



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 8th October 2018 at 7.00 p.m.

- STC/18/3/
10 **Public Forum**
None presented
- 11 **Present:** Cllrs Nigel Coltman, Grant de Jongh, Richard Grocock, Mary Laxton, John Puttick and Stella Van der Geyten
- 12 **Officers Present:** Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk)
- 13 **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Cllrs Alexa Clarke, Glenn Moore, Amanda O’Rawe and Chriss Triandafyllou.
- 14 **Declarations of Interest:** None made
- 15 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Strategy Committee held on 9th July 2018 (Ref StC/18/1/1-9), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.
- 16 **Equality Analysis and Equality Impact Assessments**
- 16.2 The committee noted that the town council had resolved to look into developing a template so that an Equality impact Assessment could be added to reports to council and committees. This would ensure the relevant issues were taken account of at all times necessary.
- 16.2 The committee considered and discussed report that includes the town council’s Equality Policy, NALC’s Legal Topic Note on the Equality Act 2010 and examples of Equality Impact Assessment guidelines and templates from the Research Council UK, an NHS Foundation Trust and the Ministry of Justice.
- The Town Clerk noted that there has been no template available form SSALC and that he had emailed the SLCC Larger Councils network to see if any other councils had a similar example and none had been forthcoming.
- 16.3 The committee agreed that what was required was a relatively simple and straightforward checklist style template and that the Research Councils’ example was a good starting point from which to develop HTC’s working document. This would develop and improve over time.
- The committee discussed when and how the checklist should be used. It was agreed that in the first instance, officers should use the template to clarify what has been considered. From there, committees or council could go through and include more detailed considerations as they worked through the report on an agenda item. The EIA document should be used when implementing or suggesting a significant project or change in council policy, as appropriate.
- 16.5 **RESOLVED :**

Town Clerk to contact Equalities officer at WDC:

- To ask for initial training for officer
- If they have a template that could be used
- Whether training might be available for the council after the election in May 2019

Town Clerk Work up a template for next meeting and report back to next meeting of the Strategy Committee.

17 **Town Council Strategic Plan**

17.1 The Town Clerk introduced the minutes from the Town Council Premises Sub-Committee meeting on 12th September 2018 under this agenda item.

The committee noted that the outcome of discussions around relocating the town council's base were partly dependent on Wealden District Council's plans for the town centre. The Town Clerk had emailed Kelvin Williams of WDC to meet with the committee, however it was noted that until WDC's consultants had defined plans a meeting was unlikely. At present WDC's timescales were for the town centre plans to be presented to their December council. Questions were raised as to the reasons for moving, with staff OK with the current premises, and fewer Councillors to seat from May 2019.

17.2 The committee then considered the report giving details of progress against the various actions in the councils Strategic Plan:

17.3 **'Tea with the Mayor' meetings** – need to be progressed.

17.4 **Changing Places 'pods'** – council had identified looking into placing one pod at Welbury farm (James West centre) and one in the Town centre, and now needed to look at the costs as the expenditure had not yet been approved.

Would planning permission be required for the Welbury Farm location?

The Town centre location would depend on WDC's plans. The Western Road Recreation ground was suggested as a suitable alternative – Hailsham Active were progressing their plans for the track, lighting and hard standing area on the site and HTC had agreed to position a wheelchair swing on the site, so this would further enhance the area.

The location of mains drains would have an effect on where the pods could be located.

RESOLVED:

- To progress with pod at Welbury farm site, to investigate cost, location, planning permissions etc (and bring costed plan back to HTC)
- To wait until outcomes of WDCs plan for town centre are known before progressing the second pod and in the mean time discuss the possibility of locating at Western Road with Hailsham Active.

17.5 **Swings on Western Road Recreation ground** – installation of main swing was imminent. There was a potential hitch with insurance of wheelchair swing regarding the manufacturer's guidelines which requires clarification.

17.6 **Meeting with Hellingly Parish Council** - had been formally requested and the request reiterated.

17.7 **Possible Sale of Land** was now tied to the establishing of the Community Land Trust – members of public have come forwards to represent the board of the CLT.

17.8 **Tree Planting** – outlined in the Strategic Plan to starts in 2019. The committee asked for clarification and more detail on this scheme. The Town Clerk to clarify.

- 17.9 **Welbury Farm (James West) Centre** – is now well established. A user committee will be set up when more long-term users have been established. There is currently an issue with acoustics in the hall which is on the agenda for Strategic Projects on 17th October.
- The committee questioned when HTC would take ownership of land? This was not known and dependent on WDC reaching agreement with the developers.
- 17.10 **Ersham Rd Triangle** – development of the roundabout was tied to the surveys being undertaken by the developers and their planning application.
- 17.11 **Expansion of Cemetery Capacity** – the removal of the tipper shed would free-up more space. This was a part of the list of developments on site that Cllr Steve Potts had put forward to Strategic Projects. The resolution had been to obtain costs for all the various elements and bring back to Strategic Projects.
- This question was also possible linked to meeting with Hellingly PC to discuss possibly expanding town cemetery capacity at that cemetery.
- 17.12 **Development of the Youth Council** - the committee discussed the potential to re-introduce a Youth mayor scheme as way of empowering and raising the profile of young people in Hailsham.
- It was noted that the council had developed a Youth Mayor scheme in the past with mixed results. It was questioned whether the specific introduction of a Youth Mayor would add any value to the development of the Youth Council, which in the past has raised funds for projects including the Maurice Thornton Skate Park and the Western Road multi-gym.
- It was suggested that the Youth Mayor would be selected from the youth council and be given the opportunity to define and develop their own role.
- 17.13 **Post Office Franchise**– the committee were updated on the current position. The Town Clerk was waiting for a response regarding whether HTC would act as the guarantor to the business.
- 17.14 **Neighbourhood Plan** – it was noted that this will be back on track shortly – it has been tied to WDC’s LP timelines.
- 17.15 **The MASHH Steering Group**– it was clarified to the committee that the MASHH Steering group is still meeting but not that often. It was felt that the MASHH SG had become more of a bi-annual updating committee, which was not its original purpose. The Committee agreed it needed to clarify with ESCC what MASHH is for and formally raise this with ESCC. Now that WDC plan is published – there was a need to re-assert original purpose of MASHH committee.
- RESOLVED** that the Strategy Committee write to ESCC asking that the original purpose of the MASHH Committee is re-established.
18. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.19pm

CHAIRMAN