



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at, Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Hailsham, on Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 7.30 p.m.

Public Question Time

Before the beginning of the formal business of the meeting, fifteen minutes had been set aside to allow members of the public to address the Council or ask questions (on matters relevant to the Town Council), at the invitation and discretion of the Chairman.

Mr D Piper updated the meeting on the latest position on Hailsham Post Office.

Mr S Wennington from Hailsham Active thanked the Council for supporting the keep fit sessions at Western road Recreation Ground.

HTC/3/18
/174 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, G. Blake-Coggins, T. Burns, Mrs A Clarke, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, G. De Jongh, R. T. Grocock, Mrs, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, Graham Moore, Glenn Moore, M. Pickney, S. Potts, C. Triandafyllou, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten and A Willis.

175 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Ms M. Foster and Mr. D. Saxby.

176 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors F Berry, Ms A. O'Rawe, J Puttick and C Tasane.

177 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

178 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman said that he was grateful that so many councillors and members of the public attended the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial on 11th November, particularly as it commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The Chairman was sorry to report the passing of Paul Tack, who has been an active member of the community, particularly in Hailsham East.

179 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes and reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 26th September 2018 (Ref HTC/18/2/156-173), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

180 **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:

Communities Committee – 1st October 2018 – Street Markets

181.1 The Communities Committee had resolved to recommend to Council that £1,500 to allow for pitch loss when offering traders free stalls for the market in January, February and March 2019.

181.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate £1,500 from the Revitalisation Fund to allow for pitch loss when offering traders free stalls for the market in January, February and March 2019.

181.3 Councillors Mrs Laxton and Glenn Moore requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

Strategic Projects Committee – 17th October 2018 – James West Community Centre

182.1 Members had been advised that a number of issues with the James West Centre had become apparent since it opened in June 2018. Other issues were still outstanding, and it was estimated that £20,000 was needed to remedy the situation.

182.2 **RESOLVED** that up to £20,000 be taken from the Commuted Sum Account for the following work to be undertaken at the James west Centre:

- a) To provide screening to the window in the lobby of the Centre.
- b) To part fund a defibrillator.
- c) To fund an acoustic survey
- d) To provide an acoustic solution to the building.

182.3 Councillor Mrs Laxton requested that her abstention from voting be recorded.

Strategic Projects Committee 17th October 2018 – Western Road Recreation Ground

183.1 Members were asked to further consider the proposed scheme of a network of cycling/walking/running paths at Western Road Recreation Ground

Members were reminded that at a meeting of the Town Council on 19th July 2017 the Council agreed to enter into a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust for the Western Road Recreation Ground and to work with Hailsham Active to apply for a £5,000 grant for a physical activity project.

If this was successful it was further agreed to work with Hailsham Active to secure a £25,000 capital grant to help create part of the proposed network of cycling/walking/running paths in Western Road Recreation Ground.

In 2017 the Council resolved in principle to support the paths and to fully or partly fund the scheme from Community Infrastructure Levy funding, pending the outcome of any discussions with Wealden District Council regarding Section 106 payments.

Unfortunately, the bid for £25,000 was unsuccessful.

The Town Clerk advised that the total cost of the project was in the region of £146,000 and the Town Council has received Community Infrastructure Levy payments of £329,502.43 to date.

So far Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure has been allocated for a wheel chair swing at Western Road Play Area, projects at Western Road Play Area and Maurice Thornton Playing Field, and facilities at Welbury Farm and the Town Centre.

Members were told that S. Wennington had stated that he was confident he could get some support from local businesses to help fund the maintenance of the paths.

Members asked for clarification on where the path will be placed in relation to the cricket score box. The Town Clerk advised he would look into this.

183.2 **RESOLVED** to fully support the design and layout of the proposed project for the Western Road Recreation Ground, with the caveat that the cricket score box situation is clarified by Mr S. Wennington; and this be funded from Section 106 monies if possible.

183.2 Councillor P Holbrook requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

184.1 Councillor Glenn Moore updated the meeting on the ramifications of the recent High Court decision on the need to carry out impact assessment. Wealden District Council were planning to have the Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan ready for inspection in spring 2019.

184.2 **RESOLVED** to:

a) note the Councillor Glenn Moore's update, and

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

South Road Play Area

185.1 At the meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 18th July 2018, the council considered a recommendation from the Strategic Projects Committee Meeting (27th June 2018) to install a Wheelchair Swing at the South Road Play area and resolved as follows:

185.2 **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.*

(Minute Reference HTC/1/18/138.1)

185.3 The plan had been to install the wheelchair swing immediately adjacent to the existing play area, along the outside of the existing boundary fence. However, it has come to light that a drain runs alongside the boundary fence of the existing play area. This

means that the play area could not be extended and because of the condition of the drain, the wheelchair swing cannot be installed as previously planned. It would therefore be necessary to remove existing equipment in order to install the wheelchair swing

On 14th November 2018 Council officers and Cllrs Mary Laxton (original proposer of the wheelchair swing), Stella Van Der Geyten (Chair of Strategic Projects Committee) and Richard Grocock (Vice Chair of Strategic Projects) met on site to discuss alternatives and agreed to present an alternative proposal to the council.

It was proposed that a more holistic review of the facilities at the South Road Play Area be undertaken, to include an element of public consultation, to decide what new equipment and other amendments to implement at the playground, including disabled accessible play equipment.

Required elements of the review will include:

- Additional public benches (and other furniture) in the playground
- Widening of the gate at the north side of the playground to ensure it is wheelchair accessible
- A request is made to East Sussex County Council Highways for one or more disabled parking bays on Western Road as close to the entrance as possible
- More accessible play equipment, with costed choices presented to the public for consideration
- The removal of the roundabout currently on the playground in anticipation of the outcome of this review
- The removal of the see-saw and 'rocket' from the centre of the playground, which are old and due for removal or replacement
- The potential removal, and installation elsewhere, of the slide and climbing frame from the south end of the playground, which are nevertheless in a good state of repair and relatively new
- Not to remove the swings which have very recently been installed.
-

Resurfacing of the playground as required according to equipment decided on.

185.4

RESOLVED that:

- a) a holistic review of the facilities at the South Road Play Area be undertaken, to include an element of public consultation, to decide what new equipment and other amendments to implement at the playground, including disabled accessible play equipment.
- b) not to purchase and install a wheelchair swing as previously resolved, pending the outcome of the review of South Road Play Area. This is the rescission of a previous resolution (made 18th July 2018) that requires a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

- c) pending the outcome of the meeting with Wealden District Council and any further discussions, meetings or agreements regarding available Section 106 monies, council revisits the review of the South Road Play Area at the next suitable full council meeting, in order to determine and initiate the project, including a defined budget, defined outcomes, timescales and issues and elements of the project that must be considered.

186 **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:

8 Transfer of Land

9 Lease of Town Council Owned Building

10 Hailsham Post Office

The reason for exclusion is:

(b) terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts and engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees.

Transfer of Land

187.1 The Town Clerk explained the background to this agenda item. Wealden District Council had written exploring the possibility of selling the land currently owned by WDC and leased to Hailsham Town Football Club, to Hailsham Town Council.

187.2 **RESOLVED** that

Hailsham Town Council makes an offer to Wealden District Council for the land.

Lease of Town Council Owned land

188.1 The Town Clerk stated that Hailsham Town Council owns the freehold interest in (the first and second floor) of the One Market Square Property. This is subject to a long leasehold interest in favour of Clarion Housing pursuant to a lease made between the Town Council and Downland Housing Society Limited, for a period of 99 years from and including 20th March 1998.

Downland Housing Society Limited (formerly part of Affinity Sutton Homes Limited) is now part of Clarion Housing Association Limited, which is in turn part of the Clarion Housing Group.

Clarion Housing Association Limited had recently entered into discussions with YMCA Downlink Group with a view to assigning the Lease to the YMCA so as to enable them to continue to provide the current level of service and accommodation

at the property.

RESOLVED to agree to YMCA Downslink Group (YMCA DLG) purchasing the lease from Clarion subject to the conditions:

Hailsham Post Office

189.1 The Town Clerk updated members on latest developments in respect of the post office.

At the meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 10th January, information was presented to Council with the calculated net cost to run the Post Office. The Post Office had now indicated that the projected income for post office had now been revised.

Members were asked to consider whether the Council should still be prepared to apply for the Post Office franchise in light of the new information.

RESOLVED to

- 189.2
- a) continue with the bid to gain the franchise of Hailsham Post Office,
 - b) approve the revised figures from the Post Office,
 - c) set up a working party to comprise of Councillors Collinson, P. Holbrook, Triandafyllou, Mrs van Der Geyten and Willis to assist the Town Clerk in pursuing the bid, and
 - d) issue a press release explaining the delay in the process.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

CHAIRMAN