

HAILSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

MINUTES AND REPORTS of the Hailsham Annual Town Meeting, held at Hailsham Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham on Wednesday 27th April 2011 at 7.30 pm.

ATM/11/
1 PRESENT: 13 Hailsham Town councillors; 33 Hailsham electors; 8 officers of Hailsham Town Council.

2 The Town Mayor/Chairman of Hailsham Town Council, Councillor R. F. Kempe, opened the meeting and welcomed electors. He introduced councillors, the Town Clerk and Mr. M. Fleming from Wealden District Council.

Mr Fleming spoke in respect of the plans to locate the Council on one site in Hailsham, and the future of Hailsham Community Hall. The Hall would be redeveloped over a year and would be open again in the autumn of 2012. He wanted to reassure people that it was the intention of Wealden District Council to work with the regular hirers of the Hall to make the transition as smooth as possible. There would inevitably be occasions when it would not be possible to accommodate the needs of some of the hirers, but he hoped this would be kept to a minimum.

Mr Hillman asked if the move to one site was a way of cutting jobs and services to the public. Mr Fleming said this was not the case and the move would represent value for money.

Councillor Kempe thanked Mr Fleming for attending and explaining the thinking of Wealden District Council.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Hailsham Town Councillors: Councillors J. E. Bentley-Astor, B. F. Burchmore, R.E.C. Burnett, B. Cock and Mrs. D. Haffenden.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting (Ref. ATM/10/1 - 11) held on 21st April 2010, 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

Councillor Mrs. S. Cottingham asked what was happening to the public conveniences in Vicarage Field. The Chairman responded that they were still the responsibility of Wealden District Council.

HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT

Copies of the report were available prior to the meeting.

Councillor Kempe opened the meeting and thanked his predecessor, Councillor Ian Haffenden for all his work as Mayor of Hailsham; as Councillor Haffenden was not standing for re-election he would be missed.

Councillor Kempe outlined the work he had undertaken in his year in office. He had been a tremendous honour to represent Hailsham. It had been a tough time for many people in the town and for retailers with many shops closing. He had been reassured, however, by many favourable comments by people he had met who had visited the town on the underlying thriving nature and friendliness of the people.

He said this had been a difficult year for the staff of Hailsham Town Council and thanked them for their professionalism.

Questions were asked in respect of slow worms in the Country Park, the chiropodist's practice in the Quintins Car Park and the number of empty shops in the High Street and, particularly, the problem of fly posting.

Mr. J. West from the Sports Alliance said that over 1,200 people regularly participate in some sort of sport each week. He thanked Hailsham Town Council for its continued sport.

Mr. S. Towner of the Town Farm Residents' Association thanked Hailsham Town Council for its support since the Association had been set up.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.40pm.

CHAIRMAN/TOWN MAYOR