

## **HAILSHAM ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

**1 MINUTES AND REPORTS** of the Hailsham Annual Town Meeting held at Hailsham Civic and Community Hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30 pm.

**2 PRESENT:** 18 Hailsham Town councillors; 73 Hailsham electors; 6 officers of Hailsham Town Council.

The Town Mayor/Chairman of Hailsham Town Council, Councillor N. S. Coltman opened the meeting by welcoming members of the public and councillors.

The Chairman introduced and thanked representatives from the various stakeholders who were in attendance and had stalls providing information on their services. These were East Sussex County Council Highways, Wealden District Council, Hailsham Twinning Association, Sussex Police, South East Water and the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group.

The Chairman said that he was approaching the end of his fourth term as Chairman of the Council and Town Mayor. It had been a great privilege.

**3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs B Holbrook, Graham Moore and Ms A O'Rawe.

**4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

**6 Hailsham Hero Community Award**

The Chairman said that the Hailsham Hero Community Award was for someone in the town who had undertaken some work for the benefit of the community.

The Chairman said that the recipient of this year's award was Mrs Julie Coates, who helped run the Hailsham Foodbank.

**7 HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL: ANNUAL REPORT**

The Chairman said that copies of the report had been made available prior to the meeting.

This last year had seen many developments, particularly the successful bid by the Town Council to take over the franchise for the post office. It was hoped that the post office would be open in the spring.

The Neighbourhood Plan was reaching the point where it would be able to be out the independent assessor and go out for referendum for agreement by the residents

of Hailsham; he expected this to be later in the year.

He thanked members of that Committee for all their hard work, particularly those members of the public that had given up their free time to work for the benefit of the people of Hailsham.

He thanked all the members of community organisations and charities, as well as all the individual volunteers for all their commitment to the town.

The Chairman thanked the officers of the Council.

Finally, he said that it was a privilege and an honour to be the mayor of such a great town.

## **8 Wealden District Council – Local Plan and Vicarage Field Plans**

The Chairman introduced Isabel Garden, Kelly Sharp and Kelvin Williams from Wealden District Council (WDC).

Ms Garden thanked Hailsham town Council for the invitation to attend the Annual Meeting said that the Wealden officers were there to talk about the proposed new Wealden Local Plan and the development of the Vicarage Field site that had recently been bought by WDC.

WDC were very keen to work with the local community to gauge what they wanted for the site and to ensure that retail in Hailsham has a future. There were obviously some constraints because of some of the site being in the conservation area and the number of listed buildings.

One of the areas that would need to be looked at was car parking and the use of cars and how this would fit in with greater use of cycle and walking, which would be a key objective.

The overriding aim would be to draw people into the town centre to use all the facilities in the town, not just the supermarkets. To this end they genuinely had no pre-conceived ideas and wanted to work with residents and stakeholders.

WDC would be holding a series of consultation meetings that all members of the public would be welcome to attend and give their ideas,

Kelly Sharp talked about the merging Wealden Local Plan and the process of getting it ready for examination by the government inspector towards the end of the year.

Members raised the following areas of interest and concern: lack of road infrastructure, air pollution and the fact that the need for sporting facilities was not addressed in the Plan.

Kelly Sharp said sporting facilities, particularly football had been looked at, but developers would be asked to provide when planning new housing.

## 9 Electors Questions

The Chairman asked the Town Clerk to read out the written questions received.

### *Question 1*

*What plans are you proposing to attract market stall holders, and what do you intend to do to retain them? At the moment the market is a very poor specimen for Hailsham.*

### *Question 2*

*Why is the market advertised as operative from 8.30am to 3.00pm when it in fact virtually ends at 1.00pm? Only two stallholders are left at 3.00pm.*

*The questioner had the following suggestions:*

*Reduce the pitch fee from £25.00 to £15.00.*

*After stallholders have : a) bought their goods, b) made their products, c) paid the insurance fee, d) paid petrol money and e) paid their £25.00 for a pitch, there is little incentive, if any, to book again as there is little, if any, profit.*

*A reduced pitch fee would encourage more stallholders, and thus the market would be self-advertising, (speaking of advertisements, the one in battle Road, on the allotment site, is useless – you have to take your eyes off the road when driving, and cannot read it as you drive past!)*

*On the premise, 'Small profit quick return', the Council would be making more profit than they do now if the pitch fee was reduced.*

*Interesting note: Crowborough and Uckfield markets are well-attended by stallholders; the pitch fee is only £15.00, which includes gazebos and tables.*

*A positive answer would be appreciated.*

The Town Clerk said that the Council, too, was concerned at the dwindling number of stallholders but if the fees were reduced as suggested the Council would not break even.

If the thirteen free weeks at the beginning of the year and the reduction in fees for long-term booking were taken into account, the average cost per week to stallholders was very nearly £15.00 in any case.

A member of the public asked a question about the number of bollards on the pavement in High Street.

The chairman said that the bollards were the correct legal distance from the kerb and as a mobility scooter himself there was enough room on the pavement to allow two scooters to pass each other in most places.

A member of the public said that the cattle market site should be protected and enhanced.

A member of the public said that there were limited facilities for younger people in the town. The Chairman said that the Council ran a youth café in the town from Monday to Friday; there was also the Friday Night Project which, for a small amount of money, took young people skiing, skating and various other activities out of town. There was also a new youth club twice a week at the Maurice Thornton Pavilion.

- 10** The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending. He also thanked councillors and council staff for all their hard work throughout the year.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.24pm.

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