



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Hailsham East Community Centre, Hailsham, on Wednesday 24th January 2018 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 Town Clerk read a letter received from Mr L Keeley about schools in Hailsham. It was agreed to note Mr Keely's comments.

Four members of the public, including one who had her business premises broken into, commented on the lack visible policing in Hailsham. A question was asked about CCTV cameras, particularly were they working.

HTC/17/4 /203 **Present:** Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, F. Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, Mrs. A. Clarke, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, R. T. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton Ms. A. O'Rawe M. A Pinkney, J. Puttick, C Triandafyllou, Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten and A. Willis.

204 **Officers in Attendance**

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

205 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Glenn Moore, Graham Moore and Tasane.

206 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

207 **Policing**

The Chairman introduced Chief Inspector Anita Turner.

CI Turner said she was pleased to be invited to the meeting and explained the background to the policing reductions and how this has changed policing across the county. She spoke about the reductions in PCSO numbers and how this affected towns such as Hailsham.

She was aware of the public concerns over the perceived increase in crime, particularly burglary and car crime. She said that five people were now in custody in connection with this.

Councillor Pinkney said that he was concerned that illegal parking in Hailsham was going unpoliced, thereby giving people freedom to park in antisocial ways.

Councillor P. Holbrook asked what was the reduction levels of PCSOs in the Sussex Police area over the past 18 months? CI Turner replied that it was in the region of 50 per cent.

Councillor Collinson said he was concerned that Wealden paid the most towards Sussex Police, but most police resources went to the bigger towns and cities such as Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings.

Confirmation of Minutes

Councillor Mrs Van Der Geyten said that Minute 182.1 should read 2017, not 2018

208 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 22nd November 2017, as printed and circulated and amended, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

209 **RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 10th January 2018, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

Committee Reports

210 **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 Meetings (4th December 2017 and 8th January 2018)

B. Planning & Development Committee Meetings (21st November 2017, 12th December 2017, 19th December 2017 and 9th January 2018)

C. Strategic Projects Committee Meeting (13th December 2017)

Committee Recommendations

211.1 **Strategic Projects Committee Meeting – 13th December 2017: Hailsham Active Update**

At the meeting of the Strategic Projects Committee on 13th December it was:

RESOLVED to recommend to Council:

i) to change the wording of the previous resolution to now state:

“To provide £2000 worth of pitch maintenance primarily to improve drainage and performance by a mixture of earth quaking, verti draining, weed killing, fertilising, seed drilling and any other proven methods for the improvement of grass for maximising the use of the recreation grounds”

ii) to include Western Road Recreation Ground in the drainage scheme, alongside

211.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the recommendation from the Strategic Projects

i) to change the wording of the previous resolution to now state:

To provide £2000 worth of pitch maintenance primarily to improve drainage and performance by a mixture of earth quaking, verti draining, weed killing, fertilising, seed drilling and any other proven methods for the improvement of grass for maximising the use of the recreation grounds”

ii) to include Western Road Recreation Ground in the drainage scheme, alongside Maurice Thornton Playing Field and Beaconsfield.

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

212 **Strategic Projects Committee Meeting – 13th December 2017: Welbury Farm Community Hall**

RESOLVED that the restrictive covenants placed on the Community Hall are accepted.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

213 **RESOLVED** to:

a) note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Planning Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2017 and 4th January 2018, and

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

Neighbourhood Plan Committee Recommendation to Council – Meeting held on 4th January 2018

214.1 At the meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee held on the 4th January 2018 the following resolution was made:

Resolved to recommend writing formally to Wealden District Council requesting that Hailsham Town Council is kept informed of their plans for the Vicarage Field shopping precinct.

The Town Clerk stated that the Director of Legal Services at Wealden District Council had verbally agreed that he was prepared to do this.

214.2 **RESOLVED** to write formally to Wealden District Council requesting that Hailsham Town Council is kept informed of their plans for the Vicarage Field shopping precinct.

215 **Street Lighting**

Maintenance Agreement

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

RESOLVED to agree to sign the revised Maintenance Agreement for Hailsham Town Council owned lights with East Sussex County Council at a cost of £13,409.

SOX Lamp Replacements

216.1 The Chairman invited Mr E Ware from East Sussex County Council to address the meeting.

Mr Ware said that the current orange SOX lamps are being phased out of production with the result that it is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain replacement lamps. Within 12 months orders may not be fulfilled.

Hailsham had a stock of approximately 369 SOX lanterns. He suggested two options for their replacement.

The first was second-hand Sapphire aluminium lanterns with a new LED light. The total cost of these lanterns would be £36,900. However, these lanterns had been stored outside and would not be in the best condition.

The second option would be new replacement Quantum Lamps which were relatively low-cost with new and much brighter LED bulbs. The cost of these lamps would be £92,250.

216.2 **RESOLVED** to

a) replace the existing 369 SOX lanterns with new replacement Quantum lamps at a total cost of £92,250. This would be spread over the next five years.

b) Allocate £23,062.50 from the Community Contingency Fund for 2018/19 and build the remainder into the Budget from 2019/20 for the next four years.

Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel 2018/19

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

The Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel for 2018/19 recommended an increase of 2% to all basic and chairman's allowances meaning that as Hailsham Town Council remains in band level 3, the basic allowance would rise to £1,261 pa and the Chairman's allowance would rise to £1,741 pa. There would also be increases to travelling allowances and subsistence allowances.

On being put to the vote it was agreed to accept the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2018/19, in its entirety by 16 votes to 3.

217.2 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2018/19, as appended to these minutes as HTC/17/4/217A.

217.3 Councillors J Puttick, Ms A O'Rawe and Mrs S Van der Geyten requested that their opposition to the resolution be recorded.

Committee Membership

218.1 The Town Clerk reported that he had received a request from Councillor P. Holbrook

that he replace Councillor Graham Moore on the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee.

- 218.2 **RESOLVED** that Councillor P. Holbrook replaces Councillor Graham Moore on the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee.

General Data Protection Regulations

- 219 **RESOLVED** to note the information provided by NALC on the General Data Protection Regulations and its implications for the Town Council.

210 **Councillor Mrs. A Clarke**

Councillor Mrs A. Clarke left the meeting at 9.17pm.

211 **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, item 14 of this agenda be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E:

14 Hailsham Post Office

Hailsham Post Office

- 212.1 The Chairman directed members to the officer's report sent on 23rd January.

Members were concerned that a town the size of Hailsham should have a post office and would do what was necessary to retain it, although the existing premises were not viable should Hailsham Town Council bid to take over the franchise.

- 212.2 **RESOLVED** to put a budget in place to ensure that the Post Office remains in Hailsham. To this end £45,000 be allocated in 2018/19 budget and up to £60,000 from Capital Reserves for fitting out new premises.

Councillor Berry requested that his opposition to the resolution be recorded. Councillors Mrs B. Holbrook and P Holbrook requested that their abstention from voting be recorded.

Precept 2018-2019

- 213.1 The Chairman of the Finance, Budget Resources and Staffing Committee (Councillor Triandafyllou) proposed that the precept for 2018/19 be increased by 9.5 per cent. This equated to an increase of £12.02 per household, per year in order to meet increasing costs (including up to £45,000 for taking over the Hailsham Post Office franchise) and a reducing grant from Wealden District Council.

- 213.2 **RESOLVED** to:

a) approve the budget of £1,042.402, and to increase the Hailsham Town Council part of the council tax by 9.5% from £126,53 to £138,55 as set out in the officers' report circulated with the agenda and as Appendix HTC/17/4/213 to these minutes.

b) that Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £1,012,703.00 for the financial year 2018/2019. This represents a 9.5% increase in the Band D Tax Rate.

213.3 The above resolution was carried by 14 votes in favour and 2 votes against. Councillors Berry and P. Holbrook asked that their opposition to the resolution be recorded.

Councillor's Questions/Information Forum

214 Gournay en Bray

Councillor Puttick asked if a reply had been sent to an invitation to an event in Gournay en Bray. The Chairman said he was of the opinion that these were invitations to individual councillors.

215 High Street

Councillor Berry asked about the state of the High Street, particularly the raised tables that were moving and cracking. The Chairman said he would write to East Sussex County Council Highways Department,

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.54pm.

CHAIRMAN