



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chambers/Meeting Rooms, Market Square, Hailsham, on Wednesday 16th November 2011 at 7.30 p.m.

Public Question Time

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting a period of not more than 15 minutes had been assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public present to address the Assembly, or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities of the Town Council) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

The Council Chairman welcomed Mr. A. Joyes and members of the Hailsham Youth Council to the meeting.

PCSO Sue Choppin addressed the meeting in respect of the activities of the Hailsham Town Council sponsored PCSOs. The priorities included parking in Ersham Road, Operation Blitz and high visibility patrols in the less obvious areas.

Mr. K. Burns of the Hailsham Allotment Association raised a number of issues concerning security at the Battle Road Allotments. He thanked Councillor P. Holbrook, Mr. R. Gillett and Miss K. Moralee.

Mrs. C. Mack of the Hailsham Citizens Advice Bureau spoke in respect of the work undertaken at the CAB. She appealed for Hailsham Town Council to increase its annual grant to the CAB from the present £7,500 to bring it into line with Crowborough and Uckfield who made an annual grant of £18,750 and £18,000 respectively.

HTC/11/
6/242 **Present:** Councillors: W. A. Bentley, J.E. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), J. L. Blake, Mrs M. Burt, Ms C. V. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, N.S. Coltman, Mrs. J. Cook, W. F. Crittenden, R. T. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, B. Marlowe, S. McAuliffe, Mrs. M. Rowe, G.G. Rowe, Mrs. D. M. Ryan, M.J. Ryan, S. K. Towner, C Triandafyllou and A. Williams.

243 **Officers in Attendance:** Mrs. E. G. Jones (Town Clerk), M Cairra (Deputy Town Clerk) and D. Saxby.

244 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley.

Declarations of Interest

245.1 Councillor W. Bentley declared personal interests in agenda item 9.2 – Youth Council as he is portfolio holder for adult social services (ESCC) and agenda item 17 – POS Diplocks Way – ESCC Planning Application.

245.2 Councillors Mrs. D. Ryan and M. Ryan declared personal interests in agenda item 9.2 – Youth Council as two of their daughters are members of the Youth Council.

- 245.3 Councillor S. Towner declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 – Proposed Skate Park: Maurice Thornton Playing Field as he is Chair of the Town Farm Residents Association.
- 245.4 Councillors J. Blake, N. Collinson, N. Coltman, B. Marlowe and S. Towner declared personal interests in agenda item 13 – Public Conveniences (Vicarage Field).as they are members of Wealden District Council

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

- 246 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/11/5/221-241) held on 12th October 2011, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- 247 None.

Committee and Panel Reports

- 248 **RESOLVED**, after consideration in accordance with Standing Order 18(e), to receive the following reports of Committees, to approve and adopt the recommendations contained therein and the actions taken as reported therein.

- A. Planning and Development Committee (meetings held 18th October and 8th November 2011)
- B. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee (meeting held 9th November 2011)
- C. Staff Administrative Panel (extra-ordinary meeting held 7th November 2011)
- D. Hailsham in Bloom Committee (meeting held 31st October 2011)

Community Policing

- 249 **Priorities**

RESOLVED to note the report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/6/249A to these minutes.

Police Community Support Officers – Partnership Agreement with Sussex Police Authority

- 250.1 The Council Chairman introduced this agenda item. He said that Crowborough is a town with a similar population to Hailsham and the Crowborough Town Council sponsor only one PCSO.

A majority of Members were of the opinion that Hailsham Town Council should from 2012, sponsor only one PCSO

- 250.2 **RESOLVED** that Councillors A. Williams and W. Bentley (oversight councillors for community policing) and all group leaders enter into negotiations with Sussex Police to reach an agreement in principle on the sponsorship of one PCSO from 2012; and that a progress report is made to the Council meeting in December 2011.

Development and Business Plan for Hailsham

- 251.1 Members received and noted a report from Councillor A. Williams as appended to these minutes as Appendix HTC/11/6/251A.

- 251.2 **RESOLVED** to establish a committee comprising Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley, J. Bentley-Astor, J. Blake, N. Collinson, N. Coltman, R. Grocock and Mrs. M. Rowe to prepare a draft Development and Business Plan for Hailsham for the next four years and beyond, and report to the Council meeting by March 2012.

CLERK'S NOTE: Following this meeting Cllr. A. Williams, Leader of the Conservative Group, advised the following permanent substitutions:-

- a) Cllr. A. Williams will replace Cllr. R. Grocock*
- b) Cllr. W. Bentley will replace Cllr. N. Collinson*

Hailsham Business Enterprise Manager

- 252.1 Members received and noted a report from Councillor A. Williams as appended to these minutes as Appendix HTC/11/6/252A.
- 252.2 **RESOLVED to agree in principal** to appoint a Hailsham Enterprise Manager to further the objectives of the Council and implement a strategy working in conjunction with Council and Oversight Councillors for the revitalisation of Hailsham. Subject to confirmation of the Job Description, Salary and other employment terms and conditions being agreed at the Council meeting in December 2011; as set out in the report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/6/252A to these minutes; and that the post is advertised internally in the first instance.

Accounts and Audit

Precept 2012-2013

- 253.1 Councillor Coltman presented an overview of the proposed precept for 2012-13. He said that the draft budget represented an increase in the Precept of 2.13%.
- Much discussion ensued, in particular in respect of the request from the Citizens Advice Bureau for an increase in their grant.
- Councillor W. Bentley declared a prejudicial interest as he an East Sussex County Councillor with an interest in Children's Services.
- 253.2 **RESOLVED** to finalise the budget and precept for 2012/13 at the Council meeting in January 2012 following clarification on the Tax Base from Wealden District Council and a decision on the sponsorship of PCSO's.

Letter of Thanks

- 254 **RESOLVED** to note a letter of thanks from David Dyer, author of "The Heroes of Hailsham" for the grant towards the printing and publishing of the book.

4 Market Square

- 255 **RESOLVED** to note that the current tenant, Crossroads Care, had given notice that it will be vacating 4 Market Square and not renewing the lease.

Hailsham Youth

Youth Co-ordinators Report

- 256 **RESOLVED** to note the report given by Andy Joyes, the Youth Co-ordinator.

Youth Council

257.1 The Youth Council had submitted a request for the Town Council to allocate an area of land at the Recreation Ground for adult gym equipment as presented in the report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/6/257A to these minutes.

The Council Chairman commended the Youth Council for taking on this task.

257.2 **RESOLVED** to

- (a) agree to the request received from the Youth Council to allocate an area of land at the Recreation Ground for adult gym equipment as presented in the report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/6/257A to these minutes, and
- (b) The Town Clerk and Works Supervisor to consider and recommend the best area for locating the equipment.

Proposed Skate Park : Maurice Thornton Playing Field

258.1 The Deputy Town Clerk, Mickey Caira, reported on the current status of the project.

258.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) note the progress of the skate park development
- b) approve the proposal to apply for planning permission to ensure that a suitable facility is provided, and
- c) approve that Hailsham Town Council will adopt the skate park upon completion.

258.3 Councillors, Blake, Coltman and Towner abstained from voting.

St. Mary's Church Floodlighting

259 **RESOLVED** to adopt the report and recommendations contained therein as circulated with the agenda, in respect of commissioning essential repairs to the floodlights and as Appendix HTC/11/6/259A to these minutes.

Removal of Tree – Blackman's Yard

260.1 Members discussed the officer's report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/6/260A to these minutes.

On being put to the vote the recommendation to remove the tree was tied at 10 votes each.

The Council Chairman cast his vote against the removal of the tree.

260.2 **RESOLVED** not to remove the tree in Blackman's Yard.

Public Conveniences (Vicarage Field)

261 Members agreed to accept the draft Heads of Lease Terms as circulated with the agenda as Appendix HTC/11/6/261A to these minutes, subject to the Town Clerk requesting Wealden District Council to consider including the following clauses:

- a) insert an option to renew the lease
- b) insert an option for Hailsham Town Council to surrender the lease, and
- c) add a Clause stating that if Wealden District Council take back the land for redevelopment after 10 years, a commitment is given to the provision in the town for public conveniences.

RESOLVED that if these clauses are accepted the Council Chairman and Town Clerk be given delegated authority to sign the agreement with Wealden District Council, and that the start date is 1st April 2012.

Bomber Command

- 262 The Town Clerk reported that as a starting point to gain for the installation of a memorial bench at Beachy Head it was necessary to get approval from the Woodland and Downland Manager at Eastbourne Borough Council. Unfortunately he is currently on leave so no progress has been made at present.

Rural Broadband

- 263 **RESOLVED** to:
- a) note an invitation for two representatives of Hailsham Town Council to attend the East Sussex Parish and Town Council Broadband Conference to be held on Thursday 1st December 2011 at Uckfield Civic Centre, and
 - b) Councillors Ms C. Collinson and C. Triandafyllou attend.

Council Representatives to Local Voluntary and Community Organisations

- 264 **RESOLVED** to note the report from Councillor Grocock on Age Concern as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/6/264A to these minutes.

Public Open Space at Diplocks Way

- 265.1 Councillor W. Bentley left the meeting for the duration of this agenda item.
- 265.2 A copy of an email communication from Council's Solicitors had been circulated with the agenda. The Solicitor requested confirmation that : -
- a) the Council is agreeable in principle to entering into a Section 106 Agreement, and
 - b) the Council wishes the Solicitor to insist on payment of all legal fees, including for the Option Agreement which H. Ripley requested but did not complete, by H. Ripley & Co.

The Town Clerk drew member attention to the paragraph in the email that stated that, in relation to the Section 106 Agreement, "the County Council have advised that they will need the purchase money to be paid to the them as Planning Authority, and the County Council would then pass those payments on to the Town Council for use for specific purposes."

Members noted that this was a legal requirement and accepted the arrangement.

- 265.3 **RESOLVED** to approve that the Council's Solicitor be advised that :
- a) the Council is agreeable in principle to entering into a Section 106 Agreement, and
 - b) the Council wishes the Solicitor to insist on payment of all legal fees, including for the Option Agreement which H. Ripley requested but did not complete, by H. Ripley & Co.

Town Mayor's Report

- 266 The Chairman reminded members about the Yuletide Event on the 10th December 2011, and thanked Councillor Mrs. D. Ryan for taking on the organisation of the event.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

Saxon Weald

- 267 The Town Clerk reminded members of the presentation to be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 17th November by Saxon Weald.

Town Clerk

- 268 The Council Chairman stated that this would be the last meeting of Hailsham Town Council by Mrs. E. Jones, the Town Clerk after 31 years service. He reminded members that a leaving party had been arranged for her on Saturday 19th November 2011.

On behalf of councillors past and present he thanked Mrs. Jones for her extraordinary service to the Council and to the people of Hailsham. As a mark of respect, members and officers stood and applauded.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

CHAIRMAN

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 12.10.11