



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the James West Centre, Brunel Drive, Hailsham, on Wednesday 30th January 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: F Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, T. Burns, N. A. Collinson, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, G. De Jongh, R. T. Grocock, Mrs, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, S. Potts, J Puttick and Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten

Officers in Attendance

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs. K. Giddings, Mr. D. Saxby and Mr. T. Hall.

HTC/4/18
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Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs. B Beckett, Mrs. A Clarke, Glenn Moore, Graham Moore, Ms A. O'Rawe, M. Pinkney, C. Tasane and C. Triandafyllou.

Apologies were also received from the Finance Officer, Ms. M. Foster.

Declarations of Interest

- 191.1 Councillor Berry declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Hailsham Bonfire Society as he is a member.
- 191.2 Councillor Collinson declared an interest in agenda item 12 – Hailsham Bonfire Society as he is a member.
- 191.3 Councillor Mrs Cottingham declared interests in agenda items 10 and 12 – Twinning and Hailsham Bonfire Society as she is a member of both organisations.
- 191.4 Councillor Puttick declared an interest in agenda item 10 –Twinning as he is a member of the Hailsham and District Twinning Association.

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Public Question Time

Before the beginning of the formal business of the meeting, fifteen minutes had been set aside to allow members of the public to address the Council or ask questions (on matters relevant to the Town Council), at the invitation and discretion of the Chairman.

A member of the public had written to the Town Clerk; he read his letter out. He asked Hailsham Town Council to ensure that Wealden District Council carried out robust and meaningful consultation on its proposals for the development of the Vicarage Field site. He requested that a written response is provided in due course.

A member of the Hailsham and District Twinning Association spoke in favour of the Town Council formally twinning with Remshalden in Germany.

A member of the public asked for an assurance that the Neighbourhood Plan would proceed and was advised that it would.

193 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman said that he was grateful that so many councillors and members of the public attended the Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial on 11th November, particularly as it commemorated the centenary of the end of the First World War.

The Chairman was sorry to report the passing of Paul Tack, who has been an active member of the community, particularly in Hailsham East.

Confirmation of Minutes

194.1 Councillor Berry said that the minute on the Judicial Review on the 9th January 2019 was inaccurate as Councillor Glenn Moore was the Vice Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, not the Chairman as recorded.

194.2 **RESOLVED** that the minutes and reports of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 21st November 2018 (Ref HTC/18//174-189) and the extraordinary meeting held on 9th January 2109, as printed, circulated and amended, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

195 **Committee Recommendations to Council**

Members were asked to consider the following recommendation made by committees, which were outside of their terms of reference or were otherwise resolved as recommendations to full council:

Strategic Projects Committee – 12th December 2018 – Hailsham Cemetery

196.1 The Communities Committee had resolved to recommend to Council that £1060 be allocated from general reserves to carry out the recommendations contained in Councillor Potts' report in respect of the removal of the shed and upgrading the New garden of Remembrance at Hailsham Cemetery.

196.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate £1060 from general reserves to carry out the recommendations contained in Councillor Potts' report in respect of the removal of the shed and upgrading the New garden of Remembrance at Hailsham Cemetery.

197 **Neighbourhood Plan Committee**

RESOLVED to:

a) note the minutes of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee meeting held on 13th December 2018, and

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

Football Provision in Hailsham

198.1 Councillor Mrs Van Der Geyten presented a report on provision of football in Hailsham following her meetings with various organisations.

198.2 Councillor Mrs Van Der Geyten said that following this meeting she would be resigning as a Hailsham Town because her circumstances had changed.

Members thanked Councillor Mrs Van Der Geyten for her report on football provision and for her work as a councillor.

Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel 2019/20

199.1 Members were asked to consider the report and recommendations of the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel and their implications for Hailsham Town Council.

The Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel for 2019/2020 recommended an increase of 2% to all basic and chairman's allowances meaning that as Hailsham Town Council remains in band level 3, the basic allowance would rise to £1,286 pa and the Chairman's allowance would rise to £1,776 pa. There would also be increases to travelling allowances and subsistence allowances.

On being put to the vote it was agreed to accept the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2019/20, in its entirety by 12 votes to 2.

199.2 **RESOLVED** to accept the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel for 2019/2020.

199.3 Councillors Puttick and Mrs Van Der Geyten requested that their votes against the recommendations be recorded.

Twinning

200.1 Members were asked to consider a request from the Hailsham and District Twinning Association to officially twin with Remshalden in Germany.

The Town Clerk and members said that he had concerns over the extra burden it would put on staff and asked members to take this into consideration. Councillor Puttick said there would be no additional work as the Twinning Association would be undertaking it.

200.2 **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk meets with the Twinning Association to talk about the issues and report back to the Town Council meeting in March 2019.

Christmas Lighting Contract

201.1 Members were asked to reconsider the recommendation from the Communities Committee, as deferred from the meeting of the Town Council on 26th September 2018.

201.2 **RESOLVED** to extend the Christmas lighting contract with Mr G Osborne for a further year, to Christmas 2019 at a cost of £10,304. The Christmas lighting contract to then be reviewed for Christmas 2020.

201.3 **RESOLVED** that up to £6,350 for the purchase of icicle lighting be taken from the Festivities budget.

201.4 Councillor Berry requested that his opposition to the proposals be recorded.

Hailsham Bonfire Society

202.1 The Town Clerk said he had received a proposal from the Hailsham Bonfire Society to use the Western Road Recreation Ground for the bonfire event. They would ensure that the event would have minimal impact on the recreation ground.

Councillor Blake-Coggins said that he was meeting representatives from the Bonfire Society to discuss the possibility of using the Maurice Thornton Playing Field for the event.

202.2 **RESOLVED** to refer and delegate this matter to the Strategic Projects Committee.

Grit Box

The Town Clerk stated that a request had been received from a resident of Cuckmere Close to provide an additional grit box.

RESOLVED not to provide an additional grit box in Cuckmere Close.

Motion 164

203.1 Members were asked to consider the following motion as submitted to the Town Clerk in accordance with Standing Order No. 2 by Councillor Gavin Blake-Coggins, who proposed the motion that:

Since the recent confirmation by Wealden District Council that the original site allocation in Reef Way for a sixth form college has been reallocated:

a) *Hailsham Town Council now fully supports Hailsham Forward's and Hailsham Active's proposal that a sixth form for Hailsham Community College is established on the former Firstfields/ambulance station site in London Road*

b) *Hailsham Town Council formally writes to both Wealden District Council as planning authority and East Sussex County Council as land owner of the proposed site and education authority to request that the site is preserved for the future use as a sixth form college for Hailsham.*

The motion is seconded by Councillor Alexa Clarke.

203.2 The Town Clerk declared an interest as he is a governor of Hailsham Community College.

203.3 Following discussion, Councillor Puttick proposed an amendment deleting "*is established on the former Firstfields/ambulance station site in London Road,*" and replacing it with "*is established on a suitable site.*"

On being put to the vote the amendment was carried by 11 votes to 3.

203.4 **RESOLVED** that since the recent confirmation by Wealden District Council that the original site allocation in Reef Way for a sixth form college has been reallocated:

a) *Hailsham Town Council now fully supports Hailsham Forward's and Hailsham Active's proposal that a sixth form for Hailsham Community College is established on a suitable site.*

- b) Hailsham Town Council formally writes to both Wealden District Council as planning authority and East Sussex County Council as land owner of the proposed site and education authority to request that the site is preserved for the future use as a sixth form college for Hailsham

Deed of Release

- 204.1 Wealden District Council had agreed a new Lease of the Hailsham Pavilion Cinema to Hailsham Pavilion Limited to extend the current term (the current lease period ends in 2027 and the new lease period extends until 2047).

Under the original Lease of 23 October 2002 Hailsham Town Council was the guarantor in respect of the tenant's obligations in the Lease

Therefore, the proposed Deed of Surrender will release HTC from their existing obligations under the 2002 Lease.

- 204.2 **RESOLVED** that the Deed of Release be formally executed and sealed using the common seal as determined by Standing Orders.

205 **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:

17 Western Road Recreation Ground

18 Changing Places

19 Transfer of Land

20 Recommendation: Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee 23.10.19

The reason for exclusion is:

(b) terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts and engagement, terms of service, conduct and dismissal of employees.

Western Road Recreation Ground

- 206.1 The Town Clerk reported that at the Council meeting in November 2018 it was recommended that the Strategy Committee looks at the development of Western Road play area.

Since then, an indicative figure of £105,000 had been obtained for the complete refurbishment of the play area.

- 206.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate up to £125,000 from S106 money for the development of the Western Road play area and refer this matter back to the Strategy Committee to obtain three quotes and go out to public consultation. A final decision is to be taken by full Council.

Changing Places

- 207.1 Members were asked to consider further the installation of a Changing Places facility at the James West Centre in Brunel Drive.

The Strategy Committee had resolved at its meeting on 8th December 2018 to progress the scheme on this site and await the outcome of Wealden District Council's plans for the town centre before progressing a pod there.

Councillor Mrs Laxton spoke in favour of the proposal and pointed members to the papers included in the officer's report. She proposed allocating up to £70,000 for the scheme.

- 207.2 **RESOLVED** to defer a decision on progressing this item until the Council meeting in July 2019.

The resolution was carried by 8 votes to 3.

- 207.3 Councillor Berry requested that his opposition to the resolution be recorded and Councillors, Mrs Cottingham, De Jongh and Puttick requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

Transfer of Land

- 208.1 The Town Clerk reported that at the meeting on 21st November 2018 Council had resolved that Hailsham Town Council makes an offer to Wealden District Council for the land.

Wealden District Council had since responded that they would agree to a different offer.

- 208.2 **RESOLVED** that the offer made to Wealden District Council at the meeting on the 21st November should stand as the final offer.

Recommendation: Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee 23rd January 2019

- 209.1 Members were asked to consider a recommendation from the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee regarding the role and remuneration for the Council's Communications and Public Information Officer.

At the meeting of the F, B, R & S Committee on 23rd January it was resolved to recommend to Council, following a review of the grading and job description of the CPIO, that the grading for the role is expanded to three additional scale points.

- 209.2 **RESOLVED** that the grading of the role of the Council's Communications and Public Information Officer is expanded by three additional scale points and that the job description be updated as reported.

Precept 2019-2020

- 210.1 Members were asked to consider the officer's report and recommendations contained in it.

- 210.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) approve the budget of £1,072.565 as set out in the officers' report circulated with the agenda.
- b) that Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £1,072,565.00 for the financial year 2019/2020. This represents a 0% increase in the Band D Tax Rate.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN

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