



# 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 25<sup>th</sup> January 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.

Dr. Oezburan of Bethany House Surgery, Battle Road spoke about his discussions with the Primary Care Trust about the future of his surgery and possible move to the premises currently occupied by the Terminus Public House.

Sgt. Howard Nevill of Sussex Police updated the meeting in respect of the major incident that took place in Hailsham earlier in the week. He was keen to reassure councillors and the public that this was an isolated incident and there was no danger to the wider public.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Nevill for the way this case had been handled , and asked for the Council's appreciation to be passed on to his colleagues.

HTC/11/8/289 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. S. J. Bentley, 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, R. T. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S.E. Henstock, P.S. Holbrook, B. Marlowe, S. McAuliffe, G. G. Rowe, Mrs. M. Rowe, M. J. Ryan, Mrs. M. Skinner, C Triandafyllou and A. Williams.

290 **Officers in Attendance:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk) and D. Saxby.

291 **Apologies for Absence:**  
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors W. F. Crittenden, Mrs. B. Holbrook, Mrs. D. Ryan and S. Towner.

292 **Declarations of Interest**  
None declared, although Councillor W. A. Bentley said that he would leave the meeting for the discussion on agenda item 10 – Hailsham Community College Academy Conversion Consultation – as he is an East Sussex County Councillor, where this may be discussed in the future.

293 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**  
**RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/11/7/269-288) held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011, as printed and

circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

294 **Matters Arising**

None.

295 **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 (meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012)
- B. Planning and Development Committee (meetings held 20<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012)
- C. Business Development Committee (meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012)
- D. Finance & Budget Oversight Committee (meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012)
- E. Staff Administrative Panel (meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012)
- F. Urgency Procedures Committee (meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012)

Finance and Budget Committee

296 Minute 84 – Street Lighting

Councillor Triandafyllou stated that East Sussex County Council was planning to install dimmers on all their street lights, including those in Hailsham. The Finance and Budget Oversight Committee had recommended reviewing Hailsham Town Council street lights – some 530 – with a view to fitting dimming controls to them. The cost of this would be about £25 per light and it would take just over two years to reimburse this outlay through savings in electricity costs.

No change to minute recommendation.

**Community Policing**

297 Priorities

Councillor Williams reported that Councillor W. Bentley and he would be going on a walkabout with the Police on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Members were invited to submit priorities for their wards.

**Accounts and Audit**

298.1 Precept 2012-2013

Councillor Coltman presented the updated draft precept for 2012/13 as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/8/298A to these minutes.

Discussion ensued.

298.2 **RESOLVED** that Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £841.100.00 for the financial year 2012/2013.

Fraudulent Access/Hacking Into Hailsham Town Council Telephone System

- 299.1 The Town Clerk reported that the Council's telephone system had been "hacked" into and that it may be liable for £6,000 - £7,500 of fraudulent calls. The Town Clerk also confirmed that the contract with Digiquip clearly stated that the Council was responsible and that it is not insured for this occurrence.

Full details of the incident and costs were yet to be provided by Digiquip.

- 299.2 **RESOLVED** to refer this matter to OFCOM.

### **Local Healthcare Provision**

- 300.1 Councillors Mrs S. J. Bentley (Chairman), J. L. Blake, Mrs M. Burt, N. Collinson, P. Holbrook, S. McAuliffe and M. Ryan all left the meeting as they are members of the Planning and Development Committee.

- 300.2 The meeting was adjourned for five minutes following discussion on the requirement for those who left the meeting to do so.

On members returning to the meeting the following resolution was made:

- 300.3 **RESOLVED** that Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley and W. Bentley be the representatives from Hailsham Town Council in future talks with the Primary Care Trust. And that the Chairman write inviting the PCT and other stakeholders to a closed meeting to discuss healthcare provision.

### **Quality Bus Partnership**

- 301.1 Councillor Marlowe reported that East Sussex County Council and Stagecoach were unhappy with the word "Partnership".

- 301.2 **RESOLVED** to rename the group Hailsham Bus Alliance.

### **Closed Churchyards**

- 302.1 Councillors Mrs. S. J. Bentley, N. Collinson, N. Coltman, B. Marlowe and C. Triandafyllou declared prejudicial interests as they were all Wealden District Councillors.

- 302.2 **RESOLVED** to note the Wealden District Council decision in respect of closed churchyards and notify them that Hailsham Town Council withdraw its offer to negotiate taking on the maintenance of the closed St. Mary's Churchyard, as attached to the agenda, and as Appendix HTC/11/8/302A to these minutes.

### **Hailsham Community College Academy Conversion Consultation**

- 303.1 Councillor W. Bentley left the meeting for the duration of the discussion on this agenda item.

Much discussion ensued.

- 303.2 **RESOLVED** to set up a working group comprising Councillors Ms C. Collinson, N. Coltman and M. Ryan to formulate a response to the consultation; and to be wound up by 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012.

## **Hailsham Training Localism Act**

- 304.1 Councillor Williams spoke to the report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/11/8/304A to these minutes.
- 304.2 Members were strongly encouraged to attend the course to be run by SALC on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to enable the Council to gain the Power of General Competency.

### **Motion 151**

- 305.1 Members were asked to consider a motion submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders 13-18 by Councillor N. Coltman.
- 305.2 **RESOLVED** that the Risk Assessment decision (Appendix HTC/11/7/268A) that the Council took to full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2011 (Minute reference 286.2) be amended to delete the reference to the Hailsham Masterplan.

### **Motion 152**

- 306.1 Members were asked to consider a motion submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders 13-18 by Councillor N. Coltman.
- 306.2 **RESOLVED** the Council review and update the Masterplan as soon as possible, provide funding in the 2012/13 precept and complete the process within six months.

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

- 307 Councillor W. Bentley reported that South East Marts had acquired the freehold of Hailsham Market and requested that the Chairman write with the Council's congratulations.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.22pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 25.01.12