



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.00 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.

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting. He introduced Nigel Hannam, Marina Brigginslaw and Councillor Ann Newton from Wealden District Council, who were attending to present the Wealden Local Plan.

The Chairman stated that this was a formal Hailsham Town Council meeting that, as with all such meetings, was open to the public and not a meeting of the public.

The Chairman asked for a minute's silence to remember Councillor Mrs. Stella Henstock who had passed away recently.

The Chairman asked for questions from members of the public.

Mrs. Christine Smith said that lots of people had not received the leaflet about the consultation meetings. She asked why the leaflet had been delivered with junk mail.

Mr. Ross Hollister asked why the public should have faith in this Wealden Development Plan when previous ones had failed.

Mr. Peter Deakin said he wanted to know more about the plans for an integrated transport plan.

Mr. Peter Smith asked what Wealden District Council knew about the housing development in Mill Road.

Mr. D. White, Chairman of Hellingly Parish Council and a Wealden District Councillor said there was a great deal of concern about the Wealden District Council paper, particularly the doubling of the town's housing. He said that councillors would need a new mandate to take such a decision. He was also concerned about the lack of infrastructure in the town.

Ms S. Mullins wanted an update on the position of the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman said it was still the intention of the Town Council to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan; a small group of councillors would need to be formed to draft it.

The Chairman said that unanswered public questions would be answered during the presentation by Wealden District Council officers.

HTC/15/  
4x/187 **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. B. Holbrook, P. S. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, G. Moore, M. A. Pinkney, J. Puttick, Ms A. O'Rawe (Vice-Chairman), P. D. Soane, C. A. Tasane, C. Triandafyllou, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyton, Miss J. R. Wells and A. Willis.

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

189 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. M. Burt and Mrs. A Triandafyllou.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

190.1 The Town Clerk explained that all Hailsham Town Councillors who were also Wealden District Councillors had signed the Declarations of Interest book and had no need to declare an interest separately at this meeting.

190.2 However, Councillors N. Collinson, Coltman, Grocock, M. Pinkney, Ms O'Rawe and C. Triandafyllou all declared an interest at this time as they were Wealden District Councillors.

#### **Wealden Local Plan – Presentation By Wealden District Council Officers**

191.1 Mr. Nigel Hannam spoke in respect of the Plan, details of which are attached as Appendix HTC/16/4/191A to these minutes.

191.2 He asked for councillors' questions, but first addressed the member of the public's question about the notice of this meeting being sent with junk mail. He said the leaflets had been delivered by Royal Mail; he accepted this was not a perfect solution but it was prohibitively expensive to send individual letters via normal postal services. There had also been press and radio publicity.

192. Councillor Soane thanked the Wealden officers for attending. He said that decisions taken in haste normally make for bad decisions. The scale of this proposed development was unprecedented. He asked why the haste and how can we be sure that all the alternatives had been explored?

Mr. Hannam said that Wealden needed to produce a timely plan that would stand up to the scrutiny of the Government's Planning Inspector. Whilst trying to ensure developers did adhere to the needs of the community and did not build outside of the planned areas.

193. Councillor Mrs. M Laxton said that the A27 corridor needed massive investment.

Mr. Hannam said that Wealden District Council is pursuing this with the relevant authorities.

194 Councillor Berry asked about net migration levels into the area and because the information was not available at the meeting he said he would email his question.

195 Councillor C. Triandafyllou asked what affect these proposals would have on conservation areas.

Mr. Hannam said there is a separate plan for the conservation areas and the public is encouraged to review and respond to the consultation.

196 Councillor Soane said the litmus test would be if Hailsham would be a better place to live post development and challenged someone to answer this simple question.

Mr. Hannam said that it was the plan to create a better place to live and work.

197 Councillor Mrs. L. Collinson said why would the delivery of infrastructure be different this time when there had been so many empty promises in the past. She said that a special healthcare facility was needed.

Councillor Miss Wells asked what is being done now to deal with the current levels of oversubscription of doctors.

District Councillor Mrs. Newton said that it would be for the Town Council to lobby healthcare providers.

198 Councillor Mrs. Laxton said she was concerned about future employment – where were the extra jobs that would be needed to sustain this increase in the workforce come from?

Councillor N. Collinson responded that this would be a matter for central government.

Mr Hannam said that the Plan allows for business growth.

199 Mr Hannam returned to the unanswered public questions.

He said the proposal to have a Hailsham Action Plan and frontloaded infrastructure delivery would provide a more planned delivery, rather than the past developer led delivery of infrastructure.

Mr Hannam said he would investigate the allegations about Goodwin Close

### **Hailsham Town Council Response**

200 **RESOLVED** to defer this agenda item until the next meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

### **Motion 156**

201 The following motion had been submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 2 by Councillor N. Collinson who proposed:

*That this council will continue to work with Wealden District Council and support the draft Wealden Local Plan and actively participate in the HAAP (Hailsham Area Action Plan) subject to the following issues being satisfactorily addressed.*

*a) The A27 Major Road Improvements from Lewes to Polegate being delivered.*

*b) WDC establishing a suitably sized and funded revolving infrastructure fund in order to facilitate the increased demands placed on the area such as (but not limited to) education, health, transport (both road and public), business development, employment, sport, tourism and leisure.*

*c) WDC agreeing to make such amendments to the Wealden Design Guide to enable closer control over specification and design of the proposed housing as would usually be defined within a neighbourhood plan.*

The motion was seconded by Councillor N. Coltman.

Councillors N. Collinson and N. Coltman proposed that this motion be withdrawn.

**RESOLVED** to withdraw motion 156.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.02pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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