



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held on the Main Hall, White House Academy, Hailsham, on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00 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.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

He asked members of the public for questions.

Mr J Pilgrim read an extract from a letter he had received from the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, Brandon Lewis MP, urging councils to work with the community. The Minister stressed the need to provide sustainable development, not development at any cost.

Ms V Browne Said that the amount of housing based on the evidence contained in the in the Wealden document was highly questionable. She suggested a new town would be a better way forward.

Ms L. Kilshaw and Ms S. Christmas; both parents with children who attended the Hailsham East Nursery, spoke about the decision by East Sussex County Council to close the Nursery in March 2016. The Chairman said this was not a matter for Hailsham Town Council but he understood that it had been decided that the closure would now take place in July 2016 to allow for a smooth transition to school for the children.

Mr. S. Bottomley asked how Hailsham Town Council would represent the community which is against the development. The Chairman said that this Council will have an input into Wealden District Council.

Mr R Latter said that in response to Councillor Mrs Laxton's question at the last meeting was that anticipated local employment levels was a matter for central government. Did this indicate that it is not the role of Wealden District Council to anticipate employment level, therefore, the objectively assessed employment levels in the document was, at best, unsubstantiated figures.

Mr R Spinks said that he had spoken to many people and not one was in favour of this development.

Mr. A. Osborne said Hailsham was being asked to take a disproportionately large amount of housing.

Mrs S. Hamilton said that the proposed 300 new homes on the farmlands near Station

Road would potentially lead to 600 more cars in that area of Hailsham.

Mr. S. Cross said that councillors were in place to represent the views of the community.

Mr. K. Hinton said that he was disappointed at the lack of consultation. He also stated that Hailsham Town Councillors who were also Wealden District Councillors should declare this.

Mr. S. Taylor asked that with 9,000 new homes proposed for Hailsham, where will the people come from; where will the necessary jobs come from and as there will be so much commuting, Hailsham would need a train station?

Mr K Townsend said he was grateful that the Mayor had recently met the Mayors of Gournay-en-Bray and Remshalden

HTC/15/6/202 **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, G. Moore, M. A. Pinkney, J. Puttick, Ms A. O'Rawe (Vice-Chairman), P. D. Soane, C. A. Tasane, Mrs. A Triandafyllou, C. Triandafyllou and Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten.

203 **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).

204 **Apologies for Absence:**  
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Miss J. Wells and A. Willis.

205 **Declarations of Interest**  
Councillors N. Collinson, Coltman, Grocock, M. Pinkney, Ms O'Rawe and C. Triandafyllou all declared an interest as they were Wealden District Councillors.

Councillor N. Collinson said although he had declared an interest as a District Councillor and portfolio holder it was unnecessary as he had declared this already in the Register of Interests book.

206 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**  
**RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/15/4/157-186) held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

207 **Matters Arising**  
None.

208 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/15X/5/187-201) held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**Matters Arising**

209 Minute 190.2 – Declarations of Interest

Councillor P. Holbrook said that Councillor N. Collinson had declared an interest as a Wealden District Council portfolio holder.

210 Minute 201

Councillor P. Holbrook said that Councillor Puttick had suggested the withdrawal of Motion 156.

211 **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. Finance, Budget and Resources Committee Meeting (28<sup>th</sup> October 2015)

B. Planning and Development Committee Meetings (6<sup>th</sup> October, 27<sup>th</sup> October and 17<sup>th</sup> November 2015)

C. Communities Committee Meetings (5<sup>th</sup> October and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015)

D. Strategic Projects Committee Meeting (21<sup>st</sup> October 2015)

Finance, Budget and Resources Committee – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

212 Minute 42 – Periodic Statements and Committee Expenditure

Councillor Berry asked if the impact of the Living Wage and the potential erosion of the differential in scale points had been considered. He was informed that it would be an agenda item for the FBRC in the future.

Planning & Development Committee -17<sup>th</sup> November 2105

213 Minute 109 Members of the Public Questions

Councillor Pinkney said that in response to a question Councillor Moore had agreed to help obtain Listed Building status for the Ersham Farm Barn.

Strategic Projects Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

Minute 46 – Minibus

214.1 Councillor Berry Was concerned about the transfer of the minibus to Hailsham Forward. He didn't think this could be done legally as the only way Hailsham Forward could take control of it would be to purchase it. He suggested that the minibus either be sold as scrap or sold to Hailsham Forward.

Councillor N. Collinson said that it was perfectly legal to do as agreed.

214.2 On being put to the vote the action agreed in Minute 46 was agreed by 13 votes to 3.

214.3 Councillors Berry, P. Holbrook and Tasane asked that their votes against be recorded.

215 Minute 47 – Cycling Campaign

Councillor P. Holbrook said that he had asked about the cycling link between the top of Battle Road and the MASHH programme. This was not minuted.

216 Minute 49 – Additional Benches on Vicarage Field Site

Councillor P. Holbrook said that the minute did not reflect the debate on the number of benches agreed.

Minute 51 – Disabled Equipment at Town Council Play Parks.

217.1 Councillor Grocock said that he disagreed with the resolution to recommend that a play area and equipment for disabled children be placed in the sensory garden. This was a tranquil area. He proposed that a more suitable area be found.

Councillor Mrs. Laxton, as the proposer of this resolution, said that many disabled children could not go into regular play areas by nature of their disability.

217.2 **RESOLVED** to refer this matter back to the Strategic Projects Committee for further discussion. To be added to the agenda for the next meeting of that committee.

### **Area Action Plan and Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committees**

#### Hailsham Area Action Plan Committee

218.1 The Town Clerk said that Wealden District Council had said that Hailsham Town Council could have two seats on the Hailsham Area Action Plan Committee.

Councillor Mrs Holbrook said that Hailsham would be most affected by the plans, the Town Council should have more seats and the Town Clerk should go back to Wealden District Council and request this.

218.2 **RESOLVED** to request more than two seats for Hailsham Town Council on the Hailsham Area Action Plan and that the following names should be forwarded to WDC:

Councillors Berry, Mrs L. Collinson, Mrs. Cottingham, Moore and Soane (five).

219 Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee

**RESOLVED** that the following councillors comprise the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee:

Councillors Ms C. Collinson-O’Toole, Mrs Cottingham, P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, G. Moore, P. Soane, C. Tasane and C. Triandafyllou.

In addition the following members of the public were to sit on the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee in a non-voting, ex officio capacity:

Ms V. Brown, Mrs. H. Deehan and Mr. S. Cross.

## **Hailsham Town Council's Response to the Wealden Local Plan Consultation**

220.1 The Chairman introduced this agenda item. He said that it had been deferred from the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Councillor N. Collinson spoke to his report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/15/6x/220A to this report.

Councillor Soane said that because no Council response had been submitted to Wealden District Council, individual responses from councillors should be sent.

Councillor C. Triandafyllou proposed that the response be delegated to the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee to formulate Hailsham Town Council's response.

220.2 **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee to formulate Hailsham Town Council's response to the Wealden Local Plan consultation exercise.

220.3 Councillors F. Berry and N. Collinson asked for their abstentions from voting to be recorded.

### **Next Full Council Meeting**

221.1 The Chairman explained that this was a scheduled meeting of the Town Council, but it had been resolved at the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to use it to formulate the Council's response to the Wealden Local Plan consultation exercise. It was, therefore, necessary to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Council before Christmas to process other business.

221.2 **RESOLVED** to hold an extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2015.

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

222 Town Crier

Councillor P. Holbrook said he was disgusted by the article on the Hailsham Community Heroes Scheme in the latest edition of the Town Crier. Councillor Coltman and O'Rawe had been mentioned by name whereas he, as the third member of the Committee had not.

The Chairman apologised for this.

223 Reports to Council Meetings

Councillor Berry asked that the practice of having a Police Report on the agenda of Hailsham Town Council meetings be resurrected. In addition, he wanted a report from Wealden District and East Sussex County Councillors to be included.

224 Christmas Tree in Vicarage Field

Councillor Pinkney said that he had made the suggestion in another meeting that there should be a notice on the barriers surrounding the Christmas tree in Vicarage

Field that it was sponsored by Hailsham Town Council. This had not been done.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.33pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015