



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur-de-Lys Council Chambers/Meeting Rooms, Market Square, Hailsham, on Wednesday 12th August 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

Public Question Time

Prior to commencement of the formal business of the meeting a period of not more than 15 minutes had been assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public present to address the Assembly, or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities of the Town Council) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

HTC/15
x/2/146 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, F. Berry, Mrs. L. J. Collinson, N.. A. Collinson, Ms C. Collinson-O'Toole, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P. M. Cottingham, R. T. Grocock, Mrs. S. E. Henstock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. S. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, Ms A. O'Rawe, M. A. Pinkney, J. Puttick, P. D. Soane, C. A. Tasane, and Mrs. S. Van Der Geyton.

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

148 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors G. Moore, Mrs. A. Triandafyllou, C. Triandafyllou Miss J. R. Wells and A. Willis.

Declarations of Interest

149.1 Councillor N. Collinson declared an interest in agenda item 5 – Potential Lease or Sale of Land to a Local Business as he knows Mr. Toby Burton through his work.

149.2 Councillor Mrs Laxton declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 6 – East Sussex Healthcare Trust as she was part of the legal team involved in the report. She said she would withdraw from the meeting when this agenda item was reached.

Hailsham Works!

150.1 The Chairman introduced Jan Tomlinson and Jan Townsend from Tomorrow's People. Mrs. Tomlinson spoke first as Team Leader of Tomorrow's People in the South East. She thanked the Council for its financial, moral and practical support over the past three years.

150.2 Mrs Townsend spoke about the achievements and difficulties of operating the scheme in Hailsham.

Councillor Mrs. Laxton asked how the Tomorrow's People scheme differs from government schemes. Mrs. Tomlinson replied that job centre staff don't necessarily have an understanding of local issues. She felt that Tomorrow's People schemes

added value to government schemes.

Councillor Soane asked how big the problems of youth unemployment and disenfranchisement were in Hailsham. Mrs Townsend said that a number of young people had no fixed address with the accompanying problem of rough sleeping. There was a need for affordable housing.

Councillor N. Collinson asked how the figures in Hailsham compared with elsewhere. Mrs. Tomlinson replied that some urban areas were higher,

Councillor Berry asked would cuts in benefits to young people make the problem worse. Mrs. Tomlinson was of the opinion that they would.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Tomlinson and Mrs. Townsend for attending the meeting and presenting their report.

150.3 **RESOLVED** to note the report on Hailsham Works.

Potential Lease or Sale of Land to a Local Business

151.1 The Chairman introduced Mr. Toby Burton from Chandlers Group Limited.

151.2 Mr. Burton said that his company had a strong desire to stay within the town, as it employed over 100 people, many of whom were local. The company had, however, outgrown the current facility. They were under pressure from BMW to redevelop. The only viable land in Hailsham was the Town Council owned land identified in the officer's report, as circulated with the agenda and as appendix HTC/15/2x/151A to this report.

151.3 Councillor Tasane said he could not see what benefit this proposal had for the town or its people.

Councillor Mrs Laxton asked were other areas considered. Mr. Burton replied that a site in The Dicker was the only possible alternative.

151.4 Councillor N. Collinson said that this meeting was not the forum to get into detailed discussions on the proposal, rather a decision in principle was needed.

151.5 **RESOLVED** in principle to open discussions with Chandlers Group Limited to lease or sell the Town Council owned land identified in the officer's report, as circulated with the agenda and as appendix HTC/15/2x/151A to this report.; and to commission the Council's solicitor to undertake a feasibility study to this end, subject to the ability to remove the appropriate restrictions and on condition that Chandlers meet the Council's legal costs.

151.6 Councillors Berry, P. Holbrook, Mrs. B. Holbrook and Tasane requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel 2015/16

152.1 Members considered the report and recommendations contained in the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel as circulated with the agenda, as Appendix HTC/15/2x/152A to these minutes.

Discussion ensued.

- 152.3 **RESOLVED** to reject the recommendations contained in the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel as it affects Hailsham Town Council.

East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust

- 153.1 Councillor Mrs. Laxton left the meeting for the duration of discussion on this agenda item.

- 153.2 The Chairman introduced Mrs. Liz Walke from the Save the DGH Campaign.

She cited the report that was highly critical of the senior management team of the trust.

Members who spoke were also critical of the senior management team but were complimentary of the healthcare provision by the doctors and nurses.

- 153.4 **RESOLVED** that:

1. A letter should be written to the Trust that this Council has no confidence in the senior management of the East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust,; requesting that the Chairman of the Trust should step down from his position, and seeking an explanation of why Hailsham has no hospital services, and
2. Copies of the letter should be sent the Secretary of State for Health and the Member of Parliament for Wealden.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

- 154 Conduct at Meetings

Councillor Ms C. Collinson-O'Toole said that whilst she agreed with the decision to address members by their first names other formalities should be adhered to, such as standing when speaking and not informally talking when a member was addressing the meeting.

Councillor Mrs. M. Laxton suggested the provision of microphones to make hearing debate easier.

- 155 Hailsham Festival of Arts and Culture

Councillor N. Collinson reminded members that this year's Festival begins on 12th September.

- 156 Environment Hailsham

Councillor Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten said that members of the public had approached her saying how colourful and pleasant the town was looking because of the floral displays.

She wished to thank Councillor Grocock and the Environment Hailsham team for all the work it had done,

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.38.

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CHAIRMAN