

## **BURIALS & PROPERTIES COMMITTEE**

REPORT (Minutes) of the meeting of the Burials & Properties Committee held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2011 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 direction of this committee) at the discretion of the presiding Chairman.

None were present.

BP/10/4 /217 **Present:** Councillors W. A. Bentley, P. Holbrook (Chairman), Mrs. S. E. Henstock, J. Hulbert, Mrs. C. Kempe (Vice-Chairman).

218 **Apologies for Absence** were received and accepted from Councillors B. F. Burchmore, R.E.C. Burnett, B. Cock and R. F. Kempe.

219 **Officers in Attendance** D. Saxby (Committee Clerk).

220 **Declarations of Interest.** Councillor W. F. Bentley declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6 – Street Lighting as he is an East Sussex County Councillor who have responsibility for some street lights.

### **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

221 **RESOLVED** to note that the Report (minutes) of the meeting of the Burial and Properties Committee (Ref: BP/10/3/155–167) held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 was confirmed as being a correct record and adopted by the Town Council, at a meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010, and to consider any matters arising therefrom.

### **Matters Arising**

222 None presented.

### **Committee Expenditure**

223.1 Councillor W. F. Bentley asked why £922 had been spent on Vicarage Field Toilets – Operation Costs when it had been resolved that Hailsham Town Council would not be taking over responsibility for the public conveniences. The Committee Clerk responded he would find out and write to Councillor Bentley.

223.2 **RESOLVED** to note and adopt the Committee's statement of Income & Expenditure for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 as circulated with the agenda and attached as Appendix BP/10/4/223A to these minutes.

### **Hailsham Cemetery**

224 **Cemetery Wardens' Report**

Councillor Mrs. Kempe stated that she had visited Hailsham Cemetery that

morning and she was pleased to see that it was in a very good condition. She was also pleased to note that the toilets were in a far better condition than on previous inspections. She did request, however, that the cobwebs around the windows be removed.

### **Future Development of Hailsham Cemetery**

- 225.1 The Committee Clerk stated that he had investigated the Chairman's request that the land to the rear of the Cemetery be levelled out and made available for burials. The Works Supervisor had advised that the proposed area of the Cemetery was where excess soil was put following burials. It would be expensive to remove the existing soil and would necessitate the use and storage of a skip for the removal of soil arising from future burials.
- 225.2 **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Committee Chairman, Committee Clerk, Cemetery Superintendent and Works Supervisor undertake a site visit to ascertain what can be done to achieve the proposed work to the Cemetery.

### **Review of Burial Fees**

- 226.1 The Committee Clerk stated that there would be a short-fall in income because of the change of grave digger whose costs were significantly higher than those of the previous grave digger.

Discussion ensued.

- 227.2 **RESOLVED** to recommend that all fees be increased by 20 per cent. across the board.

### **228 Street Lighting**

The Committee Clerk reported a quotation had been received from East Sussex County Council to undertake the remedial work necessary. The quotation was to make good 28 lights and some lanterns at a cost of £4420 + VAT.

**RESOLVED** to recommend that the quotation of £4420 + VAT be agreed and East Sussex County Council be requested to carry out the necessary work.

### **Maurice Thornton Pavilion**

#### **Youth Club**

- 229.1 The Committee Clerk stated that Hailsham Town Council had resolved to allow the Town Farm Residents' Association Youth Club to use the Maurice Thornton Pavilion free of charge as the Association had decorated and replaced the kitchen at an estimated cost of £4,000. This had been for an initial period of six months with a promise to review the situation every six months.
- 229.2 Councillor Bentley stated that the Youth Club whilst run by the Town Farm Residents' Association should be allowed to use the Maurice Thornton Pavilion free of charge. This was agreed.
- 229.3 **RESOLVED** to recommend that the Youth Club whilst run by the Town Farm Residents' Association should be allowed to use the Maurice Thornton Pavilion

free of charge.

**Keep Fit Club**

- 230 The Committee Clerk reported that the Deputy Town Clerk had met with Mr. Jason Hull who wanted to use the Maurice Thornton Pavilion for the keep fit club that he ran. Mr Hull no longer wanted to use the Pavilion

**Christmas Festivities**

- 231.1 The Committee Clerk reported that a number of comments on the provision of a real Christmas tree in Vicarage Field. There had been an article in the Hailsham Gazette quoting an ex-councillor opposed to the real tree favouring instead the Tree of light. This was supported by a follow-up letter in the paper. One letter had been received in the office in support of the Tree of Light.
- 232.2 Six letters had been received in the office in favour of the real Christmas Tree and a number of people had commented to officers of the Council that they preferred the real tree. The Hailsham and District Chamber of Commerce also were in favour of the real Christmas Tree.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN