



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Hailsham, on Wednesday 28th March 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.

A member of the public spoke about the large amount of litter he had seen in Station Road; whilst he was aware that this was a matter for Wealden District Council, he asked if Hailsham Town Council would consider taking the lead in addressing the issue.

A member of the public spoke in respect of agenda item 11 – Hailsham Town Centre– Installation of Bollards and Pole Planters. He was concerned that road works in Hailsham had overrun and cost extra money. He was opposed to further public spending and requested that the proposal for bollards be dropped.

The Town Clerk read a letter received from a member of the public who requested an additional dog waste bin in Marshfoot Lane. It was agreed to pass this to the Strategic Projects Committee to pursue.

HTC/
17/5/216

Present: Councillors: Mrs. B. H. Beckett, F. Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, T. Burns, Mrs. A. Clarke, Mrs. S. P. Cottingham, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), G. de Jongh, R. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, Glenn Moore, Ms A. O’Rawe, M. A Pinkney, S. Potts, J. Puttick, C Triandafyllou and Mrs. S. Van der Geyten.

217

Officers in Attendance

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

218

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N Collinson, C. Tasane and A. Willis.

219

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Grocock declared an interest in agenda item 11 – Hailsham Town Centre –Installation of Bollards and Pole Planters, as he is Chairman of Environment Hailsham.

220

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council

held on 24th January (Ref HTC/17/4/203-215), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

221 **Committee Reports**

RESOLVED to note the following minutes.

A. Communities Committee Meeting (5th February 2018)

B. Planning & Development Committee Meetings (30th January 20th February and 13th March 2018)

C. Strategic Projects Committee Meeting (21st February 2018)

D. Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee Meetings (17th January and 28th February 2018).

Committee Recommendations

222.1 **Communities Committee Meeting – 5th February 2018: Market Stalls**

Councillor Triandafyllou stated that 15 more robust, Hailsham Town Council owned stalls were needed for the Saturday market. These would be more weather proof than the Hailsham Forward owned stalls that were currently used.

Following discussion, Councillor Berry proposed that a decision on the purchasing of new stalls be deferred to the next Council meeting. On being put to the vote this proposal was lost by nine votes to four.

222.2 **RESOLVED** to purchase 20 market stalls/gazebos at a cost of £6,000.

222.3 This resolution was carried by 11 votes to 3.

222.4 Councillors F Berry and Mrs Van der Geyten requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

Strategic Projects Committee Meeting – 21st February 2018

Maurice Thornton Shed

223.1 The Town Clerk referred members to minute 73.1 of the Strategic Projects Committee meeting held on 21st February 2018.

223.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Agree to funding up to £2,200 for the removal of the existing building and the creation of the hardstanding for the containers, to be taken out of the Contingency Fund
- b) Agree to the placing of two 40 feet containers on the Maurice Thornton Playing Field, to be positioned 90 degrees from the existing site.

Town Council Offices – Chimney Repairs

224.1 The Town Clerk referred members to minute 77.1 of the Strategic Projects Committee meeting held on 21st February 2018.

224.2 **RESOLVED** that subject to discussions with the Conservation Officer, to commission the work to the chimney of the Town Council offices and allocate up to £8,500 for the work, to be taken out of the Contingency Fund.

Hailsham Cemetery

225.1 The Town Clerk advised that there were a number of potholes in the roads at Hailsham Cemetery; and referred members to minutes 78.1 of the Strategic Projects Committee meeting held on 21st February 2018.

225.2 **RESOLVED** to repair the potholes at Hailsham Cemetery and allocate up to £7,000 for the work, to be taken out of the Contingency Fund.

South Road Play Area

226.1 The Town Clerk referred members to minute 80.1 of the of the Strategic Projects Committee meeting held on 21st February 2018.

Councillor Mrs. Laxton disputed the claim that a wheelchair accessed swing needed to be supervised, citing Seaford Town Council as having an unsupervised version.

226.2 **RESOLVED** to refer this item back to the Strategic Projects Committee to take advice and investigate further.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

227 **RESOLVED** to:

a) note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Planning Committee Meetings held on 22nd February 2018 and 22nd March 2018, and

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

Motion 162

228.1 The following motion was submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order No. 2 by Councillor Mrs. M. Laxton, who proposed:

Due to the increase of anti-social behaviour in Hailsham and the inability of the police to have a presence in the town due to various constraints, the Town Council are asked to consider the following motions.

To resolve to employ a community warden to police the town on behalf of the Council on a trial basis, to be paid from reserves, for a period of one year.

To resolve, on the successful completion of the trial period, to build funding into the Council's budget to employ a community warden in future years.

The motion was seconded by Councillor Puttick.

228.2 Following discussion, the motion was put to the vote and was lost by 4 votes in favour and 11 votes against.

228.3 Councillor Mrs S Van der Geyten requested that her abstention from voting be recorded.

Committee Membership

229 **RESOLVED** to note the following changes to the committee membership:

Councillor Potts replaces Councillor Collinson on the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee.

Councillor Collinson becomes a substitute on the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee.

Councillor Coltman replaces Councillor Collinson on the Communities Committee.

Councillor Potts becomes a member of the Strategic Projects Committee.

Grass Cutting Savings

230.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda. East Sussex County Council had written stating that because of financial considerations, they were proposing to reduce the urban grass cutting service from six cuts to two cuts per season. They would be managing urban grass for safety reasons only. Recognising the importance this service was to the public they offered two options for Town Council consideration, as follows:

A financial contribution to the Town Council equivalent to the value of two urban grass cuts based on current ESCC contract rate, which is £5,458 per annum,

For the Town Council to pay for additional urban grass cuts over and above the two cuts per season provided by ESCC. To maintain the current standard of six cuts this would cost Hailsham Town Council £10,916 per annum.

230.2 **RESOLVED** to accept that East Sussex County Council will provide two cuts per season, with no additional cuts financed by Hailsham Town Council.

Hailsham Town Centre – Installation of Bollards and Pole Planters

231.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda. They were asked to consider funding the cost of the installation of bollards and pole planters in the town centre to protect pedestrians and the newly established footpaths.

There were two options for consideration.

The first was a quotation to supply and install 100 bollards and 12 pole planters and twelve hanging basket brackets at a cost of £27,960 plus VAT.

The second option was as follows:

There are currently 11 pole planters in the town centre maintained by Environment Hailsham on behalf of the Council. Since the completion of the road improvement scheme, it has become difficult to place the large single planter on the top of these poles. The Council could pay for an additional 11 hanging basket brackets and 22 wicker effect hanging baskets that would both complement the new pole planters

and allow these existing pole planters to be used without difficulty.

The quote to supply and install 100 bollards and 12 pole planters is £24,930 plus VAT.

The cost to supply 23 hanging basket brackets is £4,025.00 plus VAT.

The cost to supply 46 Amberol wicker effect self-watering baskets is £1686.75 plus VAT

Total cost £30,641.75 plus VAT.

231.2 **RESOLVED** to accept option 2 at a total cost of £30,641.75. This would be financed by £10,000 being taken from the Contingency Fund and the remainder from the Revitalisation Fund.

231.3 This resolution was carried by 12 votes to 3.

231.4 Councillor Grocock had previously declared an interest and did not vote on this agenda item.

Citizen's Advice Bureau

232.1 Councillor Mrs. Van der Geyten spoke in respect of her report on the Hailsham branch of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

The Chairman congratulated Councillor Mrs. Van der Geyten on producing an informative and comprehensive report.

232.2 **RESOLVED** to note the report on the Hailsham branch of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Fair in Hailsham

233.1 Members were asked to consider a request from Shayler's Showtime Amusements to hold a fair on the Maurice Thornton Playing Field from 29th May to 4th June 2018.

The Town Clerk confirmed that this company had used the Maurice Thornton Playing Field for a fair in the past. On the two previous occasions the event had been successful with no problems encountered.

233.2 **RESOLVED** to allow Shayler's Showtime Amusements to hold a fair on the Maurice Thornton Playing Field from Tuesday 29th May to Monday 4th June 2018, and on an on-going basis subject to no problems arising and conditions as discussed.

Community Land Trust

234.1 Councillor Mrs. Laxton spoke in respect of this agenda item. She outlined what a Community Land Trust (CLT) was and what it hoped to achieve.

CLTs are a form of community led housing, where local organisations are set up and run the local community do develop and manage homes. The CLTs main role is to make sure that homes they provide are genuinely affordable, based on what people actually earn in their area.

There were currently about 170 CLTs in England and Wales. It is anticipated that by 2020 they will have delivered 3,000 new affordable homes.

- 234.2 **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to set a Community Land Trust and to delegate this to the Planning and Development Committee in the first instance; and to invite Tom Warder from Action in Rural Sussex to an early meeting.

Hailsham Community College Consultation

- 235.1 The Town Clerk declared an interest in this agenda item as he is a governor of Hailsham Community College.

He referred members to the report circulated with the agenda which included a letter from Hailsham Community College that they would like to extend the age range of the College, encompassing a new 420 place primary and 40 place nursery provision on a separate site in the Park Road area of Hailsham. The governors wanted to know the views of stakeholders before proceeding.

- 235.2 **RESOLVED** to note the report prepared by Hailsham Community College and support the provision of education in Hailsham.

Confidential Business

- 236 **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:

17 Hailsham Post Office

Hailsham Post Office

- 237.1 The Town Clerk reminded members and staff that this agenda item was being discussed under Confidential Business, and any unauthorised disclosure of the discussions at this meeting would, in the case of members, be considered a breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on discussions he had had with representatives of the Post Office, Wealden District Council and SSALC.

The Post Office had confirmed that two other applications for the franchise were being considered.

Members were asked if they wanted the Town Council's application for the Post Office franchise to be considered at the same time as the other two applications or did they want the Town Council to be the "fall back" position in case they did not meet the criteria.

- 237.2 **RESOLVED** to adopt a fall-back position, ring-fencing the necessary funds, until such a time as the Post Office is up and running; and make a formal application for the lease of Number 10 High Street in case it is needed.

Councillor's Questions/Information Forum

- 238 County Councillor Gerard Fox updated the meeting on the roadworks in Diplocks Way. He said it was anticipated that they would be completed by the end of June 2018.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.48pm.

Global/Minutes and Agendas/ HTC/DS 28.03.18

CHAIRMAN