



# 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> November 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

HTC/12/6/216 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. S. J. Bentley (Chairman), W. A. Bentley, J. L. Blake, B. F. Burchmore, Mrs. M. Burt, Ms C. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, 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, G. G. Rowe, Mrs. M. Rowe, Mrs. D. M. Ryan, M. J. Ryan, S Towner, and C. Triandafyllou.

## Election of Chairman

217.1 The Vice Chairman opened the meeting and called for nominations for the position of Chairman/Town Mayor for the remainder of the 2012/2013 year. Two nominations were received in the names of:

Councillor Mrs S. J. Bentley – Proposed by Councillor C. Triandafyllou and seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Burt, and

Councillor P. S. Holbrook – Proposed by Councillor Mrs. B. Holbrook and seconded by Mrs. M. Rowe.

217.2 On being put to the vote by means of a secret ballot the result was as follows:

Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley – 12 votes

Councillor P. S. Holbrook – 7 votes

Abstention from voting – 1 vote.

217.3 Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley was duly elected as Chairman/Town Mayor for the remainder of the 2012/2013 year.

217.4 Councillor Mrs. Bentley signed the Declaration of Acceptance book and invited the ex-Mayor, Mr. J. E. Bentley-Astor to say a few words to the meeting.

217.5 Mr. Bentley-Astor said he was sorry to leave but other personal commitments had made it impossible for him to continue as a councillor. He said he would continue working in the community and wished everyone well. He was presented with a Hailsham Town Council shield by the new Chairman.

217.6 Councillor Mrs. Bentley thanked everyone for giving her the opportunity to be Mayor of Hailsham until the Annual meeting in May 2013. She thanked Councillor Grocock for holding the fort until an election for a new Chairman/Mayor could take place. She knew she could rely on him as Vice-Chairman.

217.7 Councillor Mrs. Bentley welcomed Councillor Burchmore back to the Council following his victory in the recent by-election.

217.8 She said she had the sad duty to announce the recent death of ex-Mayor, Bob Burnett. She and other members paid tribute to him and all present stood in a minute's silence in his memory.

218 **Officers in Attendance:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk), Mrs. M Hagger, D. Saxby and T. Hall.

219 **Public Question Time**

Prior to commencement of the remaining 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 were presented but the Town Clerk read out two letters received from members of the public.

The first was a request for the provision of a hard-standing area on the Western Road Recreation Ground for a local Tia Chi group to use during wet periods. Officers were asked to investigate the feasibility of doing this.

The second was from a resident of Manor Park Road about the problems with parking there. Councillor W. A. Bentley said that the letter should be referred to the lead member for Transport at East Sussex County Council.

220 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors N. S. Coltman and Mrs. M. Skinner.

221 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors W. A. Bentley and N. Collinson declared personal interests in Agenda item 8 - Cortlandt Stable Block and Public Conveniences as they were an East Sussex County Councillor and a Wealden District Councillor respectively.

222 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/12/5/201-215) held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

223 **Matters Arising**

No matters arising.

224 **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. Hailsham in Bloom Committee (22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012)

- B. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee (24<sup>th</sup> October and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012)
- C. Business Development Committee (30<sup>th</sup> October 2012)

225 A. Hailsham in Bloom Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012

Minute HIB/12/4/71 – Development of Arboretum at Common Pond Site

Councillor McAuliffe requested that the Hailsham in Bloom Committee consult him and Councillor P. Holbrook as they were overseeing remedial work on the Common Pond. This was agreed.

- No change to the minute recommendation.

226 Minute HIB/12/4/72 – Questions/Information Forum

Councillor P. Holbrook asked where the two ornamental topiary plants presented by the Mayor of Gournay-en-Bray were situated.

The Town Clerk replied that they were in the Hailsham Town Council garden as they would not survive be planted in the street. He agreed to consult the Hailsham and District Twinning Association on their long term future.

- No change to the minute recommendation.

### **Dog Bins**

227.1 Members considered the officer's report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/227A to these minutes.

227.2 **RESOLVED** to agree to place a dog bin on Hailsham Town Council land as near as possible to the requested place and to wait for the implementation of the general Powers of Competence before deciding on whether to place dog bins on land not owned by Hailsham Town Council.

### **The 'Town Crier' Newsletter**

228.1 Councillors Ms C. Collinson, N. Collinson and S. McAuliffe declared personal interests in this agenda item as they advertise in it.

228.2 Members considered the officers' report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/228A to these minutes.

228.3 Following debate, Councillor Blake proposed that the proposal in the officers' report be rejected. On being put to the vote this proposal was lost.

228.4 **RESOLVED** to agree the officers' report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/228A to these minutes, with the amendment that 5,000 copies are produced, and to promote community distribution and to provide a report to a future Council meeting on its effectiveness.

### **Cortlandt Stable Block and Public Conveniences**

229.1 Councillor N. Collinson declared an interest in this agenda item as he is a

- Wealden District Councillor with a remit for Corporate Assets.
- 229.2 Councillor W. A. Bentley declared an interest in this agenda item as he is an East Sussex County Councillor.
- 229.3 Members discussed the issues outlined in the officer's report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/229A to these minutes.
- 229.4 It was noted that the council will not know the outcome of the bid by Tomorrow's People to secure funding for the "Hailsham Works!" Project until early December at the earliest. This may affect the council's requirement for the lease of the building.
- 229.5 Council further noted that until the outcome of the Hailsham Works bid was known it therefore could confirm its use of the Cortlandt Stable Block for the purpose, it could not make a definite decision on the provision of public conveniences. It may also be necessary to gain a further building quote to maximise the capacity of the end of the building by moving the utilities and facilities into the main part and therefore allowing two toilets to be installed.
- 229.6 **RESOLVED** that:
- a) officers should make a formal offer for the lease of the Cortlandt Stable Block building for ten years as proposed by the landlord and
  - b) a final decision on the public toilets would not be made until a later date and would therefore Wealden District Council be requested to maintain the offer of the lease for the Vicarage Fields site for the time being.

### **Proposed Budget for 2013-2013**

- 230.1 Councillor Triandafyllou introduced this item and referred members to the officers' report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/230A to these minutes. He stressed that this was not the final budget and further discussions would take place before finalising the precept.
- 230.2 Councillor W. Bentley stated that the views of young people should be sought on the money spent in their area.

### **Transport Links Report**

- 231.1 Councillor Marlowe spoke to the report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/231A to these minutes.
- Discussion ensued.
- 231.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the report once the £5,000 had been received, subject to agreement with the internal auditor.

### **Tony Tack Memorial Skate Park – Request for Free Standing Water Fountain**

- 232.1 Councillor McAuliffe declared an interest in this agenda item as he is employed by Southern Water. He requested that it be recorded that he did not participate in the debate or vote on the proposal.

- 232.2 **RESOLVED** to support the request from The Town Farm Residents' Association to install a free standing water fountain at the Maurice Thornton Pavilion as outlined in the letter received, as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/12/6/232A to these minutes.

### **Union Corner Hall**

- 233.1 Members considered a request from the management committee of Union Corner Hall for funding of £1,000 per year for up to four years for ongoing improvement work.
- 233.2 **RESOLVED** to agree to the funding of £1,000 for two years for improvement work to Union Corner Hall.

### **Poll Cards for Forthcoming Election**

- 234.1 The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the costs of the by-election as received from Wealden District Council. He said that the issuing polling cards would cost in the region of £7,000.
- 234.2 **RESOLVED** that polling cards should be issued for the Hailsham Town Council by-election on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

### **Road Naming Update**

- 235.1 The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the naming of the new road in Hailsham following the rejection of the previous suggestion of Olympic Way. The developers had suggested Oakfields.
- Discussion ensued and members were in agreement that it would be appropriate to name a road in Hailsham after the ex Mayor, the late Mr. Bob Burnett.
- 235.2 **RESOLVED** that Wealden District Council be informed that Hailsham Town Council's preferred name of the new road is Burnett Close.

### **Road Works Issues**

- 236.1 The Town Clerk said that a number of people had phoned and been into the Hailsham Town Council office to complain about the length of time taken to install a gas pipe across the road outside the former Terminus Public House, and the subsequent gridlock of traffic throughout the town centre.
- 236.2 Members also expressed disquiet at length of time it took to install the gas pipe and of the contractors' inability to keep to the agreed works procedure.
- 236.3 **RESOLVED** to write to Southern Gas Networks expressing Hailsham Town Council's dismay at the problems created by the road works outside the former Terminus Public House and their inability to adhere to the agreed works procedure; and for an assurance that this situation would not arise again on any other contract in Hailsham.

237

**Councillors' Questions/Information Forum**

None presented.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.12pm.

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 21.11.12

**CHAIRMAN**