

HAILSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

1 **MINUTES AND REPORTS** of the Hailsham Annual Town Meeting, held at Hailsham Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham on Monday 24th April 2014 at 7.30 pm

2 **PRESENT:** 18 Hailsham Town councillors; 85 Hailsham electors; 6 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** were received Councillors J. Blake, B. Burchmore, R. Grocock, Ms A. O’Rawe, Mrs M. Rowe and S. Towner.

4 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Mr. E. Miller said that the minutes of last year’s Annual Town Meeting did not include his question on the legality of the yellow lines in Hailsham High Street.

5 Mr. C. Tydsley said he couldn’t agree the minutes because they had recorded that he had said that that the High Street was in a bad state of repair when he had in fact said it was “unkempt”.

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 13th May 2013, as printed, circulated and amended 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.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman said that copies of the report had been made available prior to the meeting.

8 **ELECTORS QUESTIONS/MOTIONS**

Traffic Lights

Mrs M. Lewis asked if it would be possible to install traffic lights in South Road near the Free Church

The Town Clerk said that this was not with the Town Council’s remit and that he would liaise with East Sussex County Council on the matter.

Caffyns’ Site

Mr. A. Parry asked who was responsible for the old Caffyns' site as it was very unsightly.

The Town Clerk said that if the problem was fly-tipping this would be a matter for Wealden District Council if on public land. Hailsham Town Council would find out who owned the land.

Bellbanks Road

Mr. K. Garside asked if the Town Council would look into the problems of lorries and vans using Bellbanks Road as a 'rat run'.

The Town Clerk said that he would consult East Sussex County Council and the police.

Footpaths

Ms T. Steinson said she and a number of others had difficulty getting around town when pushing buggies because of the narrowness of the footpaths.

The Town Clerk said that many of these types of problems had been addressed by the Movement and Access Strategy in Hailsham and Hellingly (MASHH) group. A presentation of the options would be available in the Hailsham Civic Hall on 25th and 26th April. He urged members of the public to attend.

Double Yellow Lines

Mr E Miller said that at last year's meeting the Police Inspector had informed the meeting that parking restrictions on the double tallow lines in the High Street were unenforceable. He asked what had been done since then.

PCSO Alison Bond said that it had been discovered that the yellow lines in the town centre don't have a local order and she had been directed not to issue penalty tickets.

The Chairman said that the MASHH group had been looking at this problem and had made recommendations for restrictions on parking in the High Street.

Mr Miller responded by asking if previously issued penalty tickets had been issued unlawfully, and if so, would refunds be made.

The Chairman said that this Council was unable to answer that but would get a report from the police and put it on the Hailsham Town Council website.

Marshfoot Lane

Mr Cunningham asked why a planning application for development of a site in Marshfoot Lane had been objected to by the Hailsham Town Council Planning and Development Committee but subsequently passed by Wealden District Council.

The Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, Councillor M. Ryan explained that Hailsham Town Council was only a consultee in the planning process.

The Chairman suggested that Mr Cunningham wrote to the head of planning at Wealden District Council.

Battle Road

Mr A Harrison said that there had been a problem with students for Hailsham Community College parking their vehicles on the footpath in Battle Road. This had happened since the school had adopted the policy of closing the school gates.

The Chairman said that this matter would be taken up with the head teacher.

Health Facilities

A member of the public said that with the planned increase in the population of Hailsham a minor injuries clinic was needed.

The Chairman said that in 2004 a polyclinic had been promised, but subsequently she had been told that this was not needed as this facility had been provided by the Seaforth Clinic.

Holes in the Road

A member of the public said that there had been a number of times when holes dug in the road by public utilities had not been filled in uniformly.

The Chairman said that this would be taken up with East Sussex County Council.

Local Representation

Mr S Cross asked was it appropriate for an elected Town Councillor to be able to attend only two meetings of the Council a year, sit on no Committees and still be able to be a councillor and be eligible for his financial allowance.

The Chairman said that this was a political question and she would not allow it.

The Town Clerk said that no councillor had acted illegally.

Public Toilets

Members of the public asked about the provision of public toilets.

The Chairman said that work had started in converting part of 2 North Street, Hailsham into public toilets; they would be open within 6-8 weeks.

On being asked on what had happened to the suggestion made at the Annual Town Meeting in 2012 that volunteers from the community refurbish the existing toilets in Vicarage Field, the Town Clerk said that asbestos had been discovered in the building so the use of volunteers had not been viable.

Gleneagles Drive

A member of the public said that the amount of traffic around Grovelands School made the area very dangerous.

The Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, Councillor M Ryan said that Hailsham Town Council was aware of the issues and would arrange to meet the head teacher of the school to discuss the situation.

The Police said that there would be a crackdown on the problems.

New School – Ingrams Way

Mr Jeffries said that control of the parking situation at the new school proposed for Ingrams Way would have to be discussed with the new governing body.

Timbers Court

A resident of Timbers Court asked why is road swept twice a week when others roads are filthy.

The Chairman said that this was a matter for Wealden District Council and asked if the public could contact the relevant authority.

Vicarage Field

A member of the public complained about the amount of rubbish in Vicarage Field emanating from the takeaway shops.

The Town Clerk said that the Council's litter picker did a very good job in the town and that he had been in discussion with the land owners about the type of bins provided.

Bonfire Celebrations

Mr Spicer said that he very much enjoyed last year's Bonfire Night and fireworks and asked if because of the development of housing in the area would they be held again this year.

The Chairman said they would.

Cuckmere Community Bus

A member of the public said that Hailsham Town Council's support of the Cuckmere Community Bus was very much appreciated.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending. She thanked Councillors and Council staff for all their hard work throughout the year. In particular, she thanked her husband for his support.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.55pm.

