



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at, Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Hailsham, on Wednesday 18th July 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

HTC/1/18
128 **Public Question Time**

Mr D. Mander presented a petition to the Council relating to grass cutting. He stated that the junctions, verges and roundabouts were not being maintained to a proper standard and advised he had recently had a near collision when driving, as his vision was restricted due to the high grass on the Gleneagles roundabout. He considered it to be the responsibility of both the County Council and local Councils to provide the residents with a decent service in respect of grass cutting. Mr Mander requested a letter be sent to East Sussex County Council in respect of the grass cutting.

The Town Clerk read out a letter from a resident of Hailsham, in which a request was made for some of the grass verges to be cut only twice a year, to allow the wild flowers to grow.

The Town Clerk read a letter from Ms Fellingham in respect of the recently installed bollards in Hailsham High Street. Mrs Fellingham was opposed to the new bollards and had started a petition asking for the bollards to either be removed or re-positioned as she considered they are not disabled friendly. Ms Fellingham advised that she uses a mobility scooter and has found that at some points in the High Street the bollards make it very difficult for two mobility scooters to pass.

Councillor Coltman stated that he also uses a mobility scooter and advised he can park in between 2 bollards therefore allowing two mobility scooters to pass in the High Street. He considered that more time is needed to ascertain whether any changes need to be made to the bollards.

The Town Clerk read an email from Mr Ford regarding the bollards and planters in the High Street. Mr Ford considered that the bollards were placed too far apart and he was not in favour of the placing of the planters outside the Chapter 12 Wine Bar. The Town Clerk advised that the location of the planters and bollards was approved by Full Council.

Mr Powis stated that there is often a conflict of interest with Councillors that sit on both Wealden District Council and Hailsham Town Council and Councillors can sometimes find themselves in a difficult position.

129 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, F. Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, T. Burns, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, G. De Jongh, R. T. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, Glenn Moore, Graham Moore, Ms. A O'Rawe. S. Potts, C. A. Tasane, C Triandafyllou, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten and A Willis.

130 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Ms M. Foster, Mrs. K Giddings and Mr. T. Hall.

131 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs A. Clarke, Mrs. C. V. Collinson-O'Toole, M. A Pinkney, J. Puttick

132 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

133 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman advised that the speed bumps in Hailsham High Street have now been repaired without causing too much disruption in the Town.

The Town Council is working with the Church to permanently open the Victoria Gates and place three removable bollards in this location.

The Town Clerk advised that Wealden District Council have confirmed that from May 2019 the number of Hailsham Town Councillors will reduce from 24 Councillors to 18 Councillors

134 **Grass Cutting Savings**

Members were asked to further consider the issues regarding grass cutting savings in Hailsham following the reduction in annual cuts by East Sussex County Council.

Councillor Mrs Laxton proposed the following motion:

I propose that the members of this council reconsider its collective stance on the ESCC grass cutting contract.

Since the practicality of only two cuts a year is now very evident around our town and community making it look unkempt and unsightly. I propose that we take back full responsibility for this service.

Finances previously ring-fenced for the post office could be used for a new grass cutting contract.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Glenn Moore.

Much discussion ensued and the Town Clerk advised that the possibility of taking back the responsibility for the grass cutting is not an option at the current time as the grass cutting has already been agreed and allocated to contractors.

The two current options are:

- i) The Town Council to hire their own contractor to cut the grass and work around the East Sussex Council contractors
- ii) East Sussex Council are requested to organise their contractor to carry out the work.

The Town Clerk stated that East Sussex Council have indicated they are not confident their existing contractor will be able to fit in an additional cut, due to a high level of work load.

Councillor M. Laxton and G. Moore agreed to withdraw the wording of the motion and a second revised motion was proposed.

134.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) A further cut is requested by East Sussex County Council for this season, the cost for the extra cut to be taken from Historical Reserves
- ii) The Town Council to negotiate the grass cutting contract with East Sussex County Council for 2019 and all the information for proposals for next year's cut to be considered by the Strategic Projects Committee and referred to Full Council
- iii) To delegate the review of the wild flower meadows and verges to the Strategic Projects Committee

This was the rescinding of a previous resolution within 6 months that required a two thirds majority and was voted for unanimously

135 **Confirmation of Minutes**

Councillor S. Van der Geyten advised she is not linked to Union Corner Hall.

135.1 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 23rd May 2018 (Ref HTC/AM18/100-127), as amended, printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

136 **Square Youth Café**

The Youth Project Co-ordinator, Mr Andy Joyes had prepared a report requesting funding for redecoration and modernisation to 1 Market Square to make it accessible as a 'Safe Hub' for young people under the influence of drink or other substances.

Mr Joyes addressed the meeting. He advised he has submitted bids for funding and was asking for a sum of £3,000 from the Town Council, to convert an area separate to the café area, where a young person who may be under the influence and vulnerable can be allowed to recover in a safe place.

N. Coltman praised Andy Joyes and his team for their remarkable service and considered the Youth Café to be a very important facility.

136.1 **RESOLVED** to fund £3,000 to the Youth Café for the creation of a "Safe Hub". Funds to be taken from historical reserves.

137 **Committee Recommendations to Council**

Members were asked to consider the following recommendations made by committees, which were outside of their terms of reference or were otherwise resolved as recommendations to full council:

138 **Strategic Projects Committee Meeting - 27th June 2017: South Road Play Area**

RESOLVED to recommend to Council to:

- i) purchase a wheel chair swing, at a cost in the region of £16,000, with the funds to

- be taken from the Ripleys Capital receipts.
- ii) To agree the location of the wheel chair swing once the set of bay swing has been installed in the South Road Play area

The Council discussed the source of funding for the swing and they resolved to amend the motion to:

138.1 **RESOLVED** to:

- i) approve the installation of a wheel chair swing at South Road Play Area, at a cost of £16,000, funding to be taken from received Community Infrastructure Levy funds
- ii) the final style of the wheel chair swing to be approved by the Town Clerk

Councillor F. Berry abstained from voting

139 **Strategic Projects Committee Meeting – 27th June 2018: Grovelands Barn**

RESOLVED to recommend to Council:

To agree to the installation of lighting at Grovelands Barn at a cost of £2306, to be taken from the Commuted Contingency Fund

139.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation

140 **Communities Committee Meeting – 2nd July 2018: Hailsham Street Market**

RESOLVED to recommend to Council to allocate £4,500 from the revitalisation budget to invest in the Hailsham Street Market

140.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation

Councillors F. Berry, S. Van der Geyten and A. O’Rawe abstained from voting

141 **Strategy Committee – 9th July 2018: Community Infrastructure Levy**

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to council:

Three items that should be brought forward as options for CIL funded projects, for further consideration, costing and prioritisation are to be:

- Further development and enhancement of the Town Council’s main play area at the Western Road Recreation Ground.
- Enhanced facilities for sport at the Maurice Thornton Playing Field, including potential development or rebuilding of the Pavilion.
- The provision of ‘Changing Places’ facilities at the Welbury Farm (James West) Community Centre and in the town centre, probably through the provision of stand-alone ‘pods’.

141.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation

142 **Strategy Committee – 9th July 2018: Town Council Strategy Plan**

The committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to council that the timeframe for the Independent Staffing review should be October 2019.

142.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation

143 **The Committee RESOLVED** to recommend to council that three projects in the Council's Strategic Plan that should be brought forward to be implemented this municipal year should be:

- Develop 'tea with the mayor' style surgeries for local people.
- Investigating the feasibility of providing a better town council base and community facility for the town.
- Attempt to sell off areas of unused land.

143.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation

Councillor F. Berry voted against the recommendation

144 **Neighbourhood Plan Committee**

RESOLVED to:

a) note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Planning Committee Meeting (7th June 2018), and

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

145 **CIL Expenditure**

Members were referred to the CIL Guidance for Town and Parish Councils circulated with the agenda.

145.1 **RESOLVED** for the Strategy Committee to make recommendations for the allocation of CIL funding to Full Council for approval

146 **Town Council Premises Working Group**

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

Members agreed to form a Working Group Sub Committee which would report to the Strategy Committee. The Working Group may co-opt any further members as necessary.

146.1 **RESOLVED** to appoint a Working Group Sub Committee reporting to the Strategy Committee, consisting of Councillors A. O'Rawe, N. Coltman, M. Laxton, F. Berry, Glenn Moore and P. Holbrook

147 **Great British High Street Awards**

Members were referred to the paper provided by the Great British High Street organisation that had been circulated with the agenda. Members had been asked if they wanted to enter the Great British High Street Awards 2018.

Members were in favour of entering the competition and Councillor N. Coltman suggested the Town Council requests some guidance from Wealden District Council in how to apply for the award.

147.1 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham High Street is entered into the Great British High Street Awards, under the Rising Star category

Councillor C. Tasane voted against the resolution

148 **Hailsham Town Centre - Installation of Bollards and Pole Planters**

Members were asked to consider alterations to the scheme for the installation of bollards and pole planters in the town centre.

Members were advised that at a request by the Church, East Sussex County Council have approved the installation of three removable bollards outside the Victoria Gates.

The cost of the removable bollards will be £1,300. The Church have agreed to pay half of the cost of these removable bollards.

Members were informed that the Church will hold a key to the removable bollards

148.1 **RESOLVED** to install the three removable bollards outside the Victoria Gates, at a cost of £1300, with £650 taken from the Contingency Fund and the remainder of the cost for the bollards supplied by Hailsham Parish Church

149 **Standing Orders**

The Town Clerk stated that the Council is required to review its Standing Orders annually. To this end copies of NALC Model Standing Orders and the Hailsham Town Council current Standing Orders. This item had been deferred from the Annual Meeting to reflect the GDPR legislation.

149.1 **RESOLVED** that Council adopt the following amendments to its current Standing Orders, based on additions or amendments to the NALC Standing Orders:

- Addition and adoption of NALC Model SO 11 “Management of Information” (see page 17 of NALC Model Standing Orders).
- Addition and adoption of NALC Model SO 20 “Responsibilities to Provide Information” (see page 26 of NALC Model Standing Orders) - in place of HTC SO 21 (see page 21 of HTC Standing Orders).
- Addition and adoption of NALC Model SO 21 “Responsibilities Under Data Protection Legislation” (see page 26 of NALC Model Standing Orders).
- Addition and adoption of NALC Model SO 18. f. and g. (Under “Financial

Controls and Procurement” on page 24-25 of NALC model Standing Orders) - in place of HTC SO 18.g (Page 20-21 of HTC Standing orders).

150 **Wealden District Council Local Plan**

The Chairman referred members to the officer’s report circulated with the agenda.

Once the Wealden Local Plan as approved by Wealden District Council is published, there will be a consultation period, therefore, Hailsham Town Council needed to determine its approach in responding to this consultation.

Councillor S. Van der Geyten proposed a sub group be formed to consider a response to the Wealden Local Plan.

Councillor M. Laxton advised that the Neighbouring Plan Committee composed a response to the original plan and she asked if the basis of that response could be used in the current response.

150.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) a Sub Group is appointed from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and the Planning Committee, to form a response to Wealden District Council’s Local Plan. The Sub Group to consist of Councillors M. Laxton, Glenn Moore and F. Berry.
- ii) The Sub Group’s response to be taken to Full Council for approval

151 **Committee Membership**

The Town Clerk reported that the Conservative Group is now over represented by one seat.

Members were asked to agree the following amendments to the council’s committee membership:

Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee:

Councillor A. O’Rawe to replace M. Pinkney, Councillor B. Holbrook to replace F. Berry. Councillor B. Holbrook is therefore no longer a sub for this Committee

Communities Committee – Councillors S. Potts to replace Councillor A. O’Rawe

152 Councillors G. Blake Coggins, C. Triandafyllou, B. Beckett and A’ O’Rawe left the meeting at 9.40 pm

153 **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 be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders No. 1E:

18 Hailsham Post Office

19 Land Holdings

The reason for exclusion is:

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

154 **Hailsham Post Office**

The Town Clerk updated members on the position in relation to the takeover of the Hailsham Post Office.

The Town Clerk informed members that a proposal has been submitted to the Council by Pipers Ltd, the current owner of the Post Office franchise

154.1 **RESOLVED** to:

- i) reject Piper's Ltd proposal
- ii) set up a Community Interest Company for the potential of running the Post Office if necessary

155 **Land Holdings**

Members were asked to further consider the issue of areas of land previously identified for potential sale. They were referred to the officer's report circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Glenn Moore advised that much research needs to be undertaken before any land can be considered, covenants and services need to be investigated before any decisions can be made. All members agreed to discuss the matter further once the investigative work has been completed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.12 pm.

CHAIRMAN