



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at Fleur de Lys meeting Room, Hailsham, on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

The Town Clerk read out a number of emails received from members of the public about the Council's decision to not to proceed with the Changing Spaces scheme at the James West Centre at the meeting on 17th July 2019.

A member of the public also addressed the meeting on this issue. As well as being critical of the Council for not supporting the resolution to provide a Changing Spaces pod at the James West Centre, she also raised concerns over the change of venue of this meeting, stating that members of the public who would be critical of the decision would not attend a meeting held at the Fleur de Lys meeting room.

The Chairman stated that this was not the case and no decision had ever been taken on where the meeting would be held.

Mr C Triandafyllou who was a member of the Hailsham Forward Executive spoke in respect of the achievements of Hailsham Forward.

HTC/20/2 /153 **Present:** Councillors: G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, D. Cottingham, B Granville, R. T. Grocock, K. Hinton, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook (Chairman), M. Laxton, K. Nicholls, A. O'Rawe, J. Puttick, A M. Ricketts and C. A. Tasane.

154 **Officers in Attendance**

J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), D. Saxby and T. Hall.

155 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Clarke, Coltman and Powis.

Declarations of Interest

156.1 Councillor Grocock declared an interest in agenda item 11 – Hailsham Aspires as he is a member of the board.

156.2 Councillor Cottingham declared an interest in agenda item 17 – Hailsham Bonfire as he is a member of the Bonfire Society.

Chairman's Update

157.1 The Chairman stated that he had attended may events including the Lion's It's a Knockout event.

157.2 Councillor Laxton asked the Chairman which formal statutory bodies he had met with and what was said. The Chairman replied that a report would be included with each future Council agenda.

158 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Reports of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 17th July 2019 (Ref HTC/AM19/128-152), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

159 **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:

Assets Management Committee – 18th September 2019: Chimney Repairs

160.1 The Assets management Committee at its meeting on 18th September resolved to recommend that an additional £4,000 maximum is allocated to the budget from the Contingency Fund, for the repair of the chimney stack the Town Council offices.

The Town Clerk updated the meeting on the cause of the delay in the remedial work proceeding.

160.2 **RESOLVED** that an additional £4,000 be allocated from the Contingency Fund, for the repair of the chimney stack the Town Council offices.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

161 **RESOLVED** to:

a) note the minutes from the Neighbourhood Planning Committee Meeting held on 13th August 2019), and

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

162 **Wealden Works**

Two representatives of Wealden Works addressed the meeting about the work it had been undertaking.

Wealden Works used to be known as Heathfield Works. It runs employment courses for 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training. It specialised in providing employment and interview skills with an aftercare service for a year after employment began.

There was a presence in Hailsham by way of referrals and work with Hailsham Community College.

They were funded as a charitable trust and would be formally requesting Hailsham Town Council for funding.

The Chairman that the Wealden Works representatives for their informative report and congratulated them on the work they do with young people.

Hailsham Forward

The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager addressed the meeting and referred members to the report attached with the agenda.

He said that Chris Jackets, the Chairman of Hailsham Forward was sorry that he was unable to attend.

He spoke about the history and achievements of Hailsham Forward and how it had brought together various different areas of the business community.

Councillor Hinton asked about the governance of Hailsham Forward now that it was a Community Interest Company.

The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager said that there were four directors responsible for the CIC stakeholder group, which was made up of the various councils, residents' associations and business groups.

The Executive Team run the day to day business, including existing project, new projects and the shopping guide.

He also advised that the Business Enterprise Manager's work feeds into the Communities Committee, which is the main mechanism for Hailsham Town Council to govern the role,

Standing Orders

164.1 The Town Clerk said that the following amendments to the existing Hailsham Town Council Standing Orders were considered at the last meeting:

164.2 Standing Order 1 (a) Meetings of the Council shall be held at the Hailsham Town Council offices, Market Square, Hailsham at 19:30 (7.30pm) unless the Council otherwise decides at a previous meeting.

Recommendation to change the starting time to 7.00pm.

164.3 Standing Order 27 (b) A motion to add to or vary or revoke one or more of the Council's Standing Orders, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory requirements (which are in bold), shall be proposed by a special motion, and when proposed and seconded, shall stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council.

Recommendation to remove this Standing Order.

164.4 Councillor Blake-Coggins proposed leaving Standing Orders as they are.

164.5 **RESOLVED** that Council Standing Orders be left unamended except for all amendments that made the document gender neutral.

Hailsham Aspires

165.1 Members were asked to consider an invitation from Wealden District Council 'Hailsham Aspires' Project board for the Chairman to attend board meetings.

Councillor Hinton said he had grave concerns about any representative form

Hailsham Town Council sitting on the Project Board.

Councillor Laxton said that the Council had yet to make a decision on its view on the project. She was also concerned that Wealden District Council had specified an individual to sit on the Board.

The Town Clerk suggested that the Chairman could attend Board meetings as an observer only.

- 165.2 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham Town Council accepts the invitation from Wealden District Council for the Chairman to have a seat on the 'Hailsham Aspires' Project Board on an observational basis only for the first meeting until HTC formulates a view on the project.

This was carried by 9 votes to 3.

- 165.3 Councillors Hinton, Laxton and Nicholls requested that their opposition be recorded. Councillor Grocock requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

- 165.4 **RESOLVED** to set up a working group to look at the 'Hailsham Aspires' project, comprising of Councillors Blake-Coggins, P Holbrook, Laxton, O'Rawe and Ricketts; and to report back to Council.

Defibrillators

- 166.1 Members were asked to consider funding the replacement of a defibrillator cabinet at the Vicarage Field Health Centre.

It was suggested that as there were already other units in the town centre it would not be a sensible use of Council funds to replace the cover there.

- 166.2 **RESOLVED** not to pay for the repair to the cabinet at Vicarage Field and to use the defibrillator at the at the James West Centre, with a cabinet purchased from the existing James West Centre budget.

Committee Membership

- 167.1 Councillor O'Rawe said that Councillor Balsdon had indicated that he wished to come off the Planning and Development Committee and asked that if a member of another group or an independent member wished to take it up.

- 167.2 **RESOLVED** to leave the vacancy on the Planning and Development unfilled.

Plastic Free Hailsham

- 168.1 Councillor Laxton proposed meeting with officers to discuss revamping the Environment Charter. Councillors attending would be Councillors Bryant, Laxton, O'Rawe and Powis.

- 168.2 Councillor Puttick congratulated Councillor Laxton on receiving her Community Award.

169 **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:

16 Persimmon Homes

17 Hailsham Bonfire

18 Motion 169: Changing Places

The reason for exclusion is:

(b) terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter proposals in negotiations for contracts; the preparation of cases in legal proceedings and engagement and terms of service.

170 The Chairman stated he proposed to take agenda item 18 – Motion 169: Changing Places as the first item of confidential business.

Changing Places

171.1 The Town Clerk had received the following motion:

Recognising that at the last meeting the Council rejected placing a Changing Places pod at the James West Centre, several councillors clearly felt that the location was wrong. I would like to suggest an alternative of using the site where the public toilets used to be (next to the current Hailsham Aspires shop), currently a cycle parking area. Should the Council approve the idea in principle, we would need to seek agreement from Wealden District Council, who currently hold the lease on this land.

Since the toilets were previously there, services should still be present underground. The pod would take up less than half of the site (a 4.6mx3.4m pod on a 11m x 5m site) which should mean some cycling parking could be retained.

The site is in the Town centre, close to disabled parking. Although the Town centre development is on the cards, it may not happen for some years and take several years longer to complete. As this is a pod it could later be relocated within the town centre development (which Wealden should fund as part of redevelopment) or used elsewhere if a permanent Changing Places facility is provided as part of redevelopment.

I therefore feel this is a reasonably sound investment in the longer term, providing a facility which one might reasonably expect in an aspiring town of 32,00 people, and growing.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Powis and seconded by Councillor Ricketts.

171.2 In the absence of Councillor Powis, Councillor Ricketts spoke to the motion.

She said that at the last meeting on 17th July 2019, a similar motion was rejected; this motion called for the Changing Spaces pod to be in the town centre not at the James West Centre. Councillor Ricketts accepted that this would have been the wrong site to place a Changing Spaces pod as it was out of town and would not

have had enough users.

- 171.3 **RESOLVED** that Wealden District Council is approached to ascertain if it would allow Hailsham Town Council to put a Changing Places pod on Vicarage Field. If agreed, £100,000 is ringfenced from the Community Infrastructure Levy to meet the cost, including the transportation to another site in the future.

172 **Councillors Blake-Coggins and O’Rawe**

Councillors Blake-Coggins and O’Rawe left the meeting at 9.35pm.

Persimmon Homes

- 173.1 Councillors P Holbrook and Laxton declared an interest in this agenda item as they lived close to the land in question.

- 173.2 The Deputy Town Clerk referred members to the confidential report circulated with the agenda. They were asked to consider a request from Persimmon Homes in respect of Hailsham Town Council owned land to the rear of Battle Road to allow access to their proposed development.

A financial contribution was offered by Persimmon Homes for the sale of the land.

Bonfire Society

- 174.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the officer’s report circulated with the agenda. They were asked to consider a representation received about the bonfire being held on the Western Road Recreation Ground. The report contained a series of emails between a member of the public, the Town Clerk and the Bonfire Society. The member of the public was concerned that the fireworks and bonfire were so close to a residential area. The Town Clerk has on a number of occasions informed him that the Bonfire Society had gone through all the necessary channels, including getting permission to hold the event in the area from Wealden District Council and getting clearance from all the statutory emergency services.

- 174.2 **RESOLVED** to allow the Bonfire Society to proceed with the firework display and bonfire on the Hailsham Town Council owned land at Western Road Recreation Ground.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.03 pm.

CHAIRMAN