

## **HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL - BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**REPORT** (Minutes) of the meeting of the Business Development Committee, held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, and Hailsham on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Prior to commencement of formal business, a period of not more than 15 minutes was assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the Committee or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities under the direction of this committee).

None Presented

BDC/11/9X /22.1 **Present:** W.A. Bentley, N.A. Collinson (Vice-Chairman), P. Holbrook, and A. Williams (Chairman).

22.2 Note: Councillor P. Holbrook has permanently replaced Councillor J. L. Blake on this Committee.

23 **Officers Present:** Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk) Mr. M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager)

24 **Apologies For Absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors, J. E. Bentley-Astor, N. S. Coltman and Mrs. M. Rowe.

25 **Declarations of Interest:**

None presented.

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

26 **RESOLVED** to note that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of the Business Development Committee (Ref: BDC/11/9/13-21) held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were confirmed as being a correct record.

### **Matters Arising:**

27 None.

### **28.1 Production of the Business Development Action Plan**

The Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager presented the first draft of the Business Development Report. The Committee agreed to the five key objectives contained in the draft report.

A total of 11 councillors had provided details to be included in the report. The Town Clerk had issued a final reminder to the non-respondents for a return no later than 14th February 2012.

28.2 Much discussion ensued on the some of the key detail that should be included in the Plan, these are summarised below:

- Provide a response to the Wealden District Council Local Development Framework Strategic Sites Development Plan for Hailsham; in respect of business space allocations, infrastructure, and broadband connections

direct to premises. There is a need to recognise the growth expected in Hailsham and Hellingly in the Plan and for Wealden District Council to sign up to the Plan.

- The introduction should mention the Wealden District Council Local Development Framework Strategic Sites Development Plan, and should be an appendix of the Plan.
- The broadband expansion in Hailsham should be incorporated in the Plan as a major selling point for attracting and retaining business. This will link into Hailsham Community College who specialise in business and would provide more job opportunities for students leaving the College.

- 28.3 Consultations should take place with principal authorities, local organisations and businesses and the public. It was proposed that the Plan should be launched to the public as part of the Annual Parish Meeting that will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.
- 28.4 The potential funding for projects identified by the Plan were discussed; the Portas Pilot Scheme was identified as a possible funding source and it was agreed to look at the implications of applying to be one of the 12 Pilots and what would be involved if the application was successful. This would be considered at the next Committee Meeting.
- 28.5 Councillor W.A. Bentley informed the Meeting that East Sussex County Council had allocated £6.2m for capital projects across the County for 2012/2013. Details of the criteria and application process were not available as yet.
- 28.6 Councillor W.A. Bentley proposed that future annual grants awarded by the Council should have a direct link to the objectives contained in the Plan. Organisations applying for grant support should clearly demonstrate how their work/objectives fit into the Hailsham Business Development Plan. The future allocation of grant funding should also require the organisation to provide measured outcomes that would be reviewed as part of future grant awards. A revised Grant Awarding Policy should be drawn up and presented to a future meeting of the Council.
- 28.7 The “Town Plan”/Masterplan was discussed and the Town Clerk will present a report to the Council Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February for the Council to resolve the actions to review the Plan in the next 6 months.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

