

HAILSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

- 1 MINUTES AND REPORTS** of the Hailsham Annual Town Meeting, held at Hailsham Pavilion, George Street, Hailsham on Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7.30 pm
- 2 PRESENT:** 13 Hailsham Town councillors; 68 Hailsham electors; 7 officers of Hailsham Town Council.

The Town Mayor/Chairman of Hailsham Town Council, Councillor Mrs. S. J. Bentley opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and councillors.

The Chairman introduced and thanked representatives from the various stakeholders who were in attendance and had stalls providing information on their services.

- 3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received Councillors J. Blake, Mrs. J. Cook, Mrs S. Henstock G.G. Rowe, Mrs M. Rowe, Mrs D. Ryan. M. Ryan and Mrs. M. Skinner.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24th April 2014 were agreed as a true and accurate recording.

MATTERS ARISING

Mr E. Miller asked as the double yellow lines in the High Street were unlawful had a report been received from the Police about the number of refunds given.

Sgt. Mark Ritchie from Sussex Police said the yellow lines had become unlawful when the road surface began breaking up and that he was unaware of any refunds being given.

8 HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman said that copies of the report had been made available prior to the meeting. She proposed going through the report by committee and inviting questions

Finance, Budget & Resources Committee

No questions received

Council Projects & Assets Committee

No questions received.

Planning & Development Committee

A member of the public asked if the planned 6th form college was no longer going to be built.

Kelvin Williams, Head of Planning at Wealden District Council responded that planning permissions had been granted for a period of 10 years, and that only five

years had elapsed so there was still opportunity for the building to go ahead.

Business Enterprise Committee

Ms. V. Starr asked what Hailsham Town Council was doing to reduce the number of empty retail units in the town centre.

Councillor N. Coltman responded as Chairman of Hailsham Forward. He said that the number of empty units had reduced significantly over the last year, and that Hailsham compared favourably to other towns in this respect.

Mr. Eaton asked if any financial penalty could be imposed on the landlords of empty premises. Councillor Coltman said there was not.

Mr. M. Adams said that the frontage of the new Poundland unit was out of keeping with other units in the High Street. Mr K. Williams said there no real control of such things.

Festivities & Events Committee

No questions received.

Parks and Open Spaces Committee

Ms S. Spicer asked when the new leisure centre at Welbury Farm would be built.

The Chairman said work on this new leisure and sports centre would be commencing in the summer of 2015.

ELECTORS QUESTIONS/MOTIONS

Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

Mrs M. Laxton asked what was being done about the increasing number of supermarket shopping trolleys being dumped around the town.

The Town Clerk responded that Hailsham Town Council returned shopping trolleys to the relevant supermarket if dumped on its land. It did not, however, have the resources to pick them out throughout the town. He said that he would write to all supermarkets advising them of the need to collect them.

Grass Cutting

Mrs M Laxton asked what checks were made on the level of grass cutting throughout the town.

The Deputy Town Clerk said that there were very few complaints about the standard of the grass cutting. Most of the complaints were about the cut grass not being collected. If contractors were asked to do this it would make the cost of the contract prohibitively expensive.

Sandbanks Housing Development

Ms Bishop who lived on in Sandbanks said that the work being carried out near her house made her life unbearable. She asked what could be done to help people fight these developments.

The Chairman said that if Ms Bishop saw her after the meeting she would give her the contact details of the relevant organisations.

South Road

A member of the public asked if Hailsham Town Council could write to East Sussex County Council asking if a filter traffic light could be installed to allow egress from Station Road.

Ms Claire Warwick from ESCC Highways Department said that she would look at this suggestion.

Public Conveniences

Mr Hopkinson said that the signage in the town for the public toilets was inadequate.

The Town Clerk said that there were signs in the South Road and Victoria Road car parks. East Sussex County Council would not allow signage on the highway.

Town Centre

Mr M Adams said that many of the shopkeepers in the High Street were not in favour of the MASHH proposals to introduce a pedestrian friendly High Street and parking restrictions. He thought that it would have a detrimental effect on the shops.

The Chairman said that the scheme had been put out for public consultation and the Hailsham and District Chamber of Commerce had been in favour of the proposals as it would increase the footfall in the High Street.

Ms Franklin asked about enforcing the time limit on the time-limited parking bays. Sgt. Ritchie said that the police would enforce the restrictions.

Carpenters Way Play Area

Mr Moss asked what was happening to the Carpenters Way play area as the play equipment had been removed.

The Deputy Town Clerk replied that new equipment would be in place before the summer holidays.

Parking in Western Road and Summerheath Road

Mrs Townsend said that the parking on the junction of Western Road and Summerheath Road was dangerous as drivers could not see other vehicles approaching.

Sgt. Ritchie said there were laws on parking at junctions and if necessary the police would get involved.

Battle Road

Councillor W. Bentley said that he had just been informed that the lower end of Battle Road would be resurfaced overnight on the 17th April.

- 9** The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending. She thanked Councillors and Council staff for all their hard work throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.25pm.