



**HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**REPORT (Minutes)**  
of the meeting of the Strategy Committee,  
held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chamber, Market Street, Hailsham  
On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

StC/18/1/1

**Election of Chair**

Mr Harrison explained that under the committee's terms of reference, the Chair of Council would normally preside at the meeting, or in his absence, the Vice-Chair. However, both Cllrs had not been able to attend and therefore the committee would need to appoint a chair for this meeting only.

**RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Mary Laxton as chair for this meeting.

2. **Public Forum**

2.1 Mr Hinton addressed the committee with regard to agenda item 4 'Community Infrastructure Levy'. He stated that there has been much public concern about the scale of development identified for Hailsham (in the WDC Local Plan) and the provision of infrastructure not matching that development. He made a plea that the Town Council decides to spend any CIL money on 'grass roots' infrastructure and adopted a clear and transparent process on how to do so.

2.2 Mr Harrison has received an email from a member of the public enquiring why there was not a 'Changing Places' facility at the new James West Community Centre at Welbury Farm. She has a 12-year-old son with a disability and without this facility disabled people cannot have full access to the centre. Two other emails had also been received..

At this point Cllr Mary Laxton declared an interest as she had originally requested that the design of the hall be altered to incorporate a Changing Places facility.

It was explained to the committee that the design and layout of the centre had been agreed between the developers and WDC long before the council came into ownership of the centre and there had been little scope to make any amendments to that – particularly once the design had been set, which was over six years ago.

It was agreed that this should be referred to the Strategic Projects Committee, but that in the mean time the original plans for the centre would be forwarded to Cllr Glenn Moore, for him to ascertain the feasibility of adapting the layout at this stage. The committee also discussed the possibility of installing a separate Changing Places 'pod' (such as that on Eastbourne seafront), which would cost circa £70K and agreed that this could be considered for CIL expenditure.

3. **Present:** Cllrs Alexa Clarke, Mary Laxton, Glenn Moore, Chriss Triandafyllou and Stella Van der Geyten

4. **Officers Present:** Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk)

5. **Apologies For Absence:** Received from Cllrs Nigel Coltman, Grant de Jongh, Richard Grocock and John Puttick.

6. **Declarations of Interest:** None made (other than that previously minuted)

7. **Community Infrastructure Levy**

7.1 The committee noted that to date the council has received three CIL payments totalling just under £350K.

The committee considered two documents that have been issued by WDC on CIL expenditure and guidelines issued for town and parish councils on CIL, and discussed the need to ensure there is a carefully and strategically thought out approach to identifying projects and priorities for CIL expenditure, with clear criteria

It was noted that the council can work with developers to ensure significant infrastructure requirements are met, with the possibility of the Town Council contributing some of its CIL payments to this.

7.2 It was agreed that the approach would be to identify suitable projects first and then to ensure there is an element of public consultation, although this should not be too wide or general.

The committee agreed that as the council had already published its four-year strategic/business plan and was close to completing the Neighbourhood Plan process, which includes aspirational capital projects, these two documents should be the main source for identifying CIL funded projects.

The committee noted that any capital projects that expand the town council's portfolio would also require enhanced capacity for maintenance, repair and running costs which would need to be funded via revenue sources and that the council should ensure this is also part of the decision-making process.

7.3 Several projects and priorities within the Town Council's Strategic Plan were discussed, including the proposed roundabout at Ersham Road (part of the MASHH interventions previously identified) and also the project to assess the feasibility of potentially moving the town council into an enhanced facility. It was agreed that these were dependent on external bodies, factors and funding.

7.4 The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to council:

Three items that should be brought forward as options for CIL funded projects, for further consideration, costing and prioritisation are to be:

- Further development and enhancement of the Town Council's main play area at the Western Road Recreation Ground.
- Enhanced facilities for sport at the Maurice Thornton Playing Field, including potential development or rebuilding of the Pavilion.
- The provision of 'Changing Places' facilities at the Welbury Farm (James West) Community Centre and in the town centre, probably through the provision of stand-alone 'pods'.

8 **Town Council Strategic Plan**

8.1 The committee considered the report provided by the Town Clerk on progress to date on the items in the Strategic Plan. It was noted that this was a four-year plan and at present many things will not have been actioned. The committee agreed that they had been given the right level of detail in the report to be able to assess progress without that being too time consuming.

The Town Clerk explained that it would be useful for the committee to identify some key items in the plan, that were not 'business as usual' that is would like to see implemented

this municipal year and to make that recommendation to council.

8.2 Areas and items discussed included:

Business Enterprise Function: Communication to parties both inside and outside of Hailsham – agreed to amend this status to ‘Ongoing’

CCTV – the committee asked to be updated on a proposed project to update Hailsham’s Cameras. It was explained that this was not in the plan because the Town Council offered funding to the CCTV but the service was not under HTC’s control. **Nevertheless the Town Clerk would seek an update from the Deputy Town Clerk and inform the committee.**

The possibility of attracting additional funding (that might help fund some of the CIL projects previously identified) through the sale of land and possibly the sale of the current council site.

8.3 **The committee RESOLVED** to recommend to council that the timeframe for the Independent Staffing review should be October 2019.

8.4 **The Committee RESOLVED** to recommend to council that three projects in the Council’s Strategic Plan that should be brought forward to be implemented this municipal year should be:

- Develop ‘tea with the mayor’ style surgeries for local people.
- Investigating the feasibility of providing a better town council base and community facility for the town.
- Attempt to sell off areas of unused land.

8.5 **Hailsham Post Office**

The committee asked for an update on the situation with Hailsham Post office as this is a significant priority identified in the Council’s Strategic Plan

8.6 **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 discussions be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders No. 1E. The reason for exclusion being: terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts

8.7 The Town Clerk updated the committee that he had been in communication with the regional manager of Post office Ltd, Mr David Piper and a representative of the party offered the franchise for Hailsham Post Office and on the current situation.

9. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.26pm

CHAIRMAN