffing Administrative Panel the feasibility of reallocating existing staffing

resources into a Regeneration Officer.

### **Accounts and Audit**

#### 232.1 Annual Budget Review 2012-13

Councillor Coltman introduced this agenda item asked members to refer to the recommendations contained in the minutes of the Finance & Budget Oversight Committee. He thanked the recently retired Responsible Finance Officer, Mr R. Diplock and the Deputy Town Clerk, Mr. M. Caira for all their work in producing the estimates for 2012-2013.

Discussion ensued.

- 232.2 **RESOLVED** to note the draft budget as contained in the minutes of the Finance & Budget Oversight Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 and to discuss in detail at the next meeting of the Finance & Budget Oversight Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011, then to be presented to the Council for consideration in December 2011.

#### **Review of Council's Vehicle Fleet**

- 233 **RESOLVED** to appoint a Panel to review the Council's future vehicle requirements comprising Councillors N Collinson, P. Holbrook and M. Ryan and the Deputy Town Clerk and Works Supervisor.

#### **Public Conveniences (Vicarage Field)**

- 234.1 The Town Clerk reported that Wealden District Council was in the process of preparing a draft lease for Hailsham Town Council to take over responsibility for the public conveniences based on the discussions between Councillor Williams and Councillor Standley.
- 234.2 Councillor Williams reminded the meeting of the resolution to go out to a competition for the design of the toilets.

#### **Closed Churchyards**

- 235 The Deputy Town Clerk reported that submissions to Wealden District Council had been made by parishes and towns on the future of closed churchyards. A decision from Wealden District Council was awaited.

#### **Staff Matters**

#### 236.1 Appointment of Town Clerk

Councillor Williams reported that the Interview Panel had met with candidates for the Town Clerk post on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

- 236.2 The successful candidate was Mr. John Harrison, who was 41 years old at currently worked for East Sussex County Council.

#### **Town Mayor's Report**

- 237.1 The Chairman stated he and the Deputy Mayor were accepting invitations up to

February 2012. The feedback was encouraging.

- 237.2 The Chairman suggested that councillors should make themselves available for discussions with school children about their role and other topics either in the Council Chamber or in the classroom.

### **COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS/INFORMATION FORUM**

238 Parliamentary Boundaries Commission

Councillor W. Bentley said that consideration should be given to forming a small committee to feed views into the Boundaries Commission review into parliamentary constituencies.

Councillors W. Bentley, Ms C. Collinson, P. Holbrook, S. McAuliffe and 1 member of the Hailsham Independent group were nominated.

239 Grovelands Barn

Councillor P. Holbrook asked if planning permission was needed for the work currently taking place at Grovelands Barn. The Deputy Town Clerk said that it was not.

240 Jubilee Gardens

Councillor P. Holbrook asked if permission had been granted for the use of East Sussex County Council land for the Jubilee Garden. Councillor Grocock said permission was still awaited.

The Chairman thanked the Council's outdoor staff for the work they had already put into the project.

241 Credit Union

The Town Clerk requested that the Hailsham Credit Union could use the Council's Members' Room free of charge. This was agreed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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