



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Extra-ordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chambers/Meeting Rooms, Market Square, Hailsham, on Monday 23 August 2010 at 8.00 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/10/
1x/221 **Present:** Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley, W. A. Bentley, J.E. Bentley-Astor, B. F. Burchmore (Vice-Chairman), R. C. Burnett, B. J. Cock, N. S. Coltman, Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, W. F. Crittenden, J. H. Garvican, I.G. Haffenden, Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. C. Kempe, R. F. Kempe (Chairman), J. Puttick, Mrs. M. Rowe and G.G. Rowe.

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

223 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors, J. L. Blake, Mrs. D. S. Haffenden, T. W. Haffenden and B. Marlowe.

224 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

225 **Casual Vacancy**

225.1 It was noted that as no requests for an election had been received by Wealden District Council to fill the casual vacancy, the Council were now obliged to fill the vacancy by co-option as soon as possible. It would not be possible to hold the vacancy open until the elections in May 2011.

225.2 The process of advertising and selecting a candidate, along with a potential timetable, was discussed.

226 8.04pm Councillor I. G. Haffenden arrived at the meeting.

Confidential Business

227 **RESOLVED** that due to the special and confidential nature of the matters to be discussed, and possible disclosure of personal or legal information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following exclusion of members of the public and press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Order number 57.

228 **Community Development at Welbury and Woodholm Farms**

229 Following completion of the above item in Confidential Business the meeting resumed in open session.

230 8.58pm. Councillor J. H. Garvican left the meeting.

231 **Planning Consultation Panel – Protection of Hailsham Conservation Area**

231.1 Councillor J. Puttick stated that the Planning Consultation Panel had objected strongly to the application by Barclays Bank to Wealden District Council to have a new illuminated sign on the front of their premises in Market Street, as it was contrary to the Town Council's Conservation Area Policy. Wealden District Council planning officers confirmed that this item was delegated to a local member for a decision, and that an appeal was not possible.

Councillor J. Puttick stated that this decision will set a precedent in respect of illuminated signs for the Conservation Area for the future, and that there had been no consultation by the Wealden local member with either the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Planning Consultation Panel before the decision was made.

Councillor J. Puttick also stated that Wealden District Council had challenged Iceland in respect of their frontage being out of keeping for the area.

Councillor J. Puttick proposed that the Council should send a strong letter of objection to the decision to allow an illuminated sign in the Conservation Area, and that if the Council has a policy, then it should reiterate it. If not it should be specified in the Masterplan.

231.2 Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley stated that she was the local member who gave the authority for the new illuminated sign. Permission was given for new low energy lights, illuminating the individual letters and icons to replace the old one piece illuminated sign that was given permission in 1973/1974. She stated that she made this decision in her capacity as a District Councillor and not a Town Councillor.

231.3 Discussion ensued in respect of the Council's Policy of not having illuminated signs in the Conservation Area and Wealden's Scheme of Delegation on local planning applications.

231.4 **RESOLVED** that a) the Council writes to Wealden District Council confirming its strong objection to the decision to allow a new illuminated sign in the Conservation Area, and b) the policy not to have illuminated signs within the Conservation Area is specified in the Hailsham and Hellingly Masterplan.

Note: Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley and N. S. Coltman abstained from the vote on this resolution.

232 **Councillors Questions/Information Forum**

- 232.1 Councillor N. S. Coltman asked for clarification on the decision on the co-option to fill the casual vacancy.
- 232.2 **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk advertise the vacancy and request applications are made in time for consideration at the Council meeting on 4 October 2010.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN