



# 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 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at 8.00 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed councillors, public and press.

## **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.

Mr. T. Tack of Town Farm Residents' Association spoke in respect of the provision of a skateboard ramp at the Maurice Thornton Playing Field.

The Chairman requested that Councillor N. S. Coltman to say a prayer.

HTC/09/  
3/400 **Present:** Councillors J.E. Bentley-Astor (Vice Chairman), J.L. Blake, B.F. Burchmore, R.E.C. Burnett, G. Canning, N.S. Coltman, Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, W.F. Crittenden, J.N. Ellwood, Mrs. M. A. Ellwood, J.H. Garvican, J. Glover, Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. C.E. Kempe, R.F. Kempe, J. Puttick, Mrs. M. Rowe and G.G. Rowe.

401 **Officers in Attendance:** Mrs. E.G. Jones (Town Clerk), M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk), D. Saxby (Administrative Assistant) and T. Hall (Public Information Officer).

## **Apologies for Absence:**

402 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors B. Cock, Mrs. D. Haffenden I. G. Haffenden and T. W. Haffenden.

## **Declarations of Interest**

403 Councillors J. E. Bentley Astor, G. Canning and J. N. Ellwood declared personal interests in respect of Agenda item 5.2 as they work in the waste management industry.

## **Police Report**

404.1 The Chairman invited Sgt. Owen Radley to address the meeting and speak to Inspector Tony Wakefield's report.

Councillor J. N. Ellwood asked that the Town Council's best wishes be passed on to PCSO Alison Bond. He noted that there had been no PCSO cover between June and September 2009 and that Hailsham Town Council would be requesting a refund as this broke the terms of the agreement between Hailsham Town Council and Sussex Police.

Councillor J. N. Ellwood asked what support the Police were giving to the residents of the Gleneagles Estate in respect of the volume of traffic they were now experiencing. He said it would only be a matter of time before a serious accident or a fatality occurred. He asked if a letter could be sent from the Police to East Sussex County Council supporting traffic calming measures on the estate, or support a “no through traffic except for access” scheme.

Sgt Radley said that a letter to East Sussex County Council requesting traffic calming was in his opinion the better option.

Councillor Glover stated that the play scheme on the Lansdowne Estate should include an education on the dangers of playing “chicken” in the road as a number of children were doing this.

Councillor Crittenden asked what was happening in respect of the stolen property found at Swan Barn. Sgt. Radley responded that the investigation was still on going.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Radley for attending.

- 404.2 **RESOLVED** to note Inspector Tony Wakefield’s report, which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting, and as Appendix HTC/09/3/404A to these minutes.

#### **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

- 405 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/09/2/300-321) held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising**

- 406 None presented.

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/09/2x/322-330) held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2009, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Matters Arising**

None presented.

#### **Adoption of Standing Committee Reports (Minutes)**

- 407.1 **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.
- 407.2 A. **Environment and Leisure Committee** - 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009 (ref: EL/09/3/160-171)
- 407.3 B. **Burials and Properties Committee** - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 (ref: BP/09/3/172-184)
- 407.4 C. **Finance, Policy and Resources Committee** - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 (ref: FPR/09/3/185-227)

- 408 **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
- 409.1 Minute 170 – Estimates 2010/2011
- Councillor Burchmore stated that this minute was incorrectly worded and should be amended to specify that the budget is for essential new play equipment only.
- 409.2 **RESOLVED** to amend Minute EL/09/3170 (b) to read  
“to request that the Finance Policy and Resources Committee allocate funds of up to £13,000 from the commuted sums account for *essential new play equipment* that is required to be carried out in the current financial year, to be repaid after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 from the precept.”
- B. Burial and Properties Committee
- 410.1 Minute 181 – Street Lighting – requests for additional street lights
- Councillor Glover said that the minute was incomplete and that the matter was delegated to the Chairman of the Burials and Properties Committee and the Town Clerk to resolve.
- 410.2 **RESOLVED** to amend minute BP/09/3/181 by adding “*and the Chairman of the Burials and Properties Committee and Town Clerk be delegated to resolve.*”
- C. Finance, Policy and Resources Committee
- 411.1 Minute 185 – Present
- Councillors Coltman and Puttick stated that they were present at the meeting.
- 411.2 **RESOLVED** to add Councillors N.S. Coltman and J. Puttick to the list of those present at Minute FPR/09/3/185
- 412 Minute 214 – Community Projects/Partnerships – CCTV Monitoring Facility
- Councillor J. N. Ellwood reported that had been told that Sussex Police were pleased with the decision in respect of local monitoring and a report would be produced in January 2010.
- No change to the minute recommendation.
- 413 Minute 216 – Public Conveniences – Vicarage Field
- Councillor J. N. Ellwood reminded members’ that there would be a balance of £167,000 in the Commuted Sums Accounts after £60,000 was taken for the refurbishment of the public conveniences in Vicarage Field. Having consulted the Council’s auditors and the Sussex Association of local Councils both he and the Town Clerk had been reassured that this was considered to be a satisfactory balance.
- No change to the minute recommendation.
- 414 Minute 219 – Estimates 2010/2011
- Councillor J. N. Ellwood stated the Estimates for 2010/11 currently stood at 4 percent

and he hoped that following a meeting of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen this would be brought down to 2 per cent.

- No change to minute recommendation.

415.1 Minute 220 – Waste and Minerals Core Strategy – Consultation.

Councillor J. N. Ellwood reported that a meeting of the working group had taken place last week and the Town Council had been invited to join with an action group comprising nine parish and town councils to present a united response to the proposals in the Core Strategy document.

415.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate £150 towards administration costs of the Action Group.

### **Standing Orders**

416 **RESOLVED** to:

a) Note the amendments recommended by the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee (Minute FPR/09/2/138), and

b) Receive a motion to permanently vary Hailsham Town Council's Standing orders, as per the draft proposal circulated with the Agenda, and as Appendix HTC/09/3/416A to these minutes.

### **Hailsham Cemetery**

417 **RESOLVED** to approve that Countrywide Grounds Maintenance continue for the further 2 years of the current contract, following the company's satisfactory completion of the first year.

### **Councillors' Question/Information Forum**

418 **Charity Trustees**

Councillor Blake requested information on progress on resolving outstanding issues with the Charities' Commission.

The Town Clerk said that the matter had not been progressed and the Chairman of Finance, Policy and Resources Committee said this would be placed on the agenda for the meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

419 **Employees Consultation Panel**

Councillor P. Holbrook said that at the meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009 (Minute HTC/09/2/307 refers) Councillor Ellwood had stated that the Employees Consultation Panel would meet before the next meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009. He asked if it had met yet, and if not why.

The Town Clerk replied that it had not met as the staff had for various reasons declined to participate.

420 **Corporate Plan**

The Town Clerk reported that she had received advance notification that Wealden District Council would shortly be sending out to all parish and town councils the

Corporate plan for the period 2010-2013 for consultation. Comments were required to be returned to Wealden District Council by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

Copies would be sent to all council members by email (or in print form for those not on email) for comment and a meeting of the Consultations Panel would be called to formulate a corporate response from members responses.

The Chairman thanked members for all their hard work and wished them a happy Christmas. He also sent best wishes to Councillor I. G. Haffenden for a speedy and pain free recovery from his operation.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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