



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, on Monday 21st December 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.

The Town Clerk read an email he had received from Ms T. Fowler about the street light that had been removed in Sackville Road for safety reasons. She said that the light should be reinstated as it was particularly dark at night in that area.

Mrs Bulmer spoke in support of the light's reinstatement.

Mrs. C. Berry of Stoney Lane said that it was a concern that many stallholders that attended the street market were unaware of the market dates for 2016.

She was also critical of the cancellation of the street market at the Christmas event and the number of stalls in the replacement venue, the Community and Civic Hall.

HTC/15/
7/225 **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, M. A. Pinkney, J. Puttick, P. D. Soane, C. A. Tasane and C. Triandafyllou.

226 **Officers in Attendance:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), D. Saxby (Burials and Properties Officer) and T. Hall (Communications Officer).

227 **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Mrs M. Burt, G. Moore, Ms A. O'Rawe, Mrs. A Triandafyllou, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten, Miss J. Wells and A Willis.

228 **Hailsham and District Twinning Association**

Mr. K. Townsend, Chairman of the Hailsham and District Twinning Association told members about the history of the Association and its recent work.

Councillor Mrs. L. Collinson said the Association did wonderful work.

Councillor N. Collinson asked about the links with Remshalden in Germany. Mr Townsend said it was not a formal twinning, but a friendship.

229 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs. M. Laxton declared an interest in agenda items 11 – ‘Hailsham Heroes’ Community Awards and 15 – Town Council’s Newsletter as her daughter, Ms Helen Deehan, is involved in both items.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

230.1 Councillor J. Puttick stated that he should be included in the list of councillors sitting on the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee (Minute 219). This was agreed.

230.2 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council (Ref: HTC/15/6/202-224) on 25th November as amended, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

231 Councillor Tasane queried whether the response given to Mrs. Hamilton’s question about a possible housing development on the farmlands near Station Road had been dishonest and misleading. The Chairman said he was unaware of the possible development, although the developers had given a presentation to the Council.

The Chairman said that he had not attended the presentation.

232 Councillor Mrs. Laxton said that the date for the closure of Hailsham East Nursery had been confirmed as 22nd July 2016. This date was not known at the time of Ms Kilshaw and Ms Christmas’s question at the meeting.

234 **Committee and Panel Reports**

RESOLVED, after consideration, to receive the following reports of Committees, to approve and adopt the recommendations contained therein and the actions taken as reported therein.

- A. Finance, Budget and Resources Committee Meeting (11th November 2015)
- B. Planning and Development Committee Meeting (8th December 2015)
- C. Communities Committee Meeting (7th December 2015)

RESOLVED to note the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee Meetings held on 1st December 2015, 2nd December and 9th December 2015

Finance, Budget and Resources Committee – 11th November 2015

235 **Minute 56.6 and 56.7 Accounts and Audit – Budget for 2016-2017**

Councillor Berry said he was unhappy about the recording of the discussion on this agenda item. Three figures for the increase in the precept had been debated. This should be minuted as the people of Hailsham would be aware of the discussion.

Communities Committee – 7th December 2015

236 **Minute 99 – Members of the Public Question Time**

Councillor Berry asked that the hire of the Community and Civic Hall be included in the list of expenditure.

237 Minute108 – Hailsham Forward

Councillor Berry asked what the Hailsham Air Action was. The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager said that it should read Hailsham Area Action Plan.

238 Minute 110 – Christmas Event 2015

Councillor P. Holbrook said that his abstention from voting and Councillor Berry's opposition had not been recorded as requested.

239 Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee meetings.

Councillor Puttick said that Councillor C Triandafyllou was the Vice Chairman of the Sub-Committee, not Councillor Soane.

Councillor N. Collinson said that he and Councillor Coltman were present at the meeting of the Sub-Committee on 1st December 2015.

Councillor N. Collinson said his initials are "N.A." not "N.S." as recorded.

240 **Street Lights**

The Town Clerk referred members to amended officer's report circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Request that East Sussex County Council carry out all recommended repairs and replacements; replacing the removed street lights and columns, those lights and columns that will require replacement within a year; and those that require lamp replacements (with new rather than second hand lamps) and that the replacements should be with energy-saving LED lanterns.
- b) That £23,000 for these works comes from capital reserves (monies from the sale of land).
- c) That a further £6,000 be ring-fenced for street light repairs in the future, from the same monies.

241 **Grass and Hedge Cutting**

The Deputy Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda. The Strategic Projects Committee had asked that the cost and benefits of providing the grass/hedge cutting service in-house be investigated and reported.

RESOLVED that the current contracts for grass cutting and hedge cutting be extended for a further year; and that the Strategic Projects Committee carry out a further review this area of council service over the coming year.

242 **Public Access Defibrillators**

Councillor C. Triandafyllou reported on the background of this item. Four defibrillators had been purchased but there had been a delay in their installation for various reasons.

He said that an additional £550 was needed to install the defibrillator to the external wall of Hailsham East Community Centre.

RESOLVED to allocate £550 from reserves to complete the installation of the defibrillator to Hailsham East Community Centre in the vent of East Sussex County Council not agreeing to meet the costs.

243 **Plan for Festivities and Events**

Councillor Triandafyllou referred members to the report circulated with the agenda

He said that he was asking for an allocation of £15,000 for next year's events according to the costs and descriptions within the report.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Allocate funds of £15,000 as detailed in the report circulated.
- b) Delegate full authority and responsibility to the Communities Committee to implement these events without the requirement for further formal approval by Council, subject to the presentation of a six month progress report at the September Council meeting.

Councillors Berry, Mrs Laxton, Mrs B. Holbrook and P. Holbrook asked that their opposition be recorded.

'Hailsham Heroes' Community Award

244.1 Councillor Mrs. Laxton left the meeting for the duration of discussion of this agenda item.

244.2 The council, at its meeting on 22nd July 2015 had adopted the Strategic Projects Committee's recommendation that the Hailsham Hero award be established and that a Sub-Committee be formed to further develop the idea. Its recommendations were then adopted at the council meeting on 30th September 2015. The Selection Panel to consider nominations was to comprise of three Councillors and two members of the public.

Three members of the public had been nominated or volunteered to sit on the Sub-Committee. They were Ms V. Browne, Mrs. M. Deehan and Ms A. Matthews.

244.3 **RESOLVED**

- To rescind the relevant part of previous resolution (reference; HTC16/3/176.2 – that the selection panel consist of three council members and two members of the public). This resolution was carried by the necessary two thirds majority of members present.

- That the selection panel is made up of the three council members who formed the sub-committee (Cllrs Coltman, P. Holbrook and O’Rawe) and three members of the public; Ms V. Browne, Mrs. H. Deehan and Ms A. Matthews.

245 **Hailsham East Community Centre**

The Town Clerk referred members to the officer’s report as circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED to nominate Hailsham East Community Centre to be registered as an ‘Asset of Community Value’.

246 **Streams Off Butts Fields**

Members were asked to consider a request from members of the public for the Town Council to provide financial help to clear out streams adjacent to Butts Field.

Councillor Berry was concerned about what may be in the streams, i.e. toxic waste.

Councillor Soane said he would be willing the help monitor the situation,

Councillor N. Collinson said that the Council should provide assistance, but not financially. He suggested meeting the costs of skip hire.

RESOLVED that Hailsham Town Council meet the cost of providing one skip to members of the public to clear the streams adjacent to Butts Field, providing that there is confirmation that the operation is legal, access to the privately owned land had been legally granted, and that consultation takes place with Wealden District Council on the possible toxicity of the streams’ contents and any necessary Health and Safety measures were met.

247 **Request From the Women’s Institute**

The Town Clerk reported that he had received a request from the Women’s Institute that the Council consider allowing them to plant an oak tree on its land to mark the WI’s centenary, preferably at the Common Pond. This was to be fully funded by the Women’s Institute,

RESOLVED to agree to the Women’s Institute’s request to plant an oak tree on the land around the Common Pond, with a plaque to mark the centenary

Town Council’s Newsletter

248.1 Councillor Mrs M. Laxton left the meeting for the duration of discussion on this agenda item.

The Public Information Officer reported that there had been a large number of suggestions received for the renaming of the Council’s newsletter.

Following discussion three suggestions were voted on. These were ‘Our Hailsham’, ‘Hailsham Post’ and ‘Hailsham People News’.

On being put to the vote the suggestion of 'Our Hailsham' was declared the winner,

- 248.2 **RESOLVED** that 'Our Hailsham' be the new title of the Hailsham Town Council newsletter.

Bus Shelter in Magham Down

- 249.1 The Council were asked to consider a request from East Sussex County Council to reposition a Town Council owned bus shelter at Magham Down. The reason for this request was to provide adequate visibility at the proposed access into a small residential development at the Red Lion public house.

Councillor N.Collinson was concerned that the repositioning of the bus shelter could cause an accident at a nearby junction.

RESOLVED to agree to the request from East Sussex County Council to reposition the Hailsham Town Council owned bus shelter at Magham Down.

- 249.2 Councillors Mrs. L. Collinson and N. Collinson requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

250 **Appointment of External Auditor**

The Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda. Members were asked to consider arrangements for the appointment of the Council's external auditor and whether to opt into the 'sector-led body'.

RESOLVED to 'opt-in' to the Sector-Led Body on the basis that the onus on the Council to provide a panel and engage a properly registered auditor could be onerous and expensive.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

251 Clean for the Queen Scheme

Councillor N. Collinson said that Wealden District Council was proposing a 'Clean for the Queen' scheme in honour of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday next year. Wealden District Council would be producing a pack for volunteers.

252 The Late Councillor Mrs. Stella Henstock

Councillor Mrs. Laxton requested that an item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting asking for ways to mark the contribution made to the community by the late Councillor Mrs. Stella Henstock.

253 Christmas Lights

Councillor Mrs L. Collinson said she had received comments that the horse chestnut tree in the High Street looked more festive with lights in its branches.

The Deputy Town Clerk said that because of the fragility of the tree it was dangerous for the contractor to stand on it to install the lights.

254 Reports to Council

Councillor P. Holbrook requested that reports from the Police, Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council be considered for future Council agendas or be circulated to the council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.06pm.

CHAIRMAN

Global/Minutes and Agendas/DS/ HTC Minutes 21st December 2015