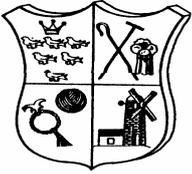


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Communities Committee relating to the organisation of festivities and events held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham, on Monday 1st February 2016 at 6.00 pm.

Prior to commencement of formal business, a period of not more than 15 minutes was assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the Committee or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities under direction of this Committee) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

CC/7/15/128

L. Keeley addressed members a question regarding assets of community value. The Chairman advised that this subject was not covered under the Communities Committee and suggested L. Keeley takes his question to the next strategic projects Committee meeting.

P. Holbrook requested to know what had happened to the tree of light? M. Caira advised that the Council had agreed a number of years ago to dismantle the Tree of Light and replace it with a real tree on Vicarage Field. P. Holbrook asked when this had been agreed by Council? M. Caira advised he would look into the matter and let Councillor Holbrook know.

Councillor G. Blake Coggins was present at the meeting but did not wish to speak.

N.B. At a Burials and Properties meeting in June 2010, it was agreed to replace the Tree of Light with a real tree in Vicarage Field (min ref: BP/010/1/22.2)

At a further meeting of Full Council on 15th June 2011 it was agreed to dispose of the Tree of Light (minute ref: HTC/11/2/142)

129

Committee members present

Councillors: Mrs S. Cottingham, Ms A. O'Rawe (Chairman), J. Puttick, C. Tasane, A. Triandafyllou, C. Triandafyllou

Other members present

G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), J. Cullen (Hailsham Community College), Rose Piggott (Hailsham Bonfire Society), Ms. J. Seale, G. Osborne (Festive Illuminations)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings, M. Caira

130

Apologies For Absence:

Committee Members

None were received

Other members

Mrs J. Coates (Air Cadets), Councillor N. Collinson, Mrs D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish

Church),

131 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

132 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Communities Committee meeting held on Monday 11th January 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

133 **Matters Arising**

None were received.

134 **Local Skills Gap**

J. Cullen reported that the group had met on 25th January at the Now! Charities new office. A brief survey had been compiled asking questions regarding employment of Hailsham people and apprentices and a questionnaire has now been finalised and circulated via the Chamber of Commerce. An interview day was carried out for the Year 11's at Hailsham Community College, plus interview skills and CV writing skills for those 16 and over. J. Cullen reported that the group are now considering an interview day for the year 10's and then again for the year 11's. They are also looking into holding a similar event for adults over 18, to help improve their skills. Members were advised that this month SCDA are organising two free courses and the Community College has advertised this in their magazine.

G. Osborne arrived at 6.10 pm

A careers event will be held in March at the Community College, and Now! Charity will ask all their business contacts to give careers advice at this event.

135 **Christmas Light Switch on event 2016**

Members discussed the recent Christmas lights. J. Cullen queried why the lights were not working outside Smythe and Barrie in the High Street. G. Osborne advised that this had been caused by a fault with one of the lamp posts which supplies the power for the lights. He stated he would speak to ESCC Highways to try and get this fixed.

G. Osborne showed members a new star motif which could be incorporated into the Christmas lighting scheme.

Members were advised that there had been a number of comments from the public asking what had happened to the children's motifs in the High Street, such as the waving santa. There had also been some negative comments about the large Christmas tree in Vicarage Field, which was not straight and had leant over. It was agreed to order a smaller Christmas tree for 2016 to try and prevent this problem in the future. Members agreed on a size of 25-28 ft. It was agreed to have a real tree, rather than an artificial one and place coloured lights on the tree, rather than white lights.

Members discussed the lack of lights in the old Horse Chestnut Tree next to Costa Coffee. M. Caira reported that the tree is very old and hollow and cannot now sustain any lights, which is why the tree is now floodlit rather than having lights in it.

Members discussed the requirement for the Christmas lighting scheme to now go out to tender.

K. Giddings advised that a tender has been drawn up and will go out to a number of lighting contractors by the end of the week. The tenders will be discussed at the next Communities meeting on 7th March. M. Caira reminded members that the lighting budget has been set for 2016 and therefore if any additions to the scheme are required the extra money will have to be found for this.

C. Triandafyllou requested an additional option in the lighting contract for two new swags across the High Street. G. Osborne stated that the Council has spare swags so just a new harness and centre start are required. He advised that the cost to create the two extra swags across the High Street would be approximately £500.00.

Members also requested an extra children's motif in the lighting scheme, such as a waving santa. The cost for both the two swags and the motif would be added as an optional extra in the schedule of works for the tender.

G. Osborne and D. Saxby left at 6.40 pm.

136 **Hailsham and Hellingly Movement & Access Strategy**

The road improvements in the High Street are still proposed for May of this year. Members were advised that as part of the contract for this work, press releases will be issued informing the public of the work and dates.

137 **Hailsham Forward**

M. Caira reported that the loyalty card is due to be discussed at a stakeholder meeting this week and a Business Forum has been arranged for 23rd February.

M. Caira explained the loyalty card scheme to members. He advised that the card is sold to the public for £10.00, although the business purchases the card for £3.50. The loyalty card gives the user various promotions, discounts etc. For example, Freedom Leisure is offering new members a zero joining fee if they have a loyalty card.

138 **Summer Markets**

Members were reminded that the 30th July event is based around a variety of food and drink, it is not just an Italian market. There will be limited space on Vicarage Field while the road improvements are taking place; there will be room for Hailsham FM at the June and July events but there is unlikely to be space for extra entertainment such as a band. K. Giddings advised that balloon modelling and face painting are booked for the children's market on 30th June.

Members agreed to invite the PTA's of all the local primary schools to have a stall at the children's market. J. Cullen will liaise with K. Giddings regarding this.

J. Cullen reported he has written to the schools to invite them to sing carols again at the switch on event on Friday 25th November.

139 **Christmas Market event 2016**

The budget has been approved for this event and the market and all entertainment will be organised by an outside events organiser. K. Giddings advised she had contacted four companies and had received quotes from two of the companies contacted. Members discussed both quotes and agreed to offer the contract to Tracey Ryland, who organised the Christmas market for the Town Council in 2013.

140 **Hailsham Bonfire Society**

R. Piggott advised that this year's bonfire event will be held on 22nd October. She advised

there is a jumble sale on 16 April between 10.00 – 12.00 noon and a quiz on 13th May at 7.30 pm at the Charles Hunt Centre.

141 **Hailsham Festival**

There was no further update on the festival.

J. Seale informed members that correspondors for newspapers are no longer paid a wage. She encouraged the Committee to use her What's on advert, to promote events. She also advised that she had recently run the Community Forum and stated that it was well attended with some new members.

142 **HM Queens 90th Birthday celebrations**

K. Giddings stated that NALC had approached the Town Clerk suggesting that various councils may wish to organise the lighting of a beacon to celebrate the Queens birthday. Much discussion ensued and members considered whether something could be organised other than a beacon to mark the event. S. Cottingham advised she will contact St Marys Church to see if they would allow the Town Council to place a light at the church tower.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 7th March 2016.

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities