



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close, Hailsham, on Wednesday 27th September 2017 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 Council, or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities of the Town Council) at the invitation and discretion of the presiding Chairman.

The Chairman apologised that the hearing loop system was not working on this occasion.

Mr, G. Mills, a resident of Hailsham spoke in respect of Hailsham Forward. He said that 10 to 20 per cent. of Hailsham Town Council's precept went on funding Hailsham Forward but had no control over it. He questioned the benefit of Hailsham Forward to the town. He said that the organisation was not transparent. The Town Clerk responded that Hailsham Forward is a town team venture based on the Mary Portas model. The Chairman said that he would ensure that Hailsham Forward is as open as possible.

Mr. Roger Edwards, Branch Manager at Waitrose asked what the Council was doing to increase footfall in the town centre and to increase the number of car parking spaces. Councillor Mrs. Laxton said that the Neighbourhood Planning Committee would be undertaking a survey of car park use and a traffic survey. The Town Clerk suggested that Mr. Edwards get in touch with the Council's Business Enterprise manager.

The Town Clerk read out a letter from Mr. K. Hinton in respect of the Council's proposed Complaints Procedure. The Chairman said Mr. Hinton's comments would be borne in mind when the relevant agenda item was debated later in the meeting.

The Chairman welcomed County Councillors Bowdler and Fox. They spoke in respect of County Council activities, particularly about the proposed highways issues because of the on-going water mains works in and around Diplocks Way.

HTC/
17/2/152

Present: Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, G. Blake-Coggins, T. Burns, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), G. de Jongh, Mrs. M. Laxton, Glenn Moore, Ms A. O'Rawe, M. A Pinkney, C. A. Tasane, C Triandafyllou, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten and A. Willis.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Burns to his first meeting of the Council.

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Officers in Attendance

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs. M Hagger, Mr. D. Saxby and Mr. T. Hall.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors F. Berry Mrs. A. Clarke, Mrs. L. Collinson, N. Collinson, Ms C. Collinson-O'Toole, Mrs. S. Cottingham, R. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Graham Moore and J. Puttick.

154 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Coltman, Ms O'Rawe, Pinkney and Triandafyllou declared an interest in agenda item 13 – Maurice Thornton Playing Field as they are Wealden District Councillors.

155 **South East Water**

The Chairman introduced Mr C. Laming and Mr J Dufour from South East Water, who spoke in respect of the upcoming works in Diplocks Way.

Confirmation of Minutes

156.1 Councillor Mrs. Van Der Geyten stated "Mr" should read "Mrs" in minute 114.3

156.2 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 19th July 2017 (Ref HTC/17/2/129-151), as amended, printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

Committee Reports

157 **RESOLVED**, after consideration in accordance with Standing Order 18(e), to receive the following reports of Committees, to approve and adopt the recommendations contained therein and the actions taken as reported therein.

A. Communities Committee Meeting (30th August 2017)

B. Planning & Development Committee Meetings (18th July, 8th August, 29th August and 19th September 2017)

C. Strategic Projects Committee Meetings (9th August 2017)

D. Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee Meetings (12th July, 26th July and 13th September 2017.

Committee Recommendations

Strategic Projects Committee Meeting – 9th August 2017: Cycle Track

158 The Town Clerk stated that the Strategic Projects Committee at its meeting on 9th August 2017 to recommend to Council that 10 per cent. of the CIL money issued to the Town Council, once the Neighbourhood Plan is in place, is allocated for the cycle track.

Discussion ensued.

RESOLVED to support the principle of cycle paths, but at this point it is premature to allocate funds until full costings are received, taking into account the Neighbourhood Plan and the Wealden Local Plan and funding streams are in place.

Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee Meeting - 12th July 2017: Corporate Assets and Cemetery (Cricket Pavilion)

159 Councillor Glenn Moore declared an interest in this agenda item as he is a member of the Hailsham Cricket Club

The Town Clerk said that this matter went back to 2014 when the Urgency Procedures Committee resolved to offer the Cricket Pavilion to the Cricket Club with a commuted sum of £15,220.00 which includes the sum of £5000 previously allocated to external repairs to the pavilion and £220.00 for the removal of asbestos. This would be for a 50 years lease and with the understanding that the Cricket Club intended to expand the footprint of the building as indicated in previous plans. This would be conditional on the Cricket Club providing suitable building insurance, being responsible for all repairs and maintenance to the building, and the Cricket Club meeting the legal costs of providing the lease.

The Cricket Club had not yet signed the lease.

RESOLVED that the Cricket Club be given a deadline of the end of December 2017 to sign the lease or the offer be withdrawn.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

160 **RESOLVED** to:

a) note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Planning Committee Meetings (13th July and 7th September 2017), and

b) approve the Neighbourhood Plan Committee's delegated authority up to the next Town Council meeting.

Committee Membership

161 Councillor Mrs. Laxton said that she should be on the substitutes' list for the Planning and Development Committee.

Councillor Ms O'Rawe proposed Councillor Burns be a member of the Communities Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- a) Councillor Burns be a member of the Communities Committee.
- b) Councillor Mrs. Laxton be a substitute for the Planning & Development Committee.
- c) Councillor Pinkney be a member of Planning & Development Committee, and
- d) Councillor Willis be a member of the Communities Committee

Complaints Procedure

162.1 The Town Clerk introduced this item and stated that the draft Complaints Procedure as circulated with the agenda was in line with other councils' Complaints Procedures and based on NALC guidelines. The Chairman reminded the Council of Mr. Hinton's comments s read out at the beginning of the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Laxton said that she had a number of amendments and these were accepted.

162.2

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the draft Complaints Procedure incorporating Councillor Mrs Laxton's amendments as appended to these minutes as HTC/17/2/162A.

Maurice Thornton Playing Field

163.1

The Town Clerk reported that Wealden District Council had advised that it intended to increase the rent for the Maurice Thornton Playing Field from £750 per annum to £3,500 per annum.

163.2

RESOLVED to offer Wealden District Council £1,000 per annum in rent for the Maurice Thornton Playing Field and ask for terms for transferring the land to Hailsham Town Council; and to set up a sub-committee comprising Councillors Blake-Coggins, de Jongh and Mrs. Van Der Geyten.

Confidential Business

164

RESOLVED 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:

12 Committee Recommendation to Council - Strategic Projects Committee Meeting: 9th August 2017 – Ersham Road Triangle

The reason for exclusion is:

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

Strategic Projects Committee: 9th August 2017 – Ersham Road Triangle

165.1

Members were asked to consider the recommendation from the Strategic Projects Committee held on 9th August 2017 (Minute SPC/17/3/26).

165.2

RESOLVED to pursue the recommendation from the Strategic Projects Committee held on 9th August 2017 (Minute SPC/17/3/26).

165.3

This proposal was carried by 10 votes to 2. Councillors Blake-Coggins and Triandafyllou asked that their opposition be recorded.

Councillor's Questions/Information Forum

166

Victoria Gates

The Chairman reported that a meeting on the use of the Victoria gates would be held soon.

167

Hellingly Precept

The Chairman said a meeting had been held with representatives of Hellingly Parish Council on the precept contribution.

168

Venues for Town Council Meetings

The Town Clerk said that he was having difficulties finding alternative venues for future Town Council meetings, but would continue pursuing the matter.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.23pm.

CHAIRMAN