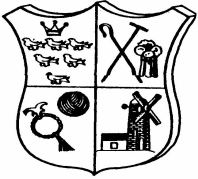


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

STRATEGIC PROJECTS COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Strategic Projects Committee held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham, on Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 7.30 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.

SPC/7/16/67

Mr T. Lions of Stephenson Close addressed the Committee about the proposed football pitch on the Welbury Meadows Estate, stating that he did not consider this area to be an appropriate place for a football pitch. He questioned why the residents had not been consulted on this matter. He raised concerns over the goal posts, stating that they will be very close to the houses here.

Mr J. West, also a resident of the Welbury Farm Estate, advised that the proposed pitch is too close to the pond.

J. Harrison advised that a football pitch has been allocated for this site for a number of years, since it was originally agreed to build a community hall and recreation ground on this site. He stated that there will be a fence at the back of the pitch to protect the houses.

Councillor P. Holbrook explained that Wealden District Council will need to sign the site off and ROSPA will need to approve the play areas on site. The community hall and recreation ground will then be offered to the Town Council for adoption.

Mrs C. Forster, a resident of the Welbury Meadows Estate, enquired about the retractable net on the football pitch. She considered this net will not be robust enough to protect the houses, a permanent net is needed here and reported that the football pitch 14 ft nearer to the properties than originally planned. Mrs Forster also stated that the debris has still not been properly cleared from the recreation ground.

Mrs C. Lions of Stephenson Close considered the plans for the football pitch to be dangerous, as the footballs will go in the adjacent pond or sewerage pump. She stated that the fence should be placed around the whole pitch.

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Committee members present

Councillors: Mrs B. Beckett, F. Berry, Mrs L. Collinson, N. Coltman, R. Grocock (Chairman), Mrs B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs S. Van der Geyten (Vice Chairman)

Also present: Councillor Mrs M. Laxton
Mr N. Povey (Hailsham FM)

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings

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Apologies For Absence:

Mrs S. Cottingham

70 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

71 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Strategic Projects Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22nd February were confirmed as a correct record

72 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Strategic Projects Committee on 22nd February 2017**

The new carpet in the cemetery is in place and a new stereo purchased for the chapel

Item 57 - Mrs H. Deehan is liaising with the Works Manager over the wildlife area in Cameron Close play area

Item 63 - J. Harrison advised that the police have some concerns over the permanent opening of the gates in the cemetery and have requested they remain closed for the time being

Item 60 - The repairing of the footpath at the Common Pond was approved by Council. The footpath will also be extended as requested

P. Holbrook asked whether the toilet door at the cemetery had been fixed? J. Harrison said he will look into this.

73 **Town Council Youth Service**

A Joyes presented a report to the Committee on the youth services. He stated that the Youth Café offers advice and support to young people from the ages of 11-17, and often helps and supports young people that are not included or engaged in their communities.

Members were advised that the Youth Café is now open 4 afternoons instead of the previous 3 afternoons and the times are now 3.15 pm – 5.00 pm. Activities such as pool and cookery take place in these afternoons and there has been an increase in attendance since January, although they have a higher attendance of young men than young women.

In the evening the Youth Café is open Monday to Friday from 6.45 – 9.00 pm and the evenings are less structured than the afternoons, with discussions taking place and advice offered to the young people at these sessions. On the request of the Police the Youth Café now opens and closes slightly earlier than in previous years, due to some issues with youths congregating in the Town.

A Joyes advised that the Café does encounter problems, it is sometimes necessary to bar individuals, but if this happens it can be talked through and the individual can be allowed back into the café.

The Friday Night project is now in its 5th year, taking place on approximately 40 Fridays per year and has been very successful. The Youth Café is also open on a Friday night.

PGL weekends also take place once a year and Tesco Supermarket food share scheme donates food to the Youth Café.

The café has 7 staff, 4 of which are volunteers and a Deputy Coordinator has recently been appointed which is proving a success.

Members agreed an update from A. Joyes on the Youth Café could be placed on the Strategic Projects agenda every 6 months. Members agreed that A. Joyes and his team were doing a marvellous job and they thanked them for all their hard work.

74 **Cameron Close Play Area**

J. Harrison advised that Mrs H. Deehan was unable to attend the meeting but read out an email from her. She requested the park is called "Prickle Park". Members discussed the suggested name and considered that "Hedgehog Park" was a more suitable name for the park.

Members discussed whether all proposed events in the play area should be passed through Council? It was agreed that any event proposed should be placed on the Strategic Projects agenda for noting.

75 **Quinnell Drive Play Area**

Councillor M. Laxton addressed the Committee regarding her proposals for some sensory equipment to be placed at the play area and considered this site to be the most appropriate location for the equipment.

Members agreed the equipment was enhancing but disagreed on the location, considering Quinnell Drive play area to be an unsuitable place for the equipment as it is a quiet residential area. Concern was raised that the equipment could be mis-used at night and the noise of the equipment could disturb the residents.

Members discussed Maurice Thornton play area as a possible alternative but agreed that the area was also not suitable as it would not be quiet enough, due to its close proximity to the skate park.

75.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) the installation of sensory equipment at the Quinnell Drive play area cannot be pursued as it is not a suitable location for the equipment
- ii) Councillor S. Van der Geyten will investigate charitable funding for the panels
- iii) The proposal for sensory equipment will be re-considered in the future if a suitable area of land on a new development becomes available
- iv) This item will be placed on every Strategic projects agenda for an update only

Councillor M. Laxton left the meeting

76 **Decriminalisation of Parking/civil parking enforcement**

Members were updated that Wealden District Council is still working on decriminalisation and negotiations will need to take place with East Sussex County Council. This may take two years to organise.

J. Harrison reported that a parking watch scheme is being considered, which involves volunteers placing tickets on cars. If this scheme goes ahead the Police would not be able to assist with any form of action.

77 **Town Council Offices**

At the Full Town Council meeting on 29th March 2017, the Council had agreed to investigate the possibility of re-locating the Town Council offices.

Members agreed to form a working party to discuss the proposal, which would report back to the Strategic Projects Committee.

Councillors N. Coltman, F. Berry and Mrs Collinson volunteered to sit on the working party with Mrs B. Beckett taking Mrs L. Collinson's place in the group if she is not available

78 **Ersham Road Triangle**

A motion to de-register the village green and replace with a roundabout to assist congestion in this area was discussed at the Full Council meeting on 29th March 2017.

Due to their membership of the HAT Committee, Councillors N. Coltman and F. Berry had been approached by a developer who wishes to assist with this issue.

Members agreed that it would be necessary to gain permission from East Sussex County Council for a roundabout in this location

78.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) the Town Clerk contacts Karl Taylor from East Sussex County Council to ask how this proposal is achieved
- ii) the developer is contacted for further discussions

79 **Welbury Farm Community Hall**

Members were advised that Wealden District Council are likely to approve the signing off of the community hall in the next couple of weeks and agreed to form a sub committee to discuss the details of the committed sum and costs of running the hall. Councillors R. Grocock, P. Holbrook, Mrs S. Van der Geyten volunteered to form the sub committee.

79.1 **RESOLVED** that a sub committee is formed comprising of Councillors R. Grocock, P. Holbrook, Mrs S. Van der Geyten to investigate the committed sum and running costs of the community hall and make a recommendation to Council regarding taking over responsibility of the hall

80 **Confidential Business**

To resolve that due to the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and possible disclosure of personal or legal information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E.

2 North Street

To discuss arrangements regarding Hailsham FM occupying the 2 North Street building

Site compound

To consider a request to use Town Council land as a temporary site compound.

The reason for exclusion is:

(b) terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts

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2 North Street

J. Harrison advised that the landlords agents will not change their position on the letting of the property and that the only way for Hailsham FM to let the building is if they sub let from the Town Council. The landlords have also requested that all legal fees are paid by the Town Council. Members were informed that the sub lease will be the full amount of the rent with the Town Council maintaining all liabilities.

RESOLVED to proceed the negotiations for the lease with Hailsham FM and the Landlords Agents

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Site compound

J. Harrison read out an email from Mr Cattamole of South East Water. He advised that the South East Water were requesting a short term lease.

82.1 **RESOLVED** that South East Water are offered a short term lease, subject to a legal agreement

Councillors Mrs S. Van der Geyton and P. Holbrook abstained from voting on the matter

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th June 2017 at 7.30 pm

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities