



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012 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.

None presented.

HTC/11/  
10/327 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. S. J. Bentley, W. A. Bentley, J.E. Bentley-Astor (Chairman), J. L. Blake, Ms C. V. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, N.S. Coltman, W. F. Crittenden, R. T. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S.E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, B. Marlowe, S. McAuliffe, G. G. Rowe, Mrs. M. Rowe, Mrs. M. Skinner, C Triandafyllou and A. Williams.

**Officers in Attendance:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk) and D. Saxby.

## **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. M. Burt, Mrs. J. Cook, Mrs. D. Ryan and M. J. Ryan.

## **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

## **Community Policing**

### 312.1 Update

Inspector Wakefield of Sussex Police updated the meeting on the major incident that happened in Hailsham on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

### 312.2 Priorities

Councillor Williams said that no priority areas had been received from councillors, but he would be meeting with Inspector Wakefield shortly.

## **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

### 313.1 Minute Ref HTC/11/7300

Councillor Blake stated that he had left the meeting during the discussion on this

agenda item.

313.2 Councillor G. Rowe stated that Councillor Crittenden was listed as leaving the meeting for this agenda item, but was not in attendance.

313.3 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/11/8/289-307) held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, amended and confirmed as a correct record.

314 **Matters Arising**

None.

**Committee and Panel Reports**

315 **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.** Business Development Committee (meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> January & 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012)

**B.** Hailsham in Bloom Committee (meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012)

**C.** Planning and Development Committee (meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012)

**Business Development Committee – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

316.1 Minute 28 – Production of Business Development Action Plan

Councillor G. Rowe requested an explanation on minute ref 28.6 in respect of those local organisations who were in receipt of a grant from Hailsham Town Council. He asked how it would be possible for organisations such as the Scouts or Girl Guides to adhere to the principle of matching their grant request to the emerging Business Development Plan.

316.2 Councillor W. Bentley confirmed that minute was not detailed enough and stated that the existing grant budgets would still be available to the local community groups and that other Council budgets could be re-allocated to fund bids for projects to support the Business Development Plan.

- No change to minute recommendation.

**Hailsham in Bloom Committee – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2012**

316.3 Minute 138-139 – Creation of Diamond Jubilee Garden

Councillor Grocock requested permission for an advance of the 2012/13 budget to purchase materials needed for the creation of the Diamond Jubilee Garden.

316.4 **RESOLVED** to borrow £3,000 from the Contingency Fund to purchase materials needed for the Diamond Jubilee Garden which is to be repaid from the 2012/13 Diamond Jubilee budget.

**Public Conveniences (Vicarage Field)**

317.1 The officer's report was circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/9/317A to these minutes. A supplementary paper itemising the costs (£181,741.67) was provided by a professional surveyor, included surveyor's fees for the project, and was based on the specification of replacing like for like.

Discussion ensued.

317.2 **RESOLVED** to ask three local builders for build and design quotes and report back to Council; the report to include details of future revenue costs of operating the new facility.

#### 318.1 **Hailsham Plan**

The Town Clerk spoke to the officer's report as circulated and as Appendix HTC/11/9/318A to these minutes.

318.2 Councillor G. Rowe stated that it was important that Hellingly Parish Councillor David White be asked to participate as he had been the major contributor to the original Hailsham and Hellingly Masterplan.

318.3 **RESOLVED** to delegate the formation of the Hailsham Plan to the Planning and Development Committee, and the Committee to consider the involvement of Hellingly Parish Council in the formation of the Hailsham Plan.

#### **Repairs to Street Lights**

319.1 Discussion ensued on the officer's report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/9/319A to these minutes.

319.2 **RESOLVED** to make available £12,200 from the 2011/12 street lighting budgets and £1,354 from the Contingency Fund to carry out the priority remedial work to Hailsham Town Council owned property as identified by East Sussex County Council.

#### **Review of Council's Vehicle Fleet**

320.1 Discussion ensued on the officer's report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/9/320A to these minutes.

#### **RESOLVED** to

320.2 a) enter into a contract hire arrangement with the most competitive supplier as identified in the officer's report at annual cost of £11,311.80, and

320.3 b) to sell the four vehicles via a sealed bid process at the highest price, with the residue of the proceeds funding the additions to the vehicles, and the remainder going to the general Contingency Fund.

#### 321.1 **4 Market Square**

The Town Clerk spoke to the officer's report as circulated and as Appendix HTC/11/9/321A to these minutes, and updated the Council on the considerations

report of the vacant property at 4 Market Square.

321.2 **RESOLVED** to instruct the Town Clerk to investigate options for the future use of 4 Market Square more thoroughly, and to report back to the April meeting of the Council.

### 322.1 **Remit of Oversight Councillors**

Discussion ensued on the officer's report as circulated and as Appendix HTC/11/9/322A to these minutes.

#### **RESOLVED**

322.2 a) that the Town Clerk reviews the current system, consults with councillors as part of the review, and makes recommendations on any changes to the current remit to the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, and

322.3 b) that Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley and C Triandafyllou be additional oversight councillors for Community events.

### 323 **Clarification of Standing Orders**

**RESOLVED** to note Standing Order 39 which states that "any Council member shall be entitled to be present as a spectator at the meetings of any committee or sub-committee of which he/she is not a member."

### 324.1 **Annual Town Meeting**

Members considered the arrangements and ideas for the content of the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012.

324.2 **RESOLVED** that Councillor G. Rowe approach the Charles Hunt Centre in Vicarage Field to ascertain its availability and if possible book it as a venue for the Annual Town Meeting, and that oversight councillors display details of their achievements in the past year and what is planned for the future; and that representatives of the Police, health providers and the Youth Council be invited to participate.

324.3 Councillor W. Bentley asked if the Chairman had invited Charles Hendry MP to the meeting. The Chairman said he had but had not yet received a response.

### 325.1 **Meeting with East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT**

Members discussed the officer's report as circulated and as Appendix HTC/11/9/325A to these minutes which updated the meeting on a recent meeting held between Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley and W. Bentley and representatives of East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT.

325.2 **RESOLVED** to set up a small Working Party comprising Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley, R. Grocock and A. Williams to attend meetings with leaders of the emerging Clinical Commissioning Groups.

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

326.1 “Hacking” of the Council’s Telephone System

Councillor N. Collinson asked if there had been any developments in the dispute on the culpability for the cost of “hacking” of the Council’s telephone system.

326.2 The Town Clerk responded that OFCOM were not able to intervene and other agencies were unable to provide help. International calls were indefinitely barred but it seemed likely that Hailsham Town Council would be liable for approximately £5,000 worth of “hacked” calls.

326.3 Hailsham Residents’ Guide 2012

Councillor Mrs S. J. Bentley stated that the Hailsham Residents’ Guide 2012 had been distributed to households in the town. The Guide was full of inaccuracies and the Town Clerk was requested to investigate who published it.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 25.01.12