



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the James West Community Centre, Brunel Drive, Hailsham, on Wednesday 20th November 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

HTC/20/3 /175 Before the commencement of business, the Chairman invited Councillor Coltman to say a few words about Mr Frank Berry, who had recently passed away.

Councillor Coltman said that most people knew Mr Berry as a town councillor, particularly as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, which he continued to sit on as a lay member following his departure as a councillor. He was also a soldier, trade unionist and a leading member of the Royal British Legion.

The Chairman asked those present to stand and observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Mr Berry.

Several people spoke in respect of the agenda item on Hailsham Forward, praising the work it had done for the town.

A member of the public said that he had written to the Council about measuring the level of pollution in Hailsham about four months ago. He asked what had been happening. The Town Clerk responded that he would receive a written response.

176 **Present:** Councillors: G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, N Coltman, D. Cottingham, B Granville, K. Hinton, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook (Chairman), M. Laxton, K. Nicholls, T Powis, J. Puttick, A M. Ricketts and C. A. Tasane.

177 **Officers in Attendance**
J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), D. Saxby and T. Hall.

178 **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors K Balsdon, A Clarke, R Grocock and A O'Rawe.

179 **Declarations of Interest**
Councillor Laxton declared an interest in agenda item 21 – Motion 173-Persimmon Homes, as she lives within proximity of the proposed development.

Confidential Business

180.1 Councillor Tasane proposed that all items of confidential business be discussed at this point. The Town Clerk said that he had structured the agenda as it stood so that the representatives from East Sussex County Council did not have to sit through the whole meeting before giving their presentation.

180.2 On being put to the vote, Councillor Tasane's proposal to debate all items of

confidential business at this stage of the agenda was defeated by 10 votes to 4.

181 **RESOLVED** that the press and public be excluded during the discussion on the next item on the agenda as it concerns the terms of tenders and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts.

182 **East Sussex County Council Highways**

John Wheeler and Edward Sheath from East Sussex County Council Highways Department addressed the meeting about the planned interventions to the roads in Hailsham.

Councillors expressed concern at some of the proposals, particularly the traffic lights and crossing areas and asked the ESCC officers to take their views into account.

183 **Councillor C Bryant**

Councillor Bryant arrived at the meeting at 7.54pm.

184 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman listed his engagements since the last meeting.

185 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 25th September 2019, as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

186 **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:

Strategy Committee – 14th October 2019: Quarterly Report on Progress with the Business Plan

187.1 The Strategy Committee had recommended to Council that the development of the Western Road Recreation Ground track be added into the Strategic Plan.

187.2 **RESOLVED** that the development of the Western Road Recreation Ground track be added into the Strategic Plan.

Communities Committee – 7th October 2019: Costed Report

188.1 The Communities Committee had recommended to Council the costed reports for events in 2020, to include the May Bank Holiday event.

Councillor Laxton said that the costed £6,000 for advertising for the three events was excessive and asked that members of the Committee in future look at other ways of advertising.

188.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the costed reports for events in 2020, including the May Bank Holiday event.

Communities Committee – 7th October 2019: May Day Bank Holiday

189.1 The Communities Committee had resolved to recommend a programme of events for the May Bank Holiday, including a 60/90-minute section that would be set aside to commemorate VE Day.

Councillor Ricketts said that she was not convinced that this was the most appropriate way to include the VE Day celebrations.

189.2 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Town Council will support the “Hailsham Live” event in place of the “Celebrate Hailsham Day” event
- ii) The Town Council’s Steering Group to be fully involved in all aspects of the organisation of the “Hailsham Live” event, along with the involvement of the Community Groups.
- iii) The Steering Group will report back to the Communities Committee and any decision must be agreed by the Communities Committee
- iv) If the Town Council is not satisfied with any aspect of the organisation of the “Hailsham Live” event, the Council’s involvement in the event, including financial support, will be cancelled

189.3 Councillor Ricketts requested that her abstention from voting be recorded.

Assets Management Committee 13th November 2019: Hawkes Road Bus Shelter

190.1 The Assets Management Committee had recommended to Council that up to £6,000 be spent on a replacement bus shelter at Hawkes Road, to be taken from any bus shelter funds available and capital receipts (from the sale of land to H. Ripley).

190.2 **RESOLVED** that up to £6,000 be spent on a replacement bus shelter at Hawkes Road, to be taken from capital receipts.

191 **Neighbourhood Plan Committee**

RESOLVED to:

- a) note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Planning Committee Meeting held on 7th November 2019), and
- b) approve the Neighbourhood Plan Committee’s delegated authority up to the next Town Council meeting.

Councillor Laxton said that the Inspector’s response to the Neighbourhood Plan had been put on hold until Wealden District Council’s Local Plan had been agreed. This would not be until after the General Election.

Motion 170 – Hailsham Forward

192.1 The following motion had been submitted to the Town Clerk by Councillor Hinton and seconded by Councillor Powis:

Given Hailsham Forward is now established as a Community Interest Company (CIC) and in the light of there being no formal or written agreement in place regarding the relationship between the Town Council and Hailsham Forward this Motion proposes that the Town Council undertake an urgent review to: establish if the Town Council wishes to continue a relationship and if so what form this should take.

The Review should include consideration of any continued Town Council support in the form of financial and human (staffing) resources.

The Review should take place to a timescale that enables recommendations to be presented to Full Council and decisions made before 1st April 2020.

Any formal agreement put in place as a result of the Review should be reconsidered.

Councillor Hinton spoke for the motion saying that Council needed to open and transparent with all partners and partnerships and that all arrangements needed to be understood.

Councillor Powis said that this motion would strengthen the relationship with Hailsham Forward.

Councillor Coltman spoke about the origins of Hailsham Forward and said it was a force for good in the town.

192.2 **RESOLVED** to amend the motion to include reference to the Strategy Committee as being the mechanism for implementing the review.

192.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the following motion as amended:

That the Town Council undertakes an urgent review through the Strategy Committee to establish if the Town Council wishes to continue a relationship and if so, what form it should take.

Motion 171 – Planning Applications

193.1 The following motion had been submitted to the Town Clerk by Councillor Nicholls and seconded by Councillor Hinton:

That we in Hailsham Town Council when commenting on Planning Applications as a Statutory Consultee will expect all new residential applications to demonstrate that all parking demand for each property can be achieved within the curtilage of the dwelling, not relying on parking on the public highway, in an effort to minimise on street parking and maximise access.

The expectation is that all vehicles generated by the occupation and use of the dwellings will be provided for by satisfactory parking arrangements on site.

By doing this I think it will send a clear message that we in HTC are trying to ensure that developers provide residential developments that are fit for purpose for Hailsham and its residents.

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193.2 Councillor Nicholls said this motion was needed because of the planned increase in housing and the number of cars arising from that.

Members who spoke said that whilst the motion's intentions were good it was unworkable.

193.3 **RESOLVED** That we in Hailsham Town Council when commenting on Planning Applications as a Statutory Consultee will expect all new residential applications to demonstrate that all parking demand for each property can be achieved within the curtilage of the dwelling, not relying on parking on the public highway, in an effort to minimise on street parking and maximise access.

The expectation is that all vehicles generated by the occupation and use of the dwellings will be provided for by satisfactory parking arrangements on site.

The motion was carried by 11 votes to 0.

193.4 Councillor Tasane requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

Motion 172 – James West Community Centre

194.1 The following motion was submitted to the Town Clerk and was proposed by Councillor Tasane and seconded by Councillor Cottingham:

The motion being to set up a committee of three to five councillors, to oversee the James West Centre, to include the Chair of the Council. This would be a reinstatement of a previous committee.

194.2 Following discussion Councillor Tasane withdrew the motion with the agreement of the seconder.

Committee Membership

195.1 Members were asked to consider amendments to the Council's committee membership as set out in the Town Clerk's report circulated with the agenda.

195.2 **RESOLVED** to amend the Council's committee membership that Councillor D Cottingham becomes a member of the Planning and Development Committee

Wealden Works

196.1 The Town Clerk reminded members of the presentation by representatives of Wealden Works at the last meeting when they outlined the work they do and,

specifically, how it relates to the young people of Hailsham.

A formal request had now been received for a grant of £10,000 for the next financial year.

Councillor Puttick suggested that this item be delegated to the Finance, Budget, Resource and Staffing Committee to make recommendations to Council.

Councillor Laxton proposed that a grant of £6,000 be given.

- 196.2 **RESOLVED** that Council recommend to the Finance, Budget, Resource and Staffing Committee that £6,000 be included in next year's budget as a grant to Wealden Works.

Hailsham Festival

- 197.1 Mr Tony Biggins spoke about the plans for next year's Hailsham Festival. He asked for financial support of £2,000 a year for three years (£6,000 in total).

Councillor Puttick suggested a one-off payment of £5,000 taken from the 2019/20 underspend on Grants to Voluntary Bodies.

- 197.2 **RESOLVED** that a one-off payment of £5,000 be made to Hailsham Festival from the underspend of the 2019/20 Grants to Voluntary Bodies budget.

- 198 The Chairman stated that as there was little time left according to Standing Orders, he proposed to discuss items 20 – Legal Dispute and 21 – Motion 173- Persimmon Homes and, if necessary, adjourn the meeting to a later date to discuss the remaining agenda items.

- 199 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on the next two items of the agenda (20 and 21) as they concern: The terms of tenders and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts and/or the preparation of cases in legal proceedings.

(In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).

Legal Dispute

- 200.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the papers circulated with the agenda.

- 200.2 **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk is authorised to make a settlement.

- 201 **Suspension of Standing Order 1x**

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 1x to allow the meeting to continue beyond three hours.

Motion 173 – Persimmon Homes

- 202.1 The following motion was submitted to the Town Clerk and proposed by Councillor Tasane and seconded by Councillor Puttick:

That this council reconsider its decision to the original proposal from Persimmon homes, regarding land off Battle Road (thereby rescinding the previous decision)

2. To consider a second proposal made by Persimmon Homes as set out in the letter addressed to Mr J. Harrison dated 30th November 2019.

Councillor Hinton said that he was not prepared to vote to allow the developers to access Hailsham Town Council land in order to build houses.

202.2 **RESOLVED** to rescind the decision taken at the meeting on 25th September 2019 (Minute reference HTC/20/2/173.3).

This resolution was carried by 10 votes to 4, thus receiving the 2/3 majority required.

202.3 Councillors Hinton, Laxton, Nicholls and Ricketts requested that their opposition to the resolution be recorded.

202.4 Council then discussed the second motion. An amendment was proposed and seconded to amend the motion as follows:

'If the first option is no longer available, Hailsham Town Council accepts a second proposal made by Persimmon Homes.'

The amendment was carried.

202.5 **RESOLVED** that if the first option is no longer available, Hailsham Town Council accepts the second proposal made by Persimmon Homes as set out in their recent letter.

This resolution was carried by 10 votes to 4.

202.6 Councillors Hinton, Laxton, Nicholls and Ricketts requested that their opposition to the resolution be recorded.

At 10.42pm the meeting stood adjourned until 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th November 2019.

CHAIRMAN