



# 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 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 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.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

The Town Clerk said he had received a letter from Mr. K. Hinton from asking that Hailsham Town Council request Wealden District Council to convene a public meeting, hosted by Hailsham Town Council in order for residents to question them on their Issues and Options document. Mr. Hinton was in attendance. The Chairman responded that this would be dealt with under motion 154 on the agenda, and he hoped that a meeting would be arranged as requested.

Ms. V. Brown asked if Hailsham Town Council would work with the community on the provision of infrastructure for Wealden District Council's plans. The Chairman said that this, too, would be discussed under motion 154 on the agenda.

Mr. N. Schultz asked when it had been agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan would be superseded by an Area Action Plan. He said that Councillor N. Collinson was breaking the Member's Code of Conduct and asked how he reported this. The Town Clerk advised that this would need to be taken up the Wealden District Council's Monitoring Officer.

Mr. S. Cross said that residents needed an assurance that Councillors would listen to the voters on the issue of development of the town.

Mr J. Pilgrim said that councillors are custodians of Hailsham's future and this should be borne in mind.

Mrs. S. Wilson representing Demelza said that she was lobbying for the Prom in the Park event next June to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday on the Western Road Recreation Ground.

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**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, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyton, Miss J. R. Wells and A. Willis.

158 **Officers in Attendance:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), Mrs. K Giddings D. Saxby and T. Hall.

159 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs. S. Henstock.

160 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tasane declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 – Requests to Hold Events on the Western Road Recreation Ground as he lives adjacent to it. He said he would speak on the item but would not vote.

161 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/15/2/128-145) held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

162 **Matters Arising**

None.

163 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/15X/2/146-156) held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

164 **Matters Arising**

None.

165 **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 Meetings (9<sup>th</sup> September 2015)
- B. Planning and Development Committee Meetings (4<sup>th</sup> August, 26<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015)
- C. Communities Committee Meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> August and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015)
- D. Strategic Projects Committee Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015)

**Strategic Projects Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015**

166 Minute 24 – Dog Park

Councillor Mrs. L. Collinson said that she had advised the Town Clerk that she wanted this item called over as she was uncertain of the validity of the proposal, but because the large number of items on this agenda, it would wait until the next meeting of the Strategic Projects Committee.

167 Minute 27 – Allotment Rents Increase

Councillor P. Holbrook asked when the increases in rent would take effect. The

Allotments Officer, Mrs. Giddings said that it would be from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

168 Minute 28 – Minibus Repairs

Councillor Berry asked what arrangements were in place for transport for the Friday Night Project now that the minibus could not be used.

The Town Clerk said that the majority of activities were at Knockhatch and parents took and picked up their children. The Group Leader also often had access to the Hailsham Community College minibus.

**Delegation of Authority to Spend Project Funds**

169.1 The Town Clerk said that this item had been held over from the last meeting and referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda.

169.2 Councillor Soane said that this appeared to be a very convoluted scheme but was prepared to support it as it allows scrutiny by all members.

169.3 Councillor Mrs. L. Collinson said that she opposed the proposal at the last meeting but would now support it.

169.4 Councillor N. Collinson said he agreed with the officer's report.

169.5 Councillor Berry said he would support the officer's report if it was for a trial period.

The Chairman said that the trial period would run until the next Annual Meeting where it would be reviewed and possibly extended.

169.6 **RESOLVED** that the Communities Committee (or whichever committee or committees are appointed in the future with similar terms of reference) is asked to submit plans to full council detailing what they wish to implement and what they will spend on the Festivities and Events budget and the Revitalisation budget for the following municipal year. These plans are subject to approval by full council and once finally agreed, the committee will have delegated authority to implement these plans without reference back to full council.

This will work on a rolling annual schedule, with two plan submission dates and a September 'six months progress' report back to council as detailed in the officer's report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/15/3/169A to these minutes.

169.7 Councillor P. Holbrook requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

**Motion to153**

170.1 To consider the following motion as submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 2 by Councillor M. Laxton who proposes:

*"That the Town Council provides two additional benches in the High Street in close proximity to the Bus Stop. Having observed the amount of individuals who have mobility issues and are forced to stand whilst awaiting late buses with very limited spaces to sit. I am sure this will assist our ageing population. It will also compliment the refurbished high street in 2016".*

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Soane.

- 170.2 Councillor Mrs. Laxton stated that she had conducted a survey of users of the late night bus service into Eastbourne and there was a clear need for additional benches in the bus stop vicinity.
- 170.3 Councillor N. Collinson said that he agreed with the motion in principle but that the timing was wrong as the High Street was to be revamped in February 2016. He proposed an amendment to the motion referring to the Special Projects Committee.
- 170.4 On this amendment being put to the vote, it was carried by 18 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions.
- 170.5 **RESOLVED** that the Town Council provides two additional benches in the High Street in close proximity to the Bus Stop and that the detail of the positioning is delegated to the Strategic Projects Committee.

#### **Motion 154**

- 171.1 To consider the following motion as submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 2 by Councillor P. Soane who proposes:

*“That this council convenes an emergency extraordinary meeting to debate and answer the following:*

*In consideration of Wealden DC, issues and options preference for South Wealden. Is it possible that Hailsham can grow in a planned way over the period 2015-2037, that it can double in size, whilst fulfilling the demands of ‘sustainable development’ as detailed in NPPF?”*

The Proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs. M. Laxton.

- 171.2 Councillor Soane said that the proposed development of the Town will be the biggest thing this Council will deal with in the foreseeable future.

This Council should show leadership and send out a clear message about what it believes. It needs to shape a response to Wealden District Council. His personal view was that Wealden District Council is rushing this through and that the consultation period is far too short, and that it should be extended.

Councillor Soane said along with his proposed meeting of Hailsham Town Council a public meeting with officers and councillors of Wealden District Council should be requested along the lines of Mr. Hinton’s letter as read out in the public’s address to Council.

- 171.3 Councillor N. Collinson said that Councillor Soane’s motion had a lot to recommend it, and pointed out that all Council meetings are held in public.
- 171.4 Councillor Puttick pointed out that if the Chairman rejected a request for an emergency meeting of the Council, under Standing Orders it was open to any two councillors to call such a meeting.
- 171.5 The Chairman said that this would not be necessary as he was prepared to agree to Councillor Soane’s request for an extraordinary Council meeting. He asked the

Town Clerk to investigate venues to allow a large number of members of the public to attend.

171.6 Councillor Laxton suggested contacting Hailsham Community College as they had a hall large enough.

171.7 **RESOLVED** to call an extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council to discuss the redevelopment of Hailsham as soon as possible in a venue to be decided and to ask Wealden District Council to send officers to it; and to write to Wealden District Council asking them to host a public meeting to discuss their plans.

### **Motion 155**

172.1 To consider the following motion as submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 2 by Councillor N. Collinson who proposes:

*“That this council Agrees that In the light of the number of future new housing demanded by the government in the South of England, the Hailsham Town Council will work co-operatively with Wealden District Council and other service providers to ensure that the infrastructure to support such new housing comes either before or in parallel with the development.*

*That this Council request that the Wealden Council agrees to and pays for a jointly developed Area Action Plan for the Hailsham Area to advance plan the required infrastructure.*

*That this council requests Wealden district Council to establish a Revolving Infrastructure Fund for the Hailsham Area to ensure that the agreed infrastructure can be developed either before or as development begins”.*

The proposal was seconded by Councillor N. Coltman.

172.2 Councillor N. Collinson said that passing this motion and adopting an Area Action Plan was the best way of achieving the necessary infrastructure needed.

173.3 Councillor Puttick said that at the meeting of Hailsham Town Council it was resolved that a Neighbourhood Plan be formulated; this is what the public wanted, not an Area Action Plan.

The Chairman said that the resolution for a Neighbourhood Plan was extant.

173.4 Councillor Soane said that he disagreed with everything said in support of this motion. An Area Action Plan is premature and unnecessary. A Neighbourhood Plan allows local people to shape the future, not Wealden District Council.

173.5 Councillor Mrs. Laxton said that the Council should proceed with the Neighbourhood Plan until the consultation period finishes.

173.6 Councillor N. Collinson said that a Neighbourhood Plan would not deal with the major things that need addressing such as roads and hospitals.

173.7 Councillor Ms O’Rawe proposed that the question be put on Motion 155. This was seconded by the Chairman.

On being put to the vote this was carried by 14 votes to 7 and the meeting proceeded to the substantive motion.

- 173.8 **RESOLVED** that this council Agrees that In the light of the number of future new housing demanded by the government in the South of England, the Hailsham Town Council will work co-operatively with Wealden District Council and other service providers to ensure that the infrastructure to support such new housing comes either before or in parallel with the development.

That this Council request that the Wealden Council agrees to and pays for a jointly developed Area Action Plan for the Hailsham Area to advance plan the required infrastructure.

That this council requests Wealden district Council to establish a Revolving Infrastructure Fund for the Hailsham Area to ensure that the agreed infrastructure can be developed either before or as development begins.

- 173.9 This carried by 12 votes to 7 with 4 abstentions

- 173.10 Councillor P. Soane stated that this was a disgraceful decision and it was clear that members of the Conservative party had been whipped into voting for it.

### **Street Lighting Survey**

- 174.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda. To consider funding a survey of Hailsham Town Council's Street Lights which are over 20 years old, to be commissioned by East Sussex County Council and undertaken by East Sussex County Council appointed contractors.

- 174.2 **RESOLVED** to fund the survey of the Town Council's street light columns at a cost of £3050 to be taken from the Council's Community Contingency Fund.

### **Requests to Hold Events on the Western Road Recreation Ground**

- 175.1 The Town Clerk reported that he had received two requests to hold events on the Western Road Recreation Ground. The first is from Hailsham Free Church for an event to be held on the later afternoon of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and the second is from Demelza for an event to be held on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

- 175.2 Councillor Tasane spoke against the proposal because of the noise to nearby residents.

- 175.3 There was concern about the lack of toilet facilities for the events. It was reported, however, that Hailsham Free Church would allow the event goers to use their toilets.

- 175.4 **RESOLVED** to agree to the requests from Hailsham Free Church and Demelza to use the Western Road Recreation Ground for their events.

### **"Hailsham Hero" Community Award**

- 176.1 The Chairman thanked Councillors P. Holbrook and Ms O'Rawe for their work on this project.

- 176.2 **RESOLVED** to adopt the recommendations contained in the officer's report as

circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/15/3/176A to these minutes; and that the initial funding for the scheme comes from the Mayoral allowance and that it is referred to the Communities Committee for future years.

### **East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust**

- 177 **RESOLVED** to note the reply received from the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust as contained in the officer's report as circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/15/3/177A to these minutes.

### **Wealden Citizens Advice – Trustee Board**

- 178.1 Members were asked to consider a request from Wealden Citizens Advice for a nominee from Hailsham Town Council to sit on the Wealden Citizens Advice Trustee Board.
- 178.2 **RESOLVED** to nominate Councillor Mrs Van Der Geyten as the Hailsham Town Council nominee to sit on the Wealden Citizens Advice Trustee Board.

### **Confidential Business**

- 179 To resolve 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 Order No. 1 (e)

Agenda Items 15: Request from Persimmon Homes  
Agenda Item 16: Tree Management

The reason for exclusion for both agenda items is:

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

Following those agenda items the meeting will no longer be under confidential business.

### **Request from Persimmon Homes**

- 180.1 Councillor Puttick updated the meeting on negotiations with Persimmon Homes regarding the removal of a covenant on land at Battle Road.
- 180.2 **RESOLVED** to note the report on negotiations with Persimmon Homes regarding the removal of a covenant on land at Battle Road.

### **Tree Management**

- 181.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda.
- They were asked to consider funding and commissioning a project to survey the town council's tree stock and enhance its ability to pro-actively manage its tree stock and the required budget

181.2 **RESOLVED** to allow the Outdoor Works Supervisor to commission this work.

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

#### Meeting Protocol

182.1 The Chairman said that contrary to the allegation made earlier in the meeting the Conservative party on the Council did not whip it's members into voting a particular way.

182.2 Councillor Soane apologised for making this allegation.

#### 183 Meeting Room Layout

The Chairman said that the consensus of opinion was that the new layout of the room was preferable.

#### PCSO Alison Bond

184.1 Councillor Mrs Burt advised the meeting that PCSO Alison Bond was to retire at the end of October; she suggested that a "thank you" card be sent to her on behalf of Hailsham Town Council.

184.2 This was agreed but Councillor Tasane wanted his disagreement to this course of action noted.

#### 185 Land for Chandler's BMW

Councillor N. Collinson asked for an update on this matter.

The Town Clerk said that he was awaiting clarification from the Council's solicitors.

#### 186 Twining

Councillor Puttick said that some young people from Gournay-en-Bray, along with the Mayor of Remshalden were coming to Hailsham on the weekend beginning 24<sup>th</sup> October and asked for support.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.57pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015