

HAILSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

1 MINUTES AND REPORTS of the Hailsham Annual Town Meeting, held at Hailsham Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham on Monday 13th May 2013 at 7.30 pm

2 PRESENT: 20 Hailsham Town councillors; 88 Hailsham electors; 8 officers of Hailsham Town Council.

The Town Mayor/Chairman of Hailsham Town Council, Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and councillors.

The Chairman introduced and thanked representatives from the various stakeholders who were in attendance and had stalls providing information on their services.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE none were received from Hailsham Town Councillors.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 8th May 2012, as printed and circulated at the meeting, were taken as read, approved as representing a correct record of the proceedings, adopted by the Assembly and signed by the Chairman.

5 MATTERS ARISING

Mr. R. Girling asked for an update on the position of the public toilets. The Chairman responded that the Town Council had abandoned the idea of refurbishing the existing toilets in Vicarage Field but were now adding toilets to the stable block to the rear of the Cortlandt building where Hailsham Works would be situated. She acknowledged the need for better signage for the Public Convenience Scheme.

Mr. M. Hillman proposed that the meeting next year be taken the other way round, i.e. that the formal business be held at the beginning of the meeting and that the opportunity for the public to meet and question local stakeholders be held afterwards.

6 HAILSHAM YOUTH MAYOR

The Chairman introduced the new Youth Mayor, Musta Rahman and thanked his predecessor, Chelsie McIntosh for all the work she had done in her year in office.

Ms McIntosh addressed the meeting and said it had been a massive honour to represent the town.

7 HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the report were available prior to the meeting.

The Chairman said that it was with great pride that she had been able to serve the town as Chairman and Mayor of the Council since November 2012.

It had been another busy and varied year with a number of projects being undertaken by Hailsham Town Council and this is reflected in the Annual Report.

The Council had made significant improvements to its services to residents and found better and more efficient ways to get things done and make frontline operations as efficient as possible. These efficiencies and cost savings are of vital importance to the people of Hailsham during the recession, and everyone at Hailsham Town Council was doing everything possible to attract future development and investment in the town and make Hailsham an even stronger and better place to live and work.

Hailsham is still seen as a town of growth with an expected increase in population and hopefully prosperity and employment as a result. This has already been reflected in the opening of five new enterprises which have opened recently. We welcome these businesses.

8 ELECTORS QUESTIONS/MOTIONS

Healthcare

Mr J Hulbert asked what the Town Council had done in respect of downgrading of services at Eastbourne District General Hospital.

Amanda Philpot, Chief Officer of the CCG spoke about the proposals for the future of healthcare in the area and how these services would affect Hailsham residents.

Mr D Younge asked if this was just a cost-cutting exercise. Ms Philpot said that reconfiguration of services would enable the Trust to provide better healthcare.

The Chairman said the Hailsham Town Council would make its concerns for the future of healthcare provision in the area known to the Health Trust.

Union Flag

Mr M Hillman asked why the decision had been taken to lower the Union Flag on the day of the funeral of Baroness Thatcher. He said that this was a purely political move, was deliberately timed before the County Elections and that it was disgraceful that such a divisive figure should be honoured and remembered in this way.

The Town Clerk responded that: this was not a political decision made by the Town Council to lower the flag; it had been his decision to do so and he would do it for any long-serving prime minister of any political persuasion. The timing of the funeral was entirely coincidental with the approaching County Council elections.

Mr Hillman proposed that Hailsham Town Council had acted inappropriately by lowering the Union Flag in the town centre on the day of Baroness Thatcher's funeral. This proposal was lost when put to the vote of those at the meeting.

Anglesey Avenue Bus Shelter

A member of the public asked when the provision of a bus shelter in Anglesey Avenue would be completed.

Councillor Marlowe said he would investigate.

Highway Cleansing

Mr Tilsley asked why the highways were so filthy and in such a poor state of repair.

The Chairman said that these were matters for Wealden District Council and East Sussex Council; she would make these views known to the Councils.

Dog Bins in Mill Road

A member of the public said that the amount of dog fouling in Mill Road was unacceptable and asked for the provision of more dog bins.

The Chairman said that Hailsham Town Council could only provide bins on its own land, but said these concerns would be passed on to the relevant council.

Oaks After School Club

A member of the public said that her children used to attend the Oaks After School Club in the East Sussex County Council Resource Centre in Dunbar Drive. The County Council had taken the building back and despite many attempts to find another building for the after school club to meet nowhere had been forthcoming. This club had been well attended and provided a great service for children and working parents.

Councillor W. Bentley, who was also an East Sussex County Councillor, said that he would write to the Director of Children's Services at East Sussex County Council about this decision.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked the Youth Co-ordinator, Andy Joyes for all his work with the young people of Hailsham.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.30pm.