



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Hailsham, on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

HTC/
17/x4/195 **Present:** Councillors: F. Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, T. Burns, N. Collinson, Ms C. V. Collinson-O'Toole, Mrs. S. P. Cottingham, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), G. de Jongh, R. Grocock, Mrs. B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, Glenn Moore, C Tasane, C Triandafyllou and Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten.

196 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk) and Mr. D. Saxby.

197 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. A. Clarke, Graham Moore, Ms A. O'Rawe, J. Puttick and A Willis.

198 **Declarations of Interest**

None declared.

199 **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:

4 Cemetery Administration Review
5 Hailsham Post Office

Cemetery Administration

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

Following the resignation of the Cemetery Superintendent, it was considered an opportunity to review the related administration procedures and the booking of funerals.

Having discussed this matter with representatives from the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils, the Town Clerk had been given the name of an individual who would undertake an independent review of the Council's cemetery and funeral administration processes.

The individual is Mr Graham Fairbairn, Corporate Services Manager and Burgess Hill Town Council.

The Charge would be done via Burgess Hill Town Council at £265 per day, plus

VAT and travel costs. The total cost of the review would be between £1,500 and £2,500.

It was considered that this area of work would meet the 'specialist services' criteria and, therefore, would not require a competitive quoting or tendering process.

- 200.1 **RESOLVED** to request that Mr Graham Fairbairn, Corporate Services Manager and Burgess Hill Town Council be requested to undertake an independent review of the Council's cemetery and funeral administration processes, at the cost of between £1,500 and £2,500 to be taken from the Council's Administration budget.

Hailsham Post Office

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

Members were asked to consider:

- i) Applying to take on the franchise for the Hailsham Post Office, maintaining the current post office staff
- ii) Leasing the Pipers News building.

Discussion ensued.

- 201.2 **RESOLVED** that
- a) Hailsham Town Council agrees in principle to apply to take on the franchise for the Hailsham Post Office, subject to suitable premises being available; and to report back to a future meeting of the Council. Hailsham Town Council, and
 - b) Hailsham Town Council not want to lease the Pipers New building.

Councillors' Questions/Information Forum

- 202 Crime

Councillor Collinson said that he was concerned at both the increase in crime in the town and the police's lack of response to it.

The Town Clerk said he was aware that County Councillor Gerard Fox had taken this matter up with the police. His contact at Hailsham Police Station had moved on and did not have a point of contact.

Members who spoke said that they, too, were concerned at what was considered a crimewave.

The Chairman would write to too Chief Inspector Emma Brice, District Commander of Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden districts detailing the Council's concerns.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.11pm.

