

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 8th August 2018 at 7.30 pm.

SPC/18/2/18

Public Forum

A resident of Holyhead Close spoke in respect of his request to purchase an area of land by his property. He advised he had lived in his property for 8 years and always maintained the area of ditch at the side of his house. He reported that the privacy of his house was lost when 3 trees were felled, and he would now like to purchase the area of land here and place a 6ft fence by the ditch to allow him more privacy.

19

Committee members present

Councillors: F. Berry, N. Coltman, Mrs S. Cottingham, R. Grocock (Vice Chairman), P. Holbrook, S. Potts, C. Tasane, S. Van der Geyten (Chairman)

Other Councillors present: Councillor M. Laxton and Councillor Glenn Moore

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings

20

Apologies For Absence:

Councillor Mrs B. Beckett

21

Declarations of Interest

None were received

22

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councillor Tasane advised that Councillor M. Laxton was present at the last meeting but not noted down as being present or noted as stating she was in favour of the disabled swing in the South Road play area

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Projects Committee held on Wednesday 27th June 2018 (Ref 17/8/1/1-17) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, amended and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

23

To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Strategic Projects Committee on 27th June 2018

23.1

The request to purchase the land at Holyhead Close was on the agenda for discussion

23.2

K. Giddings advised that both gates at the Harold Avenue site now had combination locks on them. She advised they had not been welded on. The Committee requested the locks are welded on

- 23.3 K. Giddings advised that there had been a temporary problem with the water supply to the Harold Avenue site and there had been no water supply to the water troughs for several days. The problem had now been resolved. She thanked Councillor R. Grocock for his help in supplying the site with water from Environment Hailsham's water bowser. Councillor Holbrook also advised that the Fire Brigade had been able to also fill the water troughs on a number of occasions.
- 23.4 Wealden Active had been given permission to hold their activities at the Country Park, which were to be held on a Wednesday for one hour in the afternoon, throughout the school holidays
- 23.5 The Men in Sheds project to be held in Grovelands Barn has been given approval
- 23.6 The "Silent Soldier" proposed to be placed on the boundary of the War Memorial does not require planning permission and the Royal British Legion have confirmed it will be placed here.
- 23.7 The Cricket Club had been advised they can place a white picket fence by the Cricket Pavilion. Councillor Holbrook advised that the contractor cannot cut the hedge due to the new fence. K. Giddings advised she would investigate this matter.
- 23.8 C. Tasane asked for an update on the placing of the disabled swing in the South Road Play Area. K. Giddings reminded the Committee that it had been agreed to place the disabled swing on the site once the new set of bay swings has been installed and the location for the disabled swing can then be agreed.

24 **Confidential Business**

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 are to be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E.

Ersham Road Triangle
Hailsham Cemetery
Purchase of Land

The reason for exclusion is:

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

25 **Ersham Road Triangle**

Mr J. Mellor, a representative from Barton Willmore, addressed the Committee in respect of an update on the de-registration of the Ersham Road Triangle Village Green.

Much discussion ensued. Councillor P. Holbrook enquired whether Barton Willmore will be creating a cycle route and Councillor Glenn Moore asked whether a bicycle repair station could be placed on Barton Willmore's proposed site. Mr Mellor noted these requests.

Mr Mellor left the meeting at 8.00 pm

Councillors Glenn Moore and M. Laxton left the meeting at 8.05 pm

26

Hailsham Cemetery

26.1 Councillor S. Potts addressed the Committee in respect of his report on the Cemetery and made the following recommendations:

Steve Gillet has been asked to generate a list of jobs/activities that need funding and to pass this list to David Saxby. This list then needs to be costed by David and submitted to the Strategic Projects Committee for consideration;

The council needs to have more formal arrangements for use of the Cemetery, perhaps in the form of terms and conditions. These could be printed on the paperwork that is used to reserve a plot or on the Certificate of Internment so that users are in no doubt about what is acceptable;

It is not obvious who is responsible for hedge cutting or weeding. Perhaps the hedge cutting could be added to the contract operated by the council for shrubs/hedges/grass cutting on the land owned by the council;

The new Garden of Remembrance needs a new anti-weed membrane and then considerable tidying up

The dumper should be scrapped

The building that houses the dumper is unsightly and contains asbestos, this should be demolished using an approved contractor for the removal of asbestos;

The unauthorised benches around the Woodland area should be moved to the perimeter to provide facilities for contemplation and the relevant families should be informed of this decision

The toilets need to be improved

The office space needs to be improved

The level of staffing needs consideration to ensure someone is responsible for the condition of the Cemetery on site.

Councillor N. Coltman thanked Councillor Potts for his report

26.2 The Town Clerk advised that he had been waiting to receive the Cemetery Administration Review and now this has been provided the intention is to re-appoint a Cemetery Warden once he has liaised with the Deputy Clerk and Works Supervisor to decide on the details of the role.

26.3 The Town Clerk advised that although the Woodland burial site in the Cemetery is supposed to be a natural area, free from additional embellishments, a number of benches and trees have been placed on the site and a complaint has been received from one of the owners of a plot on the site who is unhappy that items have been placed here

Due to the complaint, a sign has now been placed on the site asking for benches and any additional trees/plants to be removed and in response to this a petition has now been received from one of the plot holders, asking the Council not to remove their bench from

this area

26.4 Much discussion ensued and the Committee requested that a list of rules and regulations for the woodland burial site are completed as soon as possible and any resident wishing to purchase a plot of land on the woodland burial site must sign an agreement when they purchase a plot here.

26.5 **RESOLVED:**

- i) To undertake the recommendations proposed in Councillor Pott's report
- ii) The existing unauthorised benches are moved to the perimeter of the area and the relevant families are informed of the decision

26.6 Cemetery Administration Report

A report on the Cemetery had been compiled by Mr G. Fairbairn, Corporate Services Manager at Burgess Hill Town Council. The Town Clerk advised he intends to implement every point and recommendation in the report.

The Committee requested a letter of thanks is sent to Mr Fairbairn.

27 **Leasing of Land**

At the previous meeting the Committee asked the Town Clerk to contact the resident to enquire as to whether he would consider leasing instead of purchasing the land.

Members were informed that the resident of Holyhead Close has advised he still wishes to buy and not lease, the land in question. Much discussion ensued, and members agreed they were not in favour of the resident placing a fence on the site.

27.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) A seven-year lease is offered to the resident but permission is not given to erect a fence here. The land to only be leased to the resident, not the property, and if he sells the property the lease is removed from the site
- ii) The Town Clerk to approach the District Valuer to obtain the best price for the land
- iii) The lease to be registered with the Land Registry
- iv) If the resident wishes to lease the land he must pay all legal costs and cover the costs of the land valuation
- v) The resident must maintain the ditch area

Councillor S. Potts abstained from voting as he lives in a neighbouring property to the resident

27.2 The Town Clerk suggested the Council have a policy which states that the Council does not sell or lease small parcels of land to individuals. He advised he will draw up a policy for the Committee to consider

28 **Youth Café**

A Joyes report was noted

The Committee requested to know why a drop in female attendance to the youth café had occurred and the reasons why an increase in street violence had occurred in the area.

A Joyes and his team were thanked for their hard work.

29 **Grass Cutting**

29.1 The Town Clerk updated members that the extra cut on the 20th August was due to be undertaken.

29.2 Councillor Berry and N. Coltman advised that both the grass verge at Stoney Lane and on the left-hand entrance to Marshfoot Lane had not been cut. The Town Clerk advised he will inform East Sussex County Council of this.

29.3 The Town Clerk advised that a resident of Hailsham, Ms T. Fox, had sent in a survey and offered some suggestions of areas that could be left as a wild flower meadow.

The Town Clerk reported the had met with James Newmarch of East Sussex County Council Asset Management Team, alongside Councillor S. Van der Geyten and the Deputy Town Clerk, to discuss where several wildflower verges can be located. A list is required by the end of the year and members agreed to contact Ms T. Fox and members of the public for their suggestions as well as Environment Hailsham

It was agreed to invite Ms Fox to attend a meeting to discuss the wildflower areas further.

29.4 **RESOLVED** to liaise with Ms. T. Fox, members of the public, Environment Hailsham and East Sussex County Council to organise a list of suggested areas that could be left as wild flower meadows

30 **Western Road Recreation Ground**

A request had been received to hold a vegan “Kind Heart Festival” on Western Road Recreation Ground. A small procession was also planned from the High Street to the Recreation Ground, prior to the event.

Members were agreeable to the request providing a road closure had not been organised for the procession, the site is left clean and tidy after the event and that a deposit from the event organiser.

Councillor Coltman abstained from voting

30.1 **RESOLVED** to agree to the request to hold a “Kind Heart Festival” on the Recreation Ground on 6th October 2018, providing no road closure had been applied for, for the procession

31 **Advertising Boards**

Members were advised that the Healthy Living Club Committee were organising the Hailsham Model Railway show again and had asked whether they could place advertising boards on Western Road Recreation Ground and the Battle Road Allotments

31.1 **RESOLVED** to allow the request by the Healthy Living Club Committee to place advertising boards on Western Road Recreation Ground and the Battle Road Allotments

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th October 2018 at 7.30 pm

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities