



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held in the Fleur de Lys meeting Room, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 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.

HTC/15/8/255 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, F. Berry, Mrs. M. Burt, Mrs. L. J. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, Ms C. Collinson-O'Toole, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P. M. Cottingham, R. T. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. S. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, M. A. Pinkney, P. D. Soane, C. A. Tasane and C. Triandafyllou.

256 **Officers in Attendance:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), Mrs. M. Hagger (Finance Officer) D. Saxby and T. Hall (Communications Officer).

## 257 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. A. O'Rawe, J. Puttick and Mrs. A Triandafyllou. Councillor Mrs B. Beckett would be arriving late.

## 258 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

## **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

259.1 Councillor Berry said that Minute 235 – Finance, Budget and Resources Committee, Minute 56 Accounts and Audit – Budget for 2016-2017 “would” should read “should”.

259.2 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/15/7/225-254 on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

## **Matters Arising**

### 260.1 **Minute 246 – Streams Off Butts Field**

Councillor P. Holbrook said he proposed hiring a skip.

### 260.2 Minute 249 – Bus Shelter in Magham Down

Councillor P. Holbrook said he proposed the resolution.

260.3 Councillor Berry raised a Point of Order. He said it was correct procedure for the Proposer and Secunder of a resolution to be recorded.

The Town Clerk stated that the advice from SSLAC was that this was not the case.

260.4 Minute 254 Reports to Council

Councillor Berry said that it was he that requested reports form the Police, Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council be made available, not Councillor P. Holbrook.

261 Committee and Panel Reports

**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. Communities Committee Meeting (11<sup>th</sup> January 2016)

B. Planning and Development Committee Meeting (15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016)

C. Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee Meeting (14<sup>th</sup> January 2015)

Communities Committee 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016

262 Minute 115 – Committee Members Present

Councillor Berry said that whilst not a member of the Communities Committee, he was present.

Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016

263 Minute 40.2 Paragraph 1 – Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor N. Collinson said that the results of the meeting were a welcome start to the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan he was concerned about the Sub-Committee having full delegated authority. It was out of step with other Council committees.

Councillor Mrs. Laxton said that without delegated authority production of the Neighbourhood Plan would be slowed down; the time constraints on producing the Plan meant it was necessary.

Councillor Soane that the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee would be a standing agenda item on all full Council meetings. The final decision on the Neighbourhood Plan would be made by a public referendum.

Councillor Ms Collinson-O'Toole said any financial decision should be taken by full Council.

The Town Clerk said that in his opinion small decisions should not have to wait for Council agreement, but financial decisions and the form and shape of the Neighbourhood Plan should come back to Council for its approval. He suggested having a report of the Sub-Committee on every other Council agenda

**RESOLVED** to delete Minute 40.2 Paragraph 1 and insert “The Neighbourhood Planning Sub Committee will produce a roadmap to the development of a Neighbourhood Plan to report meetings of Hailsham Town Council along with financial matters.

This resolution was carried by 10 votes to 7. Councillor Berry requested that his opposition to the resolution be recorded. Councillor Moore requested that abstention from voting be recorded.

264 Minute 40.2 Paragraph 7 – Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Grocock said Mr Hinton was not a member of the Sub-Committee and, therefore, should not be investigating other towns’ Neighbourhood Plans.

The Town Clerk said that Mr Hinton’s role would merely be investigating which town to visit, not participating in the visit.

**RESOLVED** to amend Minute 40.2 Paragraph 7 to read “Councillor Mrs. Laxton and Mr. K. Hinton would investigate which towns would be suitable for a visit from members of the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee.

265 Hailsham Area Action Plan

The notes of the Hailsham Area Action Plan Steering Group meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 had been circulated with the agenda.

**RESOLVED** to note the notes and accompanying documents of the Hailsham Area Action Plan Steering Group meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

266 **Councillor Mrs B. Beckett**

Councillor Mrs B. Beckett joined the meeting at 8.25pm.

**Hailsham Works**

267 Members were asked to consider Hailsham Town Council’s position on future funding of the “Hailsham Works!” project. The Town Clerk referred members to the officer’s report circulated with the agenda.

The Town Clerk outlined the background to the scheme; in August 2012 Hailsham Town Council had resolved to allocate £40,000 a year for three years. This funding included the rent of the building and programme of 12 cohorts, the tenth of which will be completed in March 2016. The twelfth and final cohort from this funding will be completed in September 2016.

The Town Clerk suggested funding for a further three years, but with a robust form of monitoring and subject to a review each January.

Councillor Mrs. M. Laxton said that the scheme had not been managed properly. She was concerned about the amount of money Hailsham Town Council was investing in the scheme and despite the very real difficulties some young people in Hailsham had, this was not value for money. She had experience of an inner London scheme called the Time Forward Project.

Councillor Soane said that this scheme took a third of the Council's annual discretionary spend. He had no idea how this scheme fits into a clear set of priorities for the Council. Before agreeing to further funding the Council should set out its short, medium and long-term aims and objectives.

Councillor P. Holbrook asked who was responsible for the maintenance of the building.

Councillor N. Collinson said that the scheme needed to be monitored properly and regularly. This would help to achieve the results this Council expected.

**RESOLVED** to fund the Hailsham Works! Project for a further year with the proviso that the management of the scheme is accountable and clear objectives are set and met.

### **Precept 2016-2017**

268.1 Councillor Triandafyllou introduced this item and explained that when the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee met on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 it took into account the reduction in the grant from Wealden District Council but was unaware of the increase in housing in Hailsham; thus the recommendation was for a 2.5% increase in the precept.

In light of the extra housing an increase in the precept by 4.51% would ensure no draw-down from reserves was necessary.

Councillor Triandafyllou proposed for the 2016/2017 financial year to approve the budget of £942,062 and to increase the Band D rate by 4% from £114.6.98 to £121.66 and that £4204 be taken from reserves to make up the difference.

The Town Clerk said he had received notification from the Wealden District Council Remuneration Panel that members' allowance would be increase in 2016-2017. This would take Hailsham District Council over budget by £841 for the next financial year if members voted to receive the allowance in full.

Councillor Berry said he was against this proposal as it had not been discussed at the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee.

Councillor Soane proposed a curb on spending and to use finance from reserves this year to meet commitments and take a root and branch look at expenditure.

Councillor Ms Collinson-O'Toole said the proposed increase was minimal and equated to 39 pence per household per month.

268.2 **RESOLVED**

a) to approve the budget of £942,062, and to increase the Hailsham part of the council tax by 4% from £116.98 to £116.98 and that £4204 be taken from reserves to make up the difference; as set out in the officers' report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/15/8/268 to these minutes.

b) that Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £872,521.00 for the financial year 2016/2017; and that the difference between the precept, grant

(£65,337.00) and the budget (4204.00) is taken from reserves. This represents a 4% increase in the Band D Tax Rate.

The resolution was carried by 13 votes to 7.

Councillors Berry, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. Laxton, P. Soane, C. Tasane and Miss J. Wells requested that their opposition to the resolution be recorded.

269 **Councillor Memorial**

Members were asked to consider providing a suitable tribute or permanent memorial for Councillor Mrs. Stella Henstock who passed away last year.

**RESOLVED** that the Conservative group would purchase a tree, the Liberal Democrat group would purchase two rose bushes and that the Councillors Mrs B and P Holbrook would purchase a plaque for planting in land around the Common Pond, as a memorial for Councillor Mrs. Stella Henstock.

270 **Equalities Policy**

The Council was asked to consider adopting an Equalities Policy. The Town Clerk referred members to draft policy circulated with the agenda, this was largely based on that of another town council which was recommended as an example of good practice by SSALC.

**RESOLVED** to adopt an Equalities Policy as attached to these minutes.

271 **Residents' Forum**

The Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda, they were asked to consider a request from Hailsham Forward to initiate a Residents' Forum.

Discussion ensued.

**RESOLVED** to decline Hailsham Forward's request to start a Residents' Forum and refer the matter to the Strategic Projects Committee for further discussion.

272 **Nelson Victor Carter VC Stone**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the plans for the event to unveil the VC Memorial Stone for Nelson Victor Carter. Details of the proposal were circulated with the agenda. The Works Supervisor was liaising with Councillor Berry over the positioning of the stone at the war memorial.

**RESOLVED** to hold the Hailsham event as soon as possible after the Eastbourne event on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016; and that all past Mayors be invited to attend the ceremony.

273 **Twinning Association**

Councillor P. Holbrook declared an interest in this agenda item as he is a member of the Hailsham and District Twinning Association.

The Chairman referred members to the presentation given by representatives of the Hailsham and District Twinning Association at the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

**RESOLVED** to maintain a friendship link at nil cost with the town of Remshalden in Germany but there should be no formal twinning policy.

### **Councillors' Questions/Information Forum**

274 Hailsham Hero

The Chairman said that he had received six nominations for the Hailsham Hero award.

275 Youth Café Visit to Kabubbu

The Town Clerk reported two events to raise funds for the Youth Café trip to Kabubbu in Uganda. The first was a sponsored back and chest wax and the second was a quiz evening on 25<sup>th</sup> February to be held in Chapter 12.

276 Bus Shelter in Battle Road

Councillor P. Holbrook reported that an East Sussex County Council officer was unaware of the new housing development off Battle Road whilst repositioning a bus shelter.

277 Vine's Farm

Councillor P. Holbrook said that he had visited Vine's Farm about their barn. There had been interest shown by English Heritage.

278 Condition of Roads

Councillor N. Collinson asked the Town Clerk to write to East Sussex County Council about the poor condition of the roads.

279 Furniture Now Charity

Councillor N. Collinson said he wanted to make members aware of the new charity facility in Station Road Industrial Estate. He suggested representatives attend a future Council meeting

280 Assets Committee

Councillor Mrs. Laxton asked if a meeting of the Assets Committee could be arranged as soon as possible.

281 Conduct at Meetings

Councillor Mrs. L. Collinson asked that members conduct themselves properly at Council meetings and that respect is shown to other members.

282 East Sussex County Council reports

Councillor P. Holbrook asked that East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council reports are made available at these meetings.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016