



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN of a meeting of the HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL to be held in the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on

Wednesday, 11th September 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting a period of not more than 15 minutes will be assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the Public to address the Council, or ask questions on matters relevant to responsibilities under the direction of this Council, at the discretion of the Chairman.

The order of formal business to be transacted will thereafter be as follows:

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** To receive apologies for absence of elected members.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** To receive notice of declarations of personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on this agenda.
3. **COMMUNITY POLICING**
 - 3.1 **Police Report**
To receive a quarterly Police Report from Sussex Police (*report to follow – source Sussex Police*)
4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 To resolve that the Minutes and Reports of the **Meeting of Hailsham Town Council** held on 17th July 2013 (Ref: HTC/13/2/129-150) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
 - 4.2 **MATTERS ARISING**
5. **COMMITTEE and PANEL REPORTS**
(*A list of committee/panel minutes attached – Please notify the Town Clerk [email: john.harrison@hailsham-tc.gov.uk telephone: 01323 445731] as soon as possible if you wish to reserve an item on any of the following committees or panels*)
 - 5.1 To (a) note the reserved paragraphs (minutes) of the Committee/Panel Reports notified to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting, and
(b) receive request to reserve any additional paragraphs (minutes) of the Committee/Panel Reports
 - 5.2 To receive “unreserved” paragraphs (minutes) of the following Reports of Committees/Panels (as printed and circulated), and approve and adopt the

recommendations contained therein.

A. Planning and Development Committee Meetings (16th Jul 2013, 6th August 2013 and 27th August 2013)

B. Festivities and Events Committee Meeting (15th July 2013)

C. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee Meeting (24th July 2013)

5.3 To proceed through the “reserved” paragraphs consecutively (or as decided) and to resolve action before proceeding to the next reserved item.

6. DIPLOCKS BALL PARK

To consider request from a local resident to remove the fencing and facilities from the Diplocks Ball Park (*Report to follow – Author Karen Moralee, Planning and Environment Officer*)

7. COUNCILLORS NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

To request that council formally accept a councilor’s reason for non-attendance at meetings over the usual permitted six months period for non-attendance

8. HAILSHAM IN BLOOM

To consider a request from committee members for Hailsham in Bloom to become a charity in it’s own right. (*Report to follow – author Richard Grocock, Chair of Hailsham in Bloom Committee*)

9. COMMEMORATIVE PAVING STONES FOR VICTORIA CROSS RECIPIENTS

For discussion and consideration of an enquiry from a member of the public. (*Report to follow – author John Harrison, Town Clerk*).

10. REPRESENTATIVE TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATION – SPORTS ALLIANCE

To appoint a representative from Hailsham Town Council for the Hailsham and District Sports Alliance (as deferred from the Annual General Meeting on 22nd May 2013)

11. FUNERAL COSTS

To review the costs of ‘additional inscriptions’ at Hailsham Cemetery (*Report to follow – author David Saxby Burials and Properties Officer*)

12. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

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 Orders No. 57 and 58. The reason for exclusion is:

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

13. HAILSHAM CRICKET PAVILION

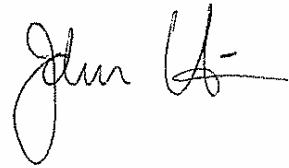
To consider the option to offer to 'hand back' the Cricket Pavilion to Hailsham Cricket Club. *(Report to follow – Author John Harrison)*

14. REPAIRS TO WESTERN ROAD RECREATION PARK PATH

To consider a request to release funds to make repairs to the footpath on the Western Road Recreation Ground. *(Report to follow – Author John Harrison)*

15. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS/INFORMATION FORUM

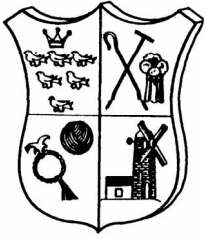
(at the Chairman's discretion).



JOHN HARRISON
Town Clerk

NOTE TO MEMBERS: This meeting will be followed by a meeting of the Trustees of the:

- (1) War Memorial Institute (Reg No 252291)
- (2) Western Road Memorial Institute (Reg No 255104)
- (3) Allotment for the Labouring Poor (South view and HMI) (Reg No 255106)
- (4) Allotment for Recreation Ground (Common Pond Alcove) (Reg No 255105)



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 11th September 2013 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.

Mrs Dadswell of Bramble Close spoke in respect of agenda item 6 – Diplocks Ball Park. She said had lived in her house for 10 years and the problems highlighted in the officer's report for this agenda item had grown increasingly worse. She and her neighbours now wanted the Ball Park removed.

Mr Bentley-Astor of Melrose Close asked the Chairman if she would use her discretion and allow him to speak and answer questions during the debate on Hailsham in Bloom. The Chairman said she would.

HTC/13/
3/151 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. S. J. Bentley (Chairman), W. A. Bentley, J. L. Blake, B. F. Burchmore, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman, R. T. Grocock, Mrs. S. E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. S. Holbrook, B. Marlowe, S. McAuliffe, Ms A. O' Rawe, and C. Triandafyllou.

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

153 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. M. Burt, Ms C. V. Collinson, Mrs. J. Cook, G. G. Rowe Mrs. M. Rowe, Mrs. D. M. Ryan and M. J. Ryan.

154 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Grocock declared an interest in agenda item 8 – Hailsham in Bloom as he is Chairman of the Hailsham in Bloom Committee.

Police Report

155.1 Copies of quarterly Police Report from Sussex Police had been circulated with the

agenda and attached as Appendix HTC/13/3/155A to this report.

- 155.2 PCs Critchlow and Sergi were in attendance and said they would be happy to answer any questions.
- 155.3 Councillor P. Holbrook asked if the police were aware of the situation involving the Diplocks Ball Park as highlighted by Mrs. Dadswell at the beginning of the meeting. PC Critchlow responded that the police had been involved.
- 155.4 Councillor W. A. Bentley requested that the proposal from the last meeting that a Hailsham Town Council venue be used for a Crime Prevention Surgery/Advice Centre be the next priority for the sponsored PCSO be carried out urgently.
- 155.5 Councillor W.A. Bentley said that he was concerned about the number of vehicle incidents recently and asked for a meeting with the traffic police. PC Critchlow said he would facilitate this.
- 155.6 The Chairman thanked PCs Critchlow for attending.

156 **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/13/2/129-150) held on 17th July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

157 **Matters Arising**

None.

158 **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.

D. Planning and Development Committee Meetings (16th Jul 2013, 6th August 2013 and 27th August 2013)

E. Festivities and Events Committee Meeting (15th July 2013)

F. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee Meeting (24th July 2013)

Diplocks Ball Park

- 159.1 The Town Clerk introduced members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/13/3/159A to these minutes.
- 159.2 Councillor W. Bentley said that he was sympathetic to the problems faced by the residents. Councillors N. Collinson and Coltman also spoke and were of the opinion that the Diplocks Ball Park should be closed down.
- 159.3 **RESOLVED** to inform the Housing Association that Hailsham Town Council plans to

remove the Diplocks Ball Park, cease to fund any further improvements to the facility and would be returning it to them although the Council would work with the to remove the steel fencing and to find other uses for the site; and to liaise with local residents on the future of the space.

Councillors Non-Attendance at Meetings

- 160.1 The Chairman stated that Councillor Mrs. Cook had recently undergone surgery. She asked that Council agreed to accept Councillor Cook's apologies for longer than the six month limit for non-attendance.
- 160.2 **RESOLVED** to accept Councillor Mrs. Cook's apologies for a further period of four months with the option of a further extension if necessary.

Hailsham in Bloom

- 161.1 Councillor Grocock introduced this item and discussion took place on the report circulated with the agenda.
- 161.2 Councillor Grocock and Mr. Bentley-Astor spoke of the benefits of Hailsham in Bloom becoming a charity and renaming itself Environment Hailsham. These included access to more sponsorship, attracting more volunteers and saving Council money in staff time.
- 161.3 Mr. Bentley-Astor said he was grateful to Hailsham Town Council for all its support, and although the proposal was for Environment Hailsham to be independent of the Council, he was confident that the two organisations could work together for the benefit of the town.
- 161.4 Councillor Grocock said that he and others had attended the South and South East Awards ceremony on this day and had achieved an overall silver gilt award and Hailsham had been given the Community Involvement Award. Members congratulated the Hailsham in Bloom Committee.
- 161.5 Councillors Blake and Coltman expressed concern at the change of name to Environment Hailsham.
- 161.6 **RESOLVED** to disband the Hailsham in Bloom Committee and support the change to charity status; and that a Service Level Agreement be set up with Environment Hailsham (formerly Hailsham in Bloom) and that it is given Preferred Provider Status for the town centre floral displays, and that the water bowser is given to the charity at no cost.

Commemorative Paving Stones for Victoria Cross Recipients

- 162.1 The Town Clerk said that since the officer's report had been written and circulated with the Agenda and as Appendix HTC/13/3/162A to these minutes, relatives of Company Sergeant Major Nelson Victor Carter had indicated that as his home town was Eastbourne consideration should be given to the merits of two stones was discussed.

- 162.2 **RESOLVED** to instruct the Town Clerk to write to the Department for Communities and Local Government to request a second commemorative stone is awarded and placed in the Hailsham War Memorial.

Representative to External Organisation – Sports Alliance

- 163.1 The Chairman said that this item was held over from the meeting held on 17th July 2013 to allow Councillor P. Holbrook to be present. She asked if members wanted a separate representative to the Hailsham and District Sports Alliance from the Oversight Councillor for Sport – Councillor M. Ryan.
- 163.2 **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor P. Holbrook as Hailsham Town Council representative to the Hailsham and District Sports Alliance for 2013/2014.

Funeral Costs

- 164.1 Discussion ensued on the officer's report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/13/3/164A to these minutes and the proposal to discontinue or vary the fees applicable for additional inscriptions to monuments.
- 164.2 **RESOLVED** to reduce the fees applicable for additional inscriptions to monuments to £50 for parishioners and non-parishioners.

Confidential Business

- 165 **RESOLVED** that due to the special and confidential nature of the matters to be discussed, 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 exclusion of members of the public and press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders numbers 57 and 58.

Hailsham Cricket Pavilion

- 166.1 Members considered the option to transfer the cricket pavilion to Hailsham Cricket Club as outlined in the officer's report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/13/3/166A to these minutes.
- 166.2 **RESOLVED** to offer to transfer the cricket pavilion to Hailsham Cricket Club under prescribed conditions.

Repairs to Western Road Recreation Park Path

- 167.1 The Town Clerk introduced this item and referred members to the officer's confidential report circulated with agenda and as Appendix HTC/13/3/167A to these minutes.
- 167.2 **RESOLVED** to obtain three quotes for the necessary repair, including one from East Sussex County Council Highways Department; and to give delegated authority to the Town Clerk to arrange the work, with funding from Contingency Funds; and to report the conclusions to the next meeting on 13th November 2013.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

168 Hailsham Market

The Chairman congratulated Hailsham Forward for getting the market underway. The first one had been a tremendous success.

169 Business Development Committee

Councillor Coltman reported on the latest work of the Business Enterprise Committee.

170 Town Centre

Councillor N. Collinson said that the Chamber of Commerce had been successful in persuading some shopkeepers in smartening up their premises. He also said that there was an imminent start date for the remedial work necessary on many of the premises in Vicarage Field.

171 Funding

Councillor W. Bentley reported that funding had recently been secured for Hailsham from East Sussex County Council's Regeneration Fund.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.34pm.

CHAIRMAN

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 11th September 2013.

COMMITTEE: Hailsham Town Council

DATE: 11th September 2013

PURPOSE: To consider a request to remove the Ball Park at the Diplocks Estate

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- i) Council is asked to consider the request to remove the Ball Park facility and to consider the feasibility of working with the local community to provide a community facility in its place, such as a community garden
- ii) To consider how to provide play facilities within the Diplocks Estate

BACKGROUND:

The ball park situated on the Diplocks Estate is a tarmaced area surrounded by 18ft high fencing and was originally intended for ball games including football and basket ball. Hailsham Town Council took over responsibility of the land which the ball park stands on in an agreement with Home Group, who are the managers of the Diplocks Estate. The land is still owned by Home Group and either party can give the other 6 months notice to either take back or hand back the land.

The ball park was constructed at the Diplocks Estate in 2002 and since this time the Council has received many complaints of anti social behaviour, mainly from residents at Bramble Drive, whose gardens lie adjacent to the park.

Two residents of Bramble Drive have written to the Town Council formally requesting the ball park is removed. This request is due to years of persistent anti social behaviour and I have attached the letters and a newspaper cutting from both residents which outline their experiences with the ball park over the years. The residents state they have had balls kicked into the garden on a daily basis, sometimes several times a day. They state that children and young adults climb into their garden without permission to retrieve the balls. The letters advise that the behaviour has worsened over the last few years as they are verbally abused and threatened by some of the ball park users even when the residents willingly give the balls back. They also advise they have had frequent damage and vandalism to their fences, sheds and garden furniture and have also had bushes in their gardens set alight.

The history of the problems that have occurred and how the Council has tried to deal with these problems are listed below:

In June 2003 the Town Council were approached by the daughter of a resident living in Bramble Drive who was experiencing a large amount of anti social behaviour from the ball park. The Town Council was asked to consider placing netting over the court to prevent the balls going into his garden. The request was looked into by the Council but was considered to be very costly at approximately £3,000 and too dangerous as netting over this large area would not be stable. Concerns were raised over children climbing onto the netting and falling into the park as well as the problem of items being thrown up onto the netting. The resolution reached by the Council at this time was to place anti climb paint on the residents fencing and monitor the situation. This particular resident eventually sold his house and moved and the new owner then began to experience the same issues.

In March 2007 after reports of anti social behaviour in the ball park by a Diplocks Estate resident, one of the residents of the estate offered to lock and unlock the ball park in an attempt to prevent children and young adults from staying in the park until late at night. The keyholder eventually stopped volunteering as he had received abuse from some of the ball park users and was having trouble getting them to leave the area when it was time for it to be locked up. For a while after this incident the ball park was left locked on a permanent basis. It had to be re-opened after reports that children were entering the locked ball park by climbing over the 18ft fence and also cutting the wire of the fence and climbing in.

Over the years the Town Council has looked into various ways to try and prevent the balls going over the fencing. One consideration was to place "hockey sticks" on the top of the fencing and put wire in between the posts. This idea was not pursued as it was extremely costly and was considered to be impractical.

The ball park has suffered a high level of vandalism over the years. Many of the steel rods which created the goal structure have been damaged on a regular basis. The Council eventually replaced the goal area with mesh fencing as replacing the rods was proving costly.

In February 2011 Home Group compiled a survey in connection to play areas and asked the Diplocks Estate residents whether the ball park should be closed. 223 houses were consulted and only 30 residents responded. 13 out of those 30 residents advised they would like to keep the park. The general consensus from those completing the survey was that the residents of the Estate would also like to have a new play area created near the entrance to the Estate (shown highlighted in orange on the map attached)

I contacted the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant, Howard Neville, (email attached) to gauge the police perspective on this matter. Howard Neville advised that the ball park is well used and questioned where the children using the ball park would go if it was removed. He raised concerns that to remove the park and leave an empty ground with no fence at all could mean even more balls going into adjacent gardens. Howard Neville also stated that in his opinion the ball park is in a poor venue for a play area as it is not overlooked and so is not self policed.

If the ball park was removed an empty tarmac space would remain and with the removal of all fencing there is a concern that balls would be easier to kick into the adjacent gardens and the problem would not be resolved. I highlighted this concern to one of the residents who is requesting the ball park is removed and she still felt that the removal would reduce the problems being encountered. She stated that she was advised by a PCSO that children from all over the area, not just from the Diplocks Estate come to the ball park. She considered that if it was removed this location would no longer be a meeting point and a problem site. One solution to this concern however would be to remove the park and replace it with a community facility, such as a garden area.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost implications would be the time and labour to remove the facility and this would need to be investigated further as it may be possible to sell the fencing in the facility for scrap.

CONCLUSION:

Members will need to consider:

- i) Whether to remove the ball park and if so, whether to work with Home Group and the local community to create a community facility such as a garden area here. Funding could then be investigated for creating a new play facility in a more suitable position on the estate
- ii) If it is decided to keep the ball park, further options need to be investigated to reduce the problems experienced by the neighbours, such as higher fencing.

Further information in respect of this report can be obtained from Karen Moralee. Tel: 01323 445 738, Email: karen.moralee@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

We have lived here since 2007.

To begin with the only problem we had was that balls kept being kicked into the garden, and on request we gave them back, by leaving them near our front gate to be collected, and we still do this. We have never kept a ball.

For the past 5 years the problems have escalated. We have approached the council and police for help and advice constantly. We discovered from them that the ball park has been closed before. It was re-opened after the children cut their way in.

We have had our fences broken (6ft), bushes set alight, and shed roof broken where the youngsters climbed over the fence and into the shed to get into the garden. The fire brigade have been called out twice at the side of us.

We fixed the shed and paid for it to be moved.

We have twice had to pay repair our fences and put anti-vandal paint on the top. We have got anti-cat strips but they still climb over this to get the balls. When caught they just feel it is their right to continue climbing over. The youngsters & young men (aged from 8 to early twenties) get angry when we cannot throw the ball back to them over the high fences - we are both in our sixties and Mrs is disabled. The swearing and language is

The ball park is foul - even from the youngest. We have an evergreen/fir hedge down the side of the garden and those who cannot get over the 6ft fence break through the hedge leaving holes in the hedge that we have filled with anything from logs to a dustbin.

It has been suggested that we put wire along the hedge, but this is 40 foot long. We are on pensions and have already spent a lot of money trying to keep them out.

We look after our neighbours house sometimes and have been confronted in her garden by lads after balls.

We have contacted the PCSO's and Police, got crime neighbours numbers but for what??

The problems just go on and on and get worse.

Recently we were in the garden when one lad tried to come over the garden fence, we gave the ball back after which they called Mrs. a slut and saying it would be fun to go granny bashing.

We have been told, after stopping some boys coming through the hedge, that they know which cat was ours and would catch and torture him. It may be all talk but it is very frightening!!

Mrs. hates going into the garden, when she is home alone, because she is frightened of a confrontation.

Ringing the police number (101) is no good any more before because we have run on several occasions, and spent 40 mins waiting

for an answer. On the odd occasion we get
through, and are told and immediate response
would be given, by the time the officers get
here or to the ball park the boys/lads have gone.
We had the greenhouse glass broken by a
ball and also lads came into the garden and
stamped on two chairs and kicked the french
windows. The police said there was no point
coming because there would be insufficient
evidence to collect.

The boys/lads run round inside the ball park
with sticks running along the wire one
standing constantly banging. This can be
anytime day or night when it is dark.

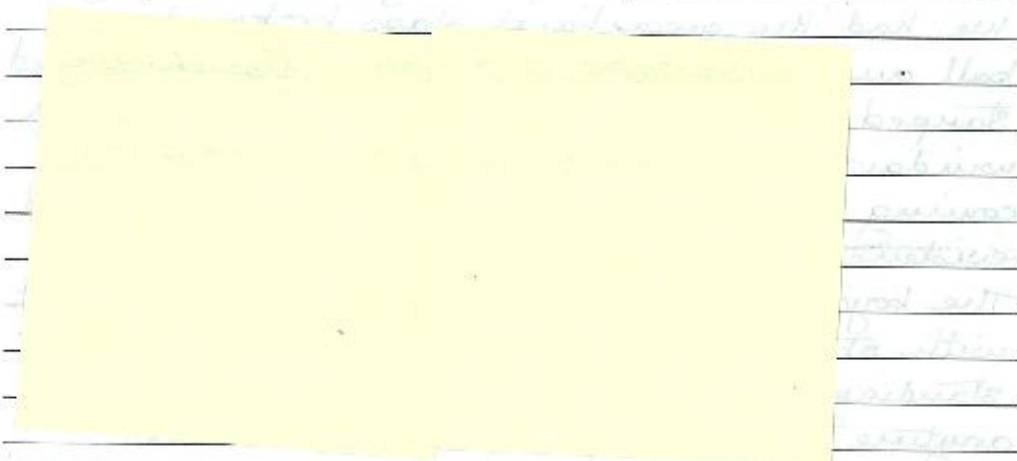
WE ARE REQUESTING THE BALL PARK IS CLOSED!!

Since the problems worsened we have looked at
ball parks in many other towns. We have found
them to be in parks or open areas not in
the middle of houses. A lot of those have net
covering or built tops. We have been told
this is not possible because of cost or the
fence is not strong enough.

We are told that if the ball park is removed
that the children would still congregate but
they only come to play basket/ball/football, so if
it is not there would go to the main park. The
children come from Hellingly and the whole
of Hailsham to this one place, this has been told
to us by the PCSO.

We would like the park closed because it is
impacting on our lives constantly.

Council tenants causing problems are now given 3 strikes then out so why, after all the problems, ^{why} can't the council remove the ball park.



[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text visible through the lines of the page, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side.]



Dear Sir Madam,

This letter is being sent to you as a Formal complaint re the BALL PARK ON THE DIPLOCKS IN HAILSHAM.

The Ball Park backs right onto my garden and we have had right from the very beginning had problems with the children and youths using it.

We, my husband and I were NEVER consulted as to our opinion on the park and how it would affect our lives on a daily basis, the residents on The Diplocks that are around the park were asked but not us or our neighbours.

During the school holidays it is a total nightmare living there we have balls purposely kicked into our garden on a daily basis and at times we have had 5 balls in 1 day. Even during term time it is bad and can guarantee at minimum 1 ball a day. They then climb over and TRESSPASS into our property to get the balls. They are often very ABUSIVE. The language used by them should you happen to say not to do again is disgusting my neighbour and I have grandchildren and we CANNOT leave them in our gardens if the children are in the park due to the language being used .their parents may find it acceptable for their children to use that kind of foul language I DO NOT AND DO NOT WISH TO HEAR IT.

I was recently widowed disabled pensioner and feel venerable enough now I am on my own but to have all this abuse and damage done to my garden I and my neighbours have had enough .

One youth recently climbed up into 2 of my trees broke branches on them and broke 2 fence panels that now brings the total to 6 damaged by them and I do not see why I should pay for any repairs.

As of now on the seeking legal advice I will be taking photographic evidence every time they trespass onto my property and be phoning the Police as I do not feel safe in my own home.

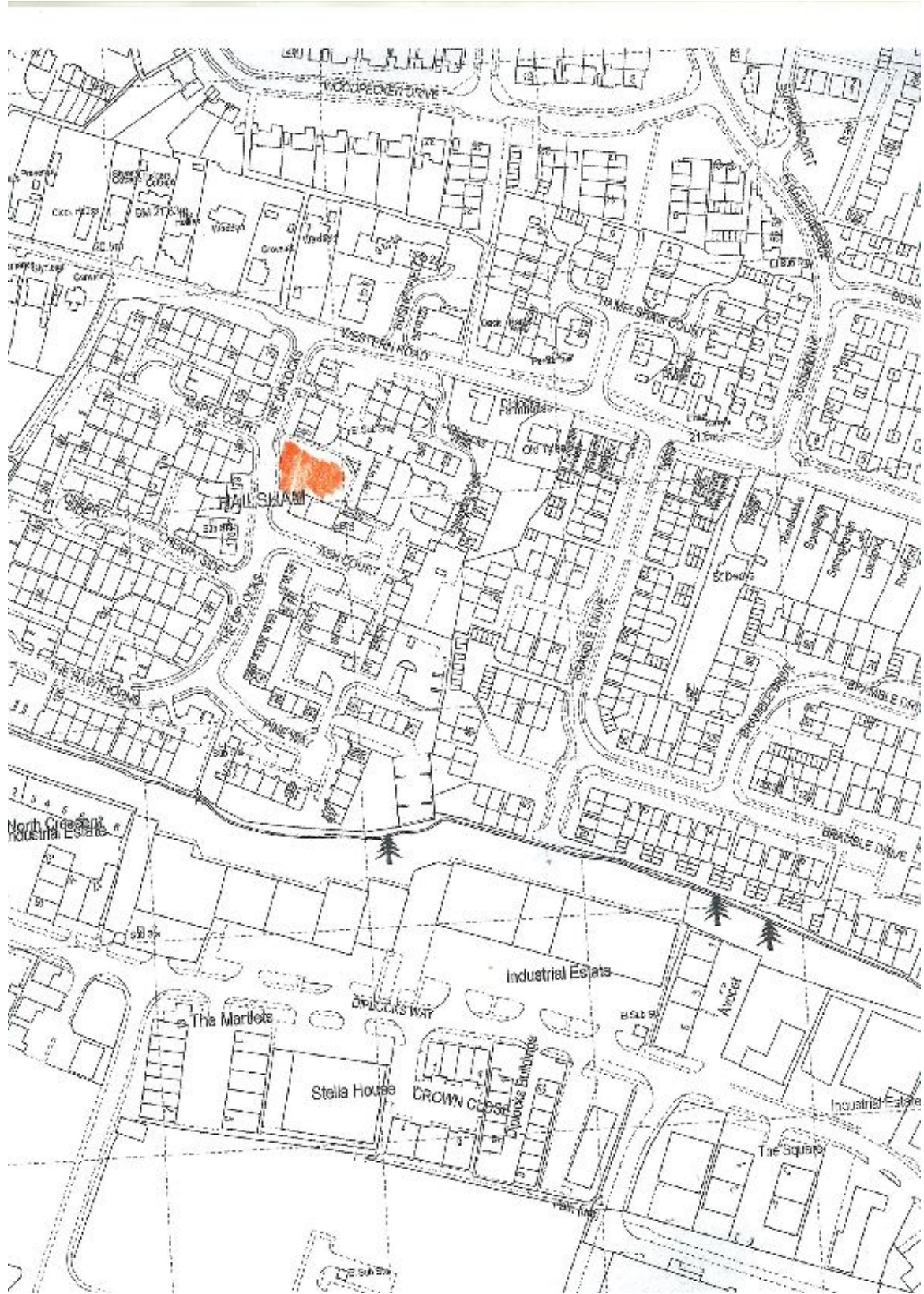
It has now got to the point that this is really impacting on my life and ruining the memories of the last years of my husband's life together in our home, my home holds many memories very dear to me but this is over riding those. It's affecting my health also.

I would like the Park to be closed, know why we were NEVER consulted re the opening of the park, when it was quite clear that it would have a major affect on myself and neighbours, the damage done to my garden repaired Immediately and extra Razor wire place around the park to stop them even thinking about trespassing on my property.

I am a 70 year old disabled pensioner and should NOT have to tolerate this on a daily basis.

I look forward to your response to my complaint,





Report to: Hailsham Town Council
Date: 11th September 2013
By: Richard Grocock and Jeff Bentley-Astor on behalf of the Hailsham in Bloom Committee
Title of Report: Hailsham in Bloom

1. Purpose

1.1 To consider a request from committee members for Hailsham in Bloom to become a charity in its own right.

1.2 To consider a request to 'top-up' Hailsham in Bloom's committee budget head to £5000 from reserves and then transfer remaining funds to the charity and once charity status has been given to dissolve the Hailsham in Bloom Committee.

2. Background

2.1 Hailsham in Bloom was established as a major local community project working in partnership with residents, schools, businesses, voluntary groups and registered charities to provide long term improvements to the local environment quality of Hailsham. Hailsham in Bloom currently maintains the Town Centre floral displays:

- Tiered floral planters
- Pole planters
- Hanging baskets
- Pedestrian guard rail planters and aised plant beds i.e. Hailsham War Memorial

The Dennis King Memorial Orchard & Sensory Garden and the Diamond Jubilee Community Rose Garden are also maintained by Hailsham in Bloom all the year round.

2.2 Hailsham in Bloom has also developed initiatives to improve the local environment quality in other parts of the town, including the enhancement of public open spaces, the planting of additional flora at the Hailsham Country Park, the installation of murals at various recycling centres, the planting of trees in various parts of the town and developing and maintaining the 'Plot to Plate' Project.

3. Proposal to become a Registered Charitable Organisation

3.1 The Hailsham in Bloom Committee has researched into the possibility of obtaining status as a registered charity and subsequently is seeking to pursue this course of action. It is proposed that when charity status is granted the Hailsham in Bloom Committee dissolves and becomes a charity in its own right, free from Hailsham Town Council control. The Charity will be known as "Environment Hailsham".

4. Benefits of Hailsham in Bloom Registering as a Charity

4.1 **Public Recognition:** Charity status gives an organisation respectability and recognition and reassures the people that you are working with or seeking funding from

4.2 **Access to Greater Levels of Funding:** Charitable status will facilitate access to more and varied funding streams. Many funders are only allowed to fund charities. Charities can often raise funds from the public, businesses and grant-making organisations. Private companies will be able to claim tax relief on any donations of money to a registered charity.

4.2.1 Organisations that have been known to fund similar charities elsewhere and where funding streams and grants are available include Building Societies, the Royal Horticultural Society and Banks. Other funding streams and grants will also be available that are not whilst Hailsham in Bloom remains Town Council run. Therefore this step could and should attract more funding and therefore more Hailsham in Bloom Environmental activities and bring greater benefits to the town. *(Attached as an appendix to this report for reference is a publication from the Royal Horticultural Society which gives tips and advice for 'In-Bloom' organisations on attracting greater levels of sponsorship).*

4.3 **Savings for the Town Council:** If "Environment Hailsham" is established and therefore Hailsham in Bloom ceases to become a Town Council led body, this will lead to savings for the Town Council:

(i) The Town Council funds Hailsham in Bloom via the precepted HTC Budget. The budget for the current year is £6000. It will become necessary for the town council to find savings in the near future.

(ii) The Town Council provides support for HIB with input from the Communications Officer as clerk to the committee, at an average of 5 hours a week plus additional time spent on press releases and publicity. This will cease to be under this proposal, therefore freeing up some office capacity.

(iii) The Town Council provides support to HIB with input from the outdoor work team, including watering at an agreed seven hours per week plus also labour for specific projects. This would also cease and therefore add to the Outdoor Works Team capacity.

4.4 Volunteer Activity: People are more likely to offer their voluntary time, energy and manpower to a local charity, as opposed to a local government organisation. In the past twelve months two meetings of the HIB committee have not been able to make decisions due to an insufficient number of council members being able to attend. A Charity Board would operate under its own terms of reference and may attract more outside volunteers if not a council committee.

5. Disadvantages of Hailsham in Bloom Acquiring Charity Status

5.1 Town Council Recognition: Environment Hailsham will no longer be a solely Town Council led and funded organisation, it will be an organisation in its own right. Though the Town Council will maintain involvement, through membership on the Environment Hailsham Board, through access to the Town Council facility at the Grovelands Barn and possibly through funding via the Town Council grant scheme. However the Town Council by Association will still be involved with the successes of the charity who will give the Town Council its due recognition.

5.2 Financial Stability: As noted above, achieving charitable status will likely increase the funding opportunities available to Environment Hailsham. Conversely, while a committee of the Town Council, Hailsham in Bloom is currently funded in part from the Town Council budget. However in this austere time this funding cannot be guaranteed. This will not be the case if the proposal is accepted, with the financial viability of Environment Hailsham being subject to grant applications and funding from external sources.

6. Continuation of Work if and when Charity Status is Obtained

6.1 Once charity status is granted to Environment Hailsham the Hailsham in Bloom volunteers will cease to function and transfer their time and activities to Environment Hailsham. The new group will continue to work on projects carried out by Hailsham in Bloom to enhance the environmental quality of the Town. These include:

- Town centre floral displays
- Entry into the South and Southeast in Bloom competition
- Maintenance of other projects such as the Diamond Jubilee Garden and the Dennis King Memorial Orchard and Sensory Garden
- Continuation of the Plot to Plate scheme for the education of young people
- General environmental projects including Grey Water collection
- Tree planting campaigns
- Future projects that may come on line as the charity gains momentum and accesses new funding opportunities
- To participate in any council led initiatives within the scope of the charities activities

6.2 The Town Council will be offered a seat on the charities board to be occupied by a nominated councillor. However the failure of this position being filled will not stop the charity from functioning. (as Hailsham Town Council Board member is an honorary position)

6.3 It is essential that Environment Hailsham will need continued access to the Grovelands Barn site, which is of course owned and operated by the Town Council. Environment Hailsham will maintain a degree of responsibility for development and activities undertaken on the site, under the supervision and collaboration with the Town Council. The Hailsham town council member will be integral to this.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 To become a registered charity, Environment Hailsham needs to be able to evidence a balance of £5000, in order to guarantee its existence. It does not currently have this amount in the existing Hailsham in Bloom committee

budget. The proposal is therefore that Hailsham Town Council give a one off Top Up to the budget from the contingencies . From thereon there will be no allocation of budget to Hailsham in Bloom activities (this current financial year at £6000). Environment Hailsham will be entitled to apply for the Town Council grants to external organisations in the same way as all other organisations.

7.2 It has been confirmed that any rates payable by the Town Council for the use of the Grovelands Building would not be affected by allowing Environment Hailsham or any other third party access to the facility. The rates payable are for the use of the building itself, rather than adjoining land (provided the raised beds are not used to grow produce sold commercially).

8. Land and Equipment Usage

8.1 At Grovelands Barn it is essential to continue to use the facilities that we already have i.e. poly tunnel, plot to plate and the land on which they stand for a peppercorn rent. We would also like the council's permission to use the lawnmower and strimmer, the grey water and the 'portaloo' which was purchased by Hailsham in Bloom. Environment Hailsham would not need access to the HTC controlled vehicles but would want to negotiate access to or ownership of the water bowser under terms favourable to both parties.

8.2 In return we would continue to maintain areas mentioned in this report also the spring and summer displays at no extra cost to the council. Also the charity would expect the continued support of Hailsham Town Council when entering council owned recreation areas in to local and regional competitions (i.e. Sensory, diamond jubilee gardens and country park in to the South and southeast competitions) The charity is willing to negotiate an annual fee for the use of the mains water at the poly tunnel site and sensory garden. A formal Memorandum of Understanding would be drafted detailing the mutually agreed arrangements between both parties.

9. Charity Structure

9.1 The committee of Environment Hailsham shall be made up of:

- 1 Chairman
- 2 Vice Chairman
- 3 Treasurer
- 4 Secretary

All will be trustees to the charity. In addition there will be:

- 5 Membership secretary
- 6 Fundraising secretary
- 7 Youth project secretary
- 8 Honorary board member from Town Council

9.2 The Charities Commission has published a Model Constitution which it is proposed, will form the basis of the constitution for 'Environment Hailsham'. This is attached as an appendix to this report More specific details required will be decided by the charity board during its first meeting(s)

10. Staffing Implications

10.1 Acceptance of the proposal will provide the Town Council with additional capacity for the communications Officer and for the Outdoor Works team.

10.2 The newly established charity will not require any further support from the Hailsham Town Council's Outdoor Works Team in carrying out its activities other than support in access to the Grovelands Barn Facility as mentioned above.

11. Conclusion and Recommendation

11.1 The Town Council is asked to agree to the proposal to dissolve the Hailsham in Bloom Committee and top up the committee budget to £5000 in order for it to meet eligibility criteria in terms of becoming a registered charity.

11.2 Once Environment Hailsham has been granted its charity status and the chairman of the Town Council and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to enact the dissolution of the Hailsham in Bloom committee at the appropriate time.

Report to: Hailsham Town Council
Date: 11th September 2013
By: John Harrison – Town Clerk/ Responsible Finance Officer
Title of Report: Commemorative Paving Stones For Victoria Cross Recipients

PURPOSE

For discussion and consideration of an enquiry from a member of the public.

BACKGROUND

In August 2013 the government announced that it will be providing special commemorative paving stones for all recipients of the Victoria Cross to be laid in the 'home town' of the recipients.

Following is an extract from the website www.gov.uk making this announcement:

Commemorative paving stones for Victoria Cross recipients

Victoria Cross recipients will be at the heart of our plans to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. Special commemorative paving stones will be laid in the home towns of all those in the United Kingdom awarded the Victoria Cross for valour 'in the face of the enemy' during the conflict.

The stones will provide an enduring legacy in local communities of their local heroes- a fitting tribute to mark the centenary of their extraordinary bravery and service fighting for their country. This will also enable residents to gain a greater understanding of how their area fitted into the story of the First World War.

Communities Secretary Eric Pickles said:

It is our duty to remember the British and Commonwealth troops who lost their lives fighting in the Great War and we are determined to make sure their bravery for King and Country is not forgotten.

Laying paving stones to mark these Victoria Cross heroes will ensure that there is a permanent memorial to all the fallen who fought for our country and the competition is a great way for people from all corners of the United Kingdom to get involved.

This will connect communities to their shared history, help residents understand how their area played its part in the Great War, and ensure memories of that sacrifice for British freedom and liberty are kept alive for generations to come.

Later in August the Town Clerk received a request from Mr Dave Dyer (Author of "Hailsham Heroes") as follows:

You are hopefully aware of the announcement a week ago by Eric Pickles, Communities Secretary, that each of the 480 recipients of the Victoria Cross award will be honoured with a commemorative paving stone in their home town. I am seeking your support in requesting the Town Council to apply for Hailsham to be honoured in this way.

Company Sergeant Major Nelson Victor Carter was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery. He is commemorated on the War Memorial in the High Street, the Memorial tablet in St Mary's Church and also on the Hailsham Community College Memorial board. I feel strongly and I am sure you will agree, that he needs to be honoured with a Paving stone in Hailsham, as it is his home town. I am aware that Eastbourne will probably 'claim' him as well as he is also commemorated on their Memorial.

In brief, Nelson Carter was born in Eastbourne but moved to Hailsham (Harebeating cottages in Brewery Road, now Badgers Cottage, Battle Road) when he was 4 years old. He was brought up in Hailsham and educated at Hailsham Boys School. He left home at age 23 years and was boarding in Eastbourne when he got married. He and his wife went to live in Greys Road, Eastbourne, a property that is commemorated with a Blue Plaque. However, it is subsequently recorded that he always considered Hailsham, where he went to school and grew up, to be his home town.

What qualifies a person to be named on a particular War Memorial? The question of what is a person's home town is a problem that appears every time I do any Memorial research. Were they born, educated or brought up in the village/town? Did they come later on to work or live in the area? Was it that their parents or an influential relative lived in the village/town? etc.

My point is that CSM Nelson Victor Carter VC was considered to have enough qualification as a local man to be named on Hailsham's War Memorial. It will be a real shame and a slur on his bravery, if the town did not pursue this matter and highlight Nelson Carter's important connection with Hailsham.

I hope that you can forward this to the Town Council and urge them to pursue this strongly in order to give the town a welcome publicity boost.

The Town Clerk has made three phone calls to the DCLG in an attempt to enquire what the criteria for 'home town' are and whether it would be possible for

- A) Hailsham to claim itself as the home town for Sgt Major Nelson Carter
- B) Whether the DCLG would consider issuing two such commemorative paving stones.

Each time I have been put through to the voicemail of the relevant person, left a message and had no reply.

Enquiries with Mr Dyer regarding what the remaining family of Sgt Major Nelson Carter may want have yielded the following response:

Nelson Carter had only one daughter. When that daughter married, she had four children and these therefore now represent the direct family.

Just to let you know that I have spoken to Nelson Carter's grandson. He is going to discuss this with his three sisters and they will also consider what their deceased mother would have thought/wanted. He will get back to me before Wednesday with a joint response from them all and I will contact you as soon as I hear from him.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to consider delegating to the Town Clerk the authority to pursue this issue by:

- Establishing the position of the descendants of Sgt Major Carter
- Discussing with Eastbourne Borough Council their view on this issue.
- Then possibly, making a formal request to the DCLG that a commemorative paving stone is awarded to Hailsham for Sgt Major Nelson Carter, either instead of or in addition to that presented to Eastbourne.

COMMITTEE: Hailsham Town Council

DATE: 11th September 2013

PURPOSE: To Review the Prices of "Additional Inscriptions to Headstones" at Hailsham Cemetery

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To discontinue or vary the fees charged for additional inscriptions for headstones at Hailsham Cemetery.

BACKGROUND:

Council agreed the following resolution at the meeting held on 13th March 2013:

RESOLVED to increase the burial fees by 5 per cent. as detailed in the officer's report circulated with the agenda, and as Appendix HTC/12/10/302A to these minutes, and that all local funeral directors are informed of this decision; and that burial fees are henceforth reviewed annually.

Whilst the Council has been charging a fee for additional inscriptions for many years it has received two separate letters from members of the public as well as a personal visit from one of the correspondents about the fees charge for additional inscriptions on headstones. Councillor Mrs Rowe has also been lobbied. The Council charges a fee of £82 for a parishioner and £182 for a non-parishioner to allow an additional inscription (for example, when a spouse is buried in the plot at a later date).

The situation is that at the time of the first interment the grave owner is charged a fee of £126 or £252 to place a headstone on the plot, and this fee includes the first inscription. The charge is made because it is the Council's responsibility to ensure that the headstone is safe for the duration of the exclusive right of burial (75 Years) and the Cemetery Superintendent's time in doing this.

The only extra work involved in adding a second inscription is the Cemetery Superintendent showing the stonemason the plot at the time of removal and replacement. About five minutes in total.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In 2012/13 the Council had an income of £1,476 from charging for additional inscriptions.

CONCLUSION:

Obviously the Council will lose the income shown above, or thereabouts. However, members will need to take into consideration can this income be justified when only marginal extra work is provided by the Council.

Further information in respect of this report can be obtained from David Saxby. Tel: 01323 841702, Email: david.saxby@hailsham-tc.gov.uk