



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chamber/Meeting Rooms, Market Square, Hailsham, on Wednesday 23rd November 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 Council, or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities of the Town Council) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

The Chairman reported that Mr. J. West, Chairman of the Hailsham and District Sports Alliance has passed away.

The Chairman read a letter received from Mr. R. Latter about Tesco charging customers to use their car park. The Chairman said that it was agreed at the time Tesco built the store, that as long as Wealden District Council didn't charge for car parking in Hailsham, Tesco wouldn't either. Wealden District Council Planning Committee changed this arrangement in October. Hailsham Town Council had strongly objected to this.

Mr. P. Deacon asked if the Council would support a rail link into and out of Hailsham. The Chairman said the Council had no policy on this.

Ms J. Walters said that she was aware that people were not visiting the town because of parking problems and were taking their business elsewhere.

Mrs. H. Deehan asked if £400 had been spent on gifts for Father Christmas to hand out to children at the Christmas fete. The Chairman responded that he was unaware of how much had been spent and would reply to Mrs. Deehan.

Mr. M. Adams said he was concerned that work on the High Street had been suspended to allow the Bonfire Society to hold its procession, thus delaying the completion date.

Mr. M. Adams was concerned that the drainage system in the High Street was not adequate and had led to flooding. The Chairman said he would pass on concerns about this to East Sussex County Council.

HTC/16/3
/190

Present: Councillors:, Mrs. B. H. Beckett, F. Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, Mrs. M.A. Clarke, Mrs. L. J. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, R. T. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, G. Moore, G.M. Moore, Ms. A. O'Rawe M. A Pinkney, J. Puttick, C. A. Tasane, C Triandafyllou and Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten.

Officers in Attendance

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr. D. Saxby and Mr. T. Hall.

191 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. Collinson-O’Toole, Soane and Willis.

192 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor P. Holbrook declared an interest in agenda item 11 – Town Centre Road Improvements as he was in the High Street the evening that it flooded.

Motion 158

193.1 Members were asked to consider the following motion as submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order No. 2 by Councillor M. Laxton who proposed:

‘That HTC takes on a “Community Warden” as a proactive approach of working towards restoring some civic pride in our town.

A Community Warden will benefit our community and all residents by leading the way of being able to deal with anti-social behaviour and various issues’

193.2 Before debate Mr. C Harrison, Community Warden in Forest Row addressed the meeting on his role and responsibilities in Forest Row and answered members’ questions.

Debate ensued.

193.3 An amendment was proposed.

193.4 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham Town Council investigates further the roles and responsibilities that a community warden could fulfil as a proactive approach of working towards restoring some civic pride in our town, and that the Strategic Projects Committee is to pursue.

193.5 Councillor Grocock asked that his abstention from voting be recorded.

Confirmation of Minutes

194.1 The Town Clerk said that the Minutes should be amended as follows:

Strategic Projects Committee -17th August 2016 – Allotments (Minute Ref: SPC/4/16/25-25.1

The figure quoted should read £1,500.

194.2 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 28th September 2016 (Ref HTC/16/3/166-169), as amended and printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman:

Committee Reports

195 **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 Meetings (3rd October and 7th November 2016)

B. Planning & Development Committee Meetings (4th October and 25th October 2016)

C. Finance, Budget and Resources Committee Meeting (26th October 2016).

D. Strategic Projects Committee Meeting (19th October 2016).

Committee Recommendations

Communities Committee – 3rd October 2016 – Hailsham Forward (Minute Reference CC/16/5/49)

196.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend that £5,000 of the revitalisation budget is funded to employ T. Ryland to source traders for the Saturday markets and organise a larger market on the last Saturday of every month, beginning March 2017

The Town Clerk said that the resolution went against the Council's financial regulations and would need to be amended.

The chairman proposed the removal of the words "T. Ryland from the resolution. This was carried by 18 votes to 3. Councillors Berry and Mrs. Laxton asked that their opposition to the proposal be recorded.

196.2 The substantive proposal was put to the vote.

196.3 **RESOLVED** to recommend that £5,000 of the revitalisation budget is funded to employ someone to source traders for the Saturday markets and organise a larger market on the last Saturday of every month, beginning March 2017

196.4 This was carried by 16 votes to 4. Councillors Berry, Graham Moore and Mrs. Laxton asked that their opposition to the proposal be recorded.

Strategic Projects Committee – 19th October 2016 – Ersham Road Cemetery (Minute reference SPC/5/16/37.1)

197.1 **RESOLVED** that quotations for a new carpet, replacement tiles and a notice-board are obtained and a request is taken to Full Council to obtain the money from contingency funds for these items

197.2 The Town Clerk said he had received indicative quotes as follows:

Wall mounted notice-board – between £1,200 and £1,300

Post mounted notice-board – between £1,500 and £1,800

Scaffolding for the old chapel roof (to allow the tile replacement to be undertaken in-house) - £900.

Carpet for the chapel - £1,540

It was proposed that a replacement notice-board be deferred until the new financial

year.

- 197.3 **RESOLVED** that for a new carpet and replacement tiles are obtained and the money is taken from contingency funds for these items

Confidential Business

- 198 **RESOLVED** that due to the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and possible disclosure of personal or legal information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E.

7.4 Planning and Development Committee: 4th October 2016 – Valuation Report for Council Owned Land (Minute ref PAN/16/5/151)

The reason for exclusion is:

(b) terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts

Planning & Development Committee: 4th October 2016 – Valuation Report for Council Owned Land (Minute Ref: PLAN 16/5/151)

- 199 **RESOLVED** that no action is taken until a planning application is received.

- 200 **RESOLVED** that the meeting returns to an open session.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

RESOLVED to:

- 201 a) note the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee Meetings (13th October 2106) and
- 202 b) approve the Neighbourhood Plan Committee's delegated authority up to the next Town Council meeting.
- 203.1 c) members were asked to consider the following recommendation to Council made by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee meeting on 13th October 2016 (Minute ref. NP/16/4/88.3):
- 203.2 **RESOLVED** that the Neighbourhood Plan Committee requests that an extra-ordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council be called to allow full Council to draft the Council's response to the next stage of the Wealden District Council Local Plan consultation.
- 203.3 The Town Clerk stated that for the above resolution to be passed it would require a two thirds majority as it would rescind a resolution passed by Council on 28th September 2016.
- 203.4 On being put to the vote the request from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee that an extra-ordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council be called to allow full Council to draft the Council's response to the next stage of the Wealden District Council Local Plan consultation did not attract a two thirds majority, and, therefore, was not carried.

204 **Plan for Festivities and Events**

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting of Hailsham Town Council.

Office Christmas Opening Hours

205.1 **RESOLVED** that the office close on Friday 23rd December 2016 and re-open on Tuesday 3rd January 2017. This would mean the office would be closed for three normal working days; a day and a half of which would be gifted to staff, the remaining day and a half to be taken as annual leave.

205.2 Councillor P. Holbrook requested that his opposition to the resolution be recorded.

206 **Town Centre Road Improvements**

RESOLVED that a formal letter be sent to East Sussex County Council outlining the areas where Hailsham Town Council is dissatisfied; individual councillors to send details of their concerns to the Town Clerk by 30th November 2016.

Land and Tree Adjacent to Hailsham War Memorial

207.1 Members were asked to consider a proposal from the owners of Vicarage Field regarding ownership of the tree adjacent to the war memorial.

207.2 **RESOLVED** to investigate the insurance ramifications of assuming ownership of the tree adjacent to the war memorial.

New Allotment Site

208.1 Members were asked to consider a request for the Council to take over an additional allotment site at Battle Road.

208.2 **RESOLVED** that the Council takes over responsibility and management for the allotment site once the remedial works have been completed and subject to Redrow Homes producing and paying for an independent written report that the land is free from invasive weeds and a report stating which pesticides have been used; and delegates authority to the Town Clerk to sign the necessary legal contracts to transfer the land to the Council.

[NB The allotment site will no longer be organic.]

Councillor's Questions/Information Forum

209 **Christmas 2016**

Councillor Triandafyllou stated that the Christmas lights switch on was on Friday 25th November 2016.

210 **Our Hailsham**

Councillor Berry asked if Our Hailsham was delivered to all households. He was informed that the contract stated that they should be.

211

Len Davies

The Town Clerk said that a plaque had been erected on the wall at the rear of the Fleur de Lys building,

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

CHAIRMAN

Global/Minutes and Agendas/ DS/ AM Minutes 22.11.16