



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, 13th February 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Prior to commencement of the remaining 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 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To resolve that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 23rd January 2013 (Ref: HTC/12/8/252-275) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
- 3.2 **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **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)
 - 4.1 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
 - 4.2 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 Meeting (29th January 2013)**
 - B. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee Meeting (30th January 2013)**
- 4.3 To proceed through the “reserved” paragraphs consecutively (or as decided) and to resolve action before proceeding to the next reserved item.

5. Festivities and Events

To consider the future position of festivities and events in Hailsham Town Council and possible alternative models for their planning and delivery

(Report to follow – author Town Clerk)

6. Replacement Telephone System

(i) To receive an update from the Deputy Town Clerk Business Enterprise Manager

(ii) To consider proposals received by the Council on a replacement telephone system and to resolve which option to procure.

(Report to follow, author Deputy Town Clerk/Business Enterprise Manager).

7. Update on the Elector's Meeting

To receive an update from the Town Clerk on format and preparations for the Annual Elector's Meeting and consider an alternative date or venue for the meeting.

8. The Days for Hailsham Town Council meetings

To consider whether an alternative day of the week is preferable for meetings of Hailsham Town Council for the following council year (from May 2013)

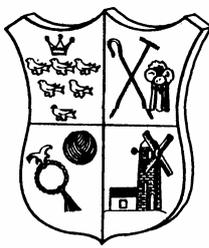
9. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS/INFORMATION FORUM (at the Chairman's discretion).



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 13th February 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.

None were presented.

HTC/12/9/276 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. S. J. Bentley (Chairman), W. A. Bentley, B. F. Burchmore, Mrs. M. Burt, Ms C. V. Collinson, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman, Mrs. J. Cook, W. F. Crittenden, R. T. Grocock (Vice Chairman), Mrs. S. E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. S. Holbrook, S. McAuliffe, B. Marlowe, Ms A. O'Rawe, G. G. Rowe, Mrs. M. Rowe, M. J. Ryan Mrs. M. Skinner and C. Triandafyllou.

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

278 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors J. L. Blake and Mrs. D. M. Ryan.

279 **Declarations of Interest**

None presented.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

280.1 Councillor N. Collinson stated that he did in fact participate in the vote on Minute 267.1 – Precept and Budget 2013/14, but did declare an interest as he is a Wealden District Councillor.

280.2 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/12/8/252-275) held on 23rd January 2013 were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

281.1 Councillor G. Rowe spoke in respect of Minute 264 – Budget for 2013/2014. He said that although he and Councillor Mrs. M. Rowe were unable to attend the meeting on 23rd January 2013, he objected to and questioned the legality and ethicality of the deletion of the Minute.
Councillor G. Rowe and Councillor Mrs. M. Rowe wanted to record that they did not support or want to be party to the deletion of the minute.

281.2 The Chairman clarified and noted that it was a pity that Councillor G. Rowe and Councillor Mrs. M. Rowe were unable to be at the meeting on 23rd January. Other members of the Hailsham Independent Group had been asked if the Minute should stand and requested that it be deleted. She assured Councillor G. Rowe that the minute was removed as it was not possible to clarify the statement.

282 **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.

C. Planning and Development Committee Meeting (29th January 2013)

D. Finance and Budget Oversight Committee (30th January 2013)

Planning and Development Committee – 29th January 2013

283.1 Minutes 217 and 220 – Declarations of Interest and Grovelands School Planning Application

Councillor W. Bentley said that all members of the Planning and Development Committee who were in attendance at the meeting on 29th January 2013 should have declared an interest as the school was adjacent to Hailsham Town Council land, and the erection of a security fence at Grovelands School would have a direct consequence on Council staff. The fence would stop parents parking within the school grounds and they would, therefore, park in the street making access and egress from Groveland Barn impossible at certain parts of the day.

Councillor W. Bentley said that Hailsham Town Council should object to the planning application on these grounds as well above.

283.2 **RESOLVED** the Town Clerk to write to East Sussex County Council objecting to the planning application for an erection of a security fence at Grovelands School as it would materially affect the working conditions of Hailsham Town Council staff and cause access problems for neighbouring residents. This objection to be copied to the headteacher of Grovelands School and invite her and the Chairman of Governors to a meeting with Hailsham Town Council.

284.1 **Festivities and Events**

The Town Clerk spoke in respect of the officer's report circulated with the minutes.

Much discussion ensued.

RESOLVED that:

284.2 a) Hailsham Forward be asked to assume responsibility for the regular market and reporting to the Business Development Committee and full council.

284.3 b) Hailsham Town Council to maintain responsibility for the summer fete.

284.4 c) defer a decision on responsibility for longer term festivity events and enter into talks with Hailsham Forward/ the Hailsham and District Chamber of Commerce on the future of the Christmas market, and liaise with HTC festivities group

284.5 d) Councillor S. McAuliffe to maintain responsibility for the Christmas lights with future plans being relayed to the Council and the HTC festivities group.

285 **Councillor Mrs. J. Cook**

Councillor Mrs. J. Cook left the meeting at 8.25pm.

Replacement Telephone System

286.1 Councillors G. Rowe and Mrs. M. Rowe declared an interest as they are neighbours of the owner of one of the companies who tendered for the work.

286.2 Councillor N. Collinson declared an interest as he is an acquaintance of one of those who tendered for the work

286.3 The Deputy Town Clerk spoke in respect of the officer's report circulated with the agenda.

286.4 Councillor W. Bentley thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for his report and for all the work he had undertaken on this project and asked for a recommendation.

286.5 The Deputy Town Clerk said that having met with all the interested companies he was most impressed with Vos Tel, and this was his recommendation to Council. Councillor N. Collinson concurred with this recommendation.

286.6 **RESOLVED** that Vos Tel supply Hailsham Town Council with a replacement telephone system as per the officer's report circulated with the agenda, and as Appendix HTC/12/9/286A to these minutes.

Update on the Electors' Meeting

287.1 The Town Clerk stated that the preferred date for the Annual Electors' Meeting of Tuesday 14th May 2013 could not proceed as the Hailsham Civic Community Hall was no longer available on that date.

287.2 **RESOLVED** to reverse the decision taken at the meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 23rd January 2013 to hold the Annual Electors' meeting on Tuesday 14th May as the venue was no longer available; and to empower the Town Clerk to re-arrange the meeting on Monday 13th May 2013.

Clerk's note: This was a special resolution and needed a two thirds majority in favour. It was carried unanimously.

The Days for Hailsham Town Council Meetings

288.1 Members were asked to consider whether an alternative day of the week was preferable for meetings of Hailsham Town Council for the ensuing Council year.

288.2 The Chairman said that she had approached the Chief Executive and the appropriate officer of Wealden District Council to arrange an urgent meeting to discuss the cost and availability of using the Hailsham Civic Community Hall as the venue for Hailsham Town Council meetings.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on the days for Hailsham Town Council meetings until the costs and availability of Hailsham Civic Community Hall were known.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

289.2 Issuing of Agendas and Reports

Councillor Ms C. Collinson said that whilst she was in favour of issuing Hailsham Town Council agendas and reports electronically she was concerned that they came in different emails, formats and from different officers and asked for procedures to be streamlined.

289.3 The Town Clerk said that he would look at how this could be achieved but stated that the frequency of council meetings and deadlines for the issuing of agendas made it difficult to get officers' reports to members at the same time.

Police Reports

290.1 Councillor Burchmore asked if it was still the practice for the police to attend the meetings of Hailsham Town Council.

290.2 The Town Clerk responded that the police came to these meetings quarterly and they were due to attend again at the next meeting.

Hailsham Forward

291 Councillor Coltman said that at the last Hailsham Forward meeting it had been agreed to devote some money to new signage on the entrance to Hailsham on the A22 indicating the town's presence.

292 Election Costs

Councillor P. Holbrook requested that the exact costs of the two recent by-elections be made available at the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.44pm.

CHAIRMAN

Report to: Hailsham Town Council

Date: 13th February 2013

By: John Harrison, Town Clerk

Title of report: Festivities and Events

1. PURPOSE:

To consider the position of Festivities and Events in Hailsham Town Council and possible alternative 'models' for their planning and delivery

2. BACKGROUND.

The current position

For the 2012-13 municipal year, and that previous, Festivities and Events have been planned and organised by the four "Community Events" Oversight Councillors (in 2012-13 this has been Cllrs Mrs Jo Bentley, Mrs Margaret Skinner, C. Triandafyllou and P. Holbrook) working in partnership and consulting with representatives from local community groups (including Hailsham Lions, Rotary Club and Hailsham Farmers Market).

Decisions and plans have been made through what has essentially been a small informal Festivities and Events committee meeting on a regular basis with the services of the Environment and Leisure Officer acting as Clerk to that committee.

From the community groups, the individual representatives have changed over time, although for the main part the organisations represented have remained consistent. In some cases a specific organisation has been invited to attend according to the events being planned (for example a representative from the Hailsham Farmers' Market was invited while planning the Charter Market).

This is not a formally appointed committee or sub-committee of the council, with all the rules and controls that would entail, and council has not formally delegated authority to the Community Events Oversight Councillors to spend the budgets allocated for the festivities and events.

It should be noted that there is also currently an oversight role for Town Centres and Markets and that responsibility for Christmas Lighting this has sat with the oversight roles for the Environment this year. It could be argued that there is some overlap between the oversight functions of "Community Events", "Town Centre and Markets" and "Environment" (with respect to Christmas lights specifically) which has caused some confusion.

The fact that there has been no formally appointed committee to plan events has meant there have been no terms of reference for the informal group, including the levels of attendance required to make decisions & resolutions making recommendations to council (i.e. minutes have not been presented to council for approval or 'call over' if required).

It could be argued that this has increased the risk that a lack of information and knowledge has been passed onto both the council and the public of the plans and decisions made (as the minutes have not been public) and council has not been given the opportunity to be fully notified of, clarify and approve of

plans and decisions.

In previous years there had been a formally appointed Festivities Committee with delegated responsibility for festivities, events and Christmas lights, which functioned as a formal committee or sub-committee of council.

However this year was jubilee year which resulted in an increase in council's activities in this area. Council successfully organised three events which were well received and successful, thus enhancing the council's image and role within the local community and its role in partnership working. These were the Charter Market, Jubilee Fete and Christmas Market.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Budgets for Festivities and Events

For 2011-12

A Budget of £4500 was allocated (£2000 budgeted at the start of the financial year and a further £2500 transferred from contingencies) for the Christmas Market.

£2000 of this was carried forward to the next financial year.

For 2012-13

A budget of £7500 was allocated for the Jubilee Fete and Charter Market and £7000 for the Christmas Market, which included £2000 brought forward from 2011-12. Therefore total budget for all events was £14,500

For the Jubilee Fete £5790 was spent and an income of £631 gained (net spend of £5159.00)
For the Charter market £3344 was spent and an income of £635 gained (net spend of £2709)
For the Christmas Market £4498 was spent and an income of £966 gained (net spend of £3532)

For 2013-14

£4000 has been allocated to the Charter Market
£5000 has been allocated to the Christmas Market
£3000 will be brought forward from this year's budget
Therefore totalling £12,000

3.2 Budgets for Festive Lighting

For 2012-2013 a budget of £10,000 was allocated, with £1647 brought forward.

To date £10,982 has been spent and an income of £985 gained, therefore net spend is £9997.

For the 2013-14 budget, £12,000 has been allocated to Christmas Festoons, with an anticipated income of £1000 (and therefore a net budget of £11,000).

4. CONSIDERATIONS.

Council is asked to consider:

1. Whether it wishes to continue to plan and organise events itself for future years?
2. How responsibility for their planning will be delegated and organised?
3. The potential 'overlap' between oversight functions for Town Centres and Markets, Community Events and Environment?
4. The position of Christmas Lighting in any structure or method of organisation decided upon?

Possible models

The following possible models of organisation for Festivities and Events are suggested;

1. Maintain the status quo

Four oversight councillors for Community Events are appointed, who work in partnership with community organisations in planning events, continuing to meet as an informal committee.

Responsibility for planning Christmas Lights stays with the oversight function for the Environment. The oversight function for Town Centres and Markets remains.

This approach maintains flexibility within the roles and particularly for the F&E informal 'committee' which is not tied to specific meeting times and dates and does not operate within the controls of a formally appointed committee. This also means that committee decisions are not approved by council or communicated to the public via publicly available minutes. This also means that the potential for confusion over responsibilities still exists.

2. A formally appointed Festivities and Events committee

This would function in essentially the same way as at present. However, membership of the committee would be formally resolved and terms of reference determined. This would include the need for a level of attendance for decision making and voting on resolutions. Minutes would become formal records, with decisions to be approved (or not) by full council and questioned or clarified via the 'call over' process. The minutes would become publicly available records.

The committee could continue to work in partnership with community organisations, although external bodies could not take part in votes on the expenditure of Hailsham Town Council monies and use of council resources.

Council has previously expressed a desire to reduce the number of formal committees and this option would not achieve that. However, this option would result in a 'formalised' approach to the status quo and therefore would not actually result in more committees or the use of more officer and outdoor works team resources than at present.

3. Council opting not to fund or organise any further festivities and events

This would result in a saving of £12,000 in the 2013-14 budget. This would also free-up resources within the council involved in supporting the informal committee, organising and setting up the events.

However it would mean that the successful events organised this year, such as the Christmas Market and the Charter Market would not be held. These were well received events organised to the benefit of the community which for the most part enhanced the council's reputation.

4. Council opts to offer grants to external organisations to organise community events for the town.

The budget of £12,000, or a proportion of it, could be offered to external organisations via a bidding process as 'grants' to organise and manage events for the benefit of the town. The full criteria and bidding processes would need to be carefully defined and administered.

This is permitted under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 ('Power of local authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised') for non-commercial organisations.

For commercial organisations, this is permitted under Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 ('Power to encourage visitors and provide conference and other facilities') as confirmed by the Society of Local Council Clerks.

Once council has achieved the General Power of Competence it can lawfully pursue any activity as long as it is legal. There are no restrictions within council's own financial regulations or standing orders that would prohibit the awarding of grants in this way.

Decisions regarding the grants criteria and the outcome of applications could be delegated to: the Finance and Budget Oversight Committee, to a meeting of full council, to a reduced oversight function for Festivities and Events or to a specially appointed panel.

This option would mean that the council is not directly responsible for planning and organising any events for the benefit of the community with all the positive connotations of that activity.

It also carries an increased risk brought about by the council's lack of control of the events funded. Council would not be directly responsible for the events it has funded which could potentially turn out to be not of the quality or benefit to the community it would have desired. This would have to be carefully managed through the bidding process and the setting of criteria.

However, this option would also mean that there is no longer a requirement for a Festivities and Events Committee to meet either formally or informally therefore freeing-up Councillor's time to concentrate on other issues and would also free-up resources within the council's staff involved in supporting the informal committee, organising and setting up the events, although the grants would have to be carefully administered and publicised.

5. Delegation of responsibility to the Business Development Committee working in partnership with 'Hailsham Forwards'

At the meeting of the Hailsham Forward Executive team on 14th January 2013, it was noted that:

For many years the Town Council had organised Christmas and other town centre events and provided a Christmas lighting scheme. Mickey Cairn asked the Team if they considered that these should be organised by Hailsham Forward.

It was agreed that this should be done by the Team in the future but this would require negotiation and agreement with the Town Council. The Team were keen to work with the established Arts Festival as a key event to attract people into the town centre.

It was also agreed that the Team would not want to get involved in the summer fete planned to

take place on the recreation ground. (Ref 1/13/6)

The Town team has also expressed interest in being directly involved in the planning of a regular Town Market and is generally involved in influencing and developing ways of improving and enhancing the town's economy and attractiveness as a visitor destination, such as support for the Hailsham Arts Festival. The events so far organised by the council, such as the Charter Market and the Christmas Market would seem to fit very closely with the aims and objectives of *Hailsham Forward*.

It is therefore suggested that an option would be to delegate responsibility for deciding how best to manage the events to the Business Development Committee, working in partnership and closely consulting with the *Hailsham Forward* stakeholder group and executive committee.

In doing so, the Business Development Committee could indeed decide to adopt any of the other options proposed here or a combination of them. For example, by retaining some of the allocated budget to organise a specific event that would then be directly attributable to Hailsham Town Council and also have the approval of Hailsham Forward and allocating some of the budget for the suggested grants scheme advised above.

The *Hailsham Forward* executive has stated that it does not wish to be involved with the planning and organising of the Summer Fete planned for the summer of 2013 which is already under way. Therefore this option may take some time to fully develop and may not come into fruition until later in the year.

It will be necessary to manage the interplay between Hailsham Forward, the Business Development Committee and council very carefully, with clear lines of accountability and delegated responsibility agreed. However this option should ensure that events are planned and delivered with full and effective consultation with the body appointed to represent the business and economic interests of the town amongst most of the key stakeholders, through the 'control mechanism' of the Business Development Committee and full council.

This option may therefore enhance partnership working between the council and other key stakeholders in determining events and potentially that other resources become available to contribute to the planning and delivery processes once Hailsham Forward has become more fully established.

Further Considerations

Council is asked to consider the fact that in the recent past, it has proven difficult to recruit sufficient volunteers to confidently cover all roles required for events and it may therefore be necessary to utilise council staff resources to a greater extent to cover events if they are planned, managed and delivered 'in-house' in the future.

6. CONCLUSION.

1. Council is asked to consider whether it wished to continue to fund festivities and events into the next municipal year (council should note that plans are already underway for a Summer Fete in 2013).

2. If council does wish to continue funding events, is asked to consider which of the options for their planning and delivery (as above), or combination of them, is most desirable.

3. Council is asked to consider where the design, organisation and management of Christmas Lights schemes and any associated 'switching-on event' sits within any desired structure.

Report to: Hailsham Town Council

Date: 13th February 2013

By: Mickey Caira, Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager

Title of report: REPLACEMENT TELEPHONE SYSTEM

PURPOSE:

To consider proposals received by the Council on a replacement telephone system and to resolve which option to procure.

BACKGROUND:

The Council entered into a seven year contract with Systemcare (now Digiquip) in May 2006 to supply a telephone system for voice and data services (internet and email connections) to service the Town Council Offices, Square Youth Café and Hailsham Cemetery. All the equipment under the current contract is rented under a fixed term agreement and this will expire around the same time as the service contract supplied by Digiquip. At this point all the equipment must be returned to the rental company.

The Council must therefore source a new telephone service contract prior to 31st March 2013. It is vital that a new contract is secured as soon as possible to allow for the changeover time to a new contractor whilst retaining the Council's specific telephone numbers.

The Council considered two proposals on 23rd January 2013 and resolved "to instruct the Deputy Town Clerk to pursue a system that included VOIP and superfast broadband with Hailsham based companies along with Wealden District Council be invited to participate; and that the provision of mobile telephones for staff be discussed at the next Council meeting on 13th February 2013."

The two contractors that had already submitted proposals to the Council, plus two Hailsham based companies and Wealden District Council were invited to submit quotes for the supply and services of a fully hosted VOIP telephone system, including Superfast broadband, for an initial one year contract and option to extend if appropriate.

Wealden District Council has confirmed that they are not able to set-up and provide a telephone system to the Council by the 1st April deadline, as a result of other major commitments that are time sensitive. Wealden has however offered to review what can be provided to the Council in the future.

CONTRACTOR QUOTATIONS:

RJ Cortel a Heathfield based company:

Initial set up costs: £5,906.24 ex VAT

On-going monthly costs £424.96 ex VAT and call charges (£5,099.52 per annum)

Total cost for first 12 months £11,005.76 ex VAT and call charges

Overline a Worthing based company:

Initial set up costs: £5,994.87 ex VAT

On-going monthly costs £ 335.82 ex VAT and call charges (£4,029.84 per annum)

Local and national calls @ 1p per minute, mobile calls @ 7.5p per minute

Total cost for first 12 months £10,024.71 ex VAT and call charges

Vos Tel a Hailsham based company:

Initial set up costs: £6,632.68 ex VAT

On-going monthly costs £264.33 ex VAT and call charges (£3,171.96 per annum)

Total cost for first 12 months £9,804.64 ex VAT and call charges

Chalvington Communications a Hailsham based company:

Initial set up costs: £3,499.50 ex VAT

On-going monthly costs £325.82 ex VAT and call charges (£3,909.84 per annum)

Total cost for first 12 months £7,409.34 ex VAT and call charges

Digiquip a Worthing based company and the Council's current provider:

Initial set up costs: £1,950 ex VAT

On-going monthly costs £251.66 ex VAT and call charges (£3019.92 per annum)

Total cost for first 12 months £4969.92 ex VAT and call charges

(These figures are subject to change as Digiquip have failed to clarify certain aspects of their proposal.)

All the companies have estimated that the call charges will be around £50 per month, £600 per annum, based on the current calls made by the Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The current system equipment including telephone handsets and routers was rented and not purchased outright. The cost just to rent the hardware over the seven year period is £32,425

It is recommended that the cost to supply and install a new system is purchased outright to avoid the high cost of leasing or renting as experienced over the past seven years.

The cost of the initial 12 months, to purchase and install a new system and the on-going monthly costs range from £5,569.92 ex VAT and to £11,605.76 ex VAT.

The Council has budgeted £11,600 in 2013/2014 and can therefore fund any of the proposals put forward in the first year including the initial set-up costs. Depending on the company selected by the Council, there will be savings on the current annual cost to the Council from year two onwards

Conclusion

The Council must make a decision regarding the selection of a new telephone provider in order to have a system operational beyond 31st March 2013, and how it is to finance the supply and installation of the system. The companies have offered an initial maximum twelve months contract with an option to extend; this will allow the Council to continue to explore the possibility of moving to the Wealden District Council Offices or elsewhere in the town centre, without having to make a long term commitment that could be expensive to "buy out".