



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 14th October 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

STC/19/3/
12

Councillor C. Tasane

Councillor Tasane advised the committee that he had not received the agenda or papers for the meeting and therefore could not participate. Councillor Tasane left the meeting at 7.03pm.

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Public Forum

None presented

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Present: Councillors Gavin Blake-Coggins, Alexa Clarke, Richard Grocock, Kelvin Hinton, Paul Holbrook (Chair) and Mary Laxton

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Officers Present: John Harrison (Town Clerk)

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Apologies for Absence: Received from Councillors Nigel Coltman and Craig Tasane accepted by the committee.

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Declarations of Interest: None made

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Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Strategy Committee held on 8th July 2019 (Ref StC/19/2/1-11), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

19

Town Council Strategic Plan

19.1

Mr Harrison explained the role of the Strategy Committee in terms of the budget setting process whereby standing committees of the council are asked to add any new items to the budget and the StC has a role to ensure whether these are in line with the council's strategic aims.

No committee had asked for any specific additions to the budget. The report detailed the resolutions of the Assets Management committee, which didn't ask for specific additions to the budget but had looked at some aspects of the management of the Maurice Thornton Pavilion.

The report also included the Communities Committee's plan or 'vision' for festivities and events for the following year which the committee has a role in ensuring fits with the council's overall strategic aims, rather than looking into the details of the budget. It was explained that some aspects of the original plan had been amended by the Communities Committee, including the addition of £1200 to the VE/Community budget for the Hailsham live events, which brought it in line with this year's budget.

The committee were asked to ensure they were happy with the overall plan that the Communities Committee had put forwards.

19.2

Questions raised:

Cllr Laxton asked for more detail of the rationale behind the additional £5000 from the Revitalisation Fund to be put towards the promotion and support of the market.

The Chair of the Communities Committee (Cllr A. Clarke) advised that this was for the street market. The Street market sub-committee had looked at this and was reviewing the market.

19.3 With regard to the process it was explained that the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee would determine a recommended budget taking this plan into account before it was presented to full council.

19.4 In terms of the planned events does the council have a clear picture of what the greatest influence on their success is? i.e. is it dependent on the weather? Are we learning what works best and we have enough information to know whether what we're doing is the right thing? What makes events successful?

It was explained that the plan contained an element of 'tried and tested' events with minor amendments on the specifics to continuously improve them. The success of events is not necessarily dependent on weather, such as for e.g. the Xmas lights switch-on.

Cllr Clarke explained that for some of the planned events there is an element of experimentation. For e.g. the Summer event 'Hailsham Live day' is more like a festival on a date that we would usually have a Summer Market/Sussex day.

Summer events can be dependent on the weather but also have to be planned far enough in advance.

The committee noted that no past event had ever failed significantly enough to be considered a 'failure' overall.

19.5 The committee **RESOLVED** that it is satisfied with the overall plan and vision as submitted by the Communities Committee for its events programme in 2020

19.6 The process was clarified to the committee – the final and more detailed festivities and events plan will be presented to full council in March for final approval.

20 **Quarterly report on progress with Business Plan**

20.1 The town clerk introduced the report on progress to date on the Strategic Plan and explained that some significant capital projects would be coming forwards in the next 6-12 months; The Western Road Play Area, installation of the Changing Spaces facility and the Western road recreation ground track and hard surfaced area.

It is necessary to obtain a more detailed specification and costed plan for the track around the Western Road Rec from Hailsham Active to add to the next Assets Management Committee agenda. The committee were informed that the S106 monies had now been received.

RESOLVED to recommend to council that the development of the Western Road Recreation ground track be added into the Strategic Plan.

20.2 **Questions and Issues raised by the Committee:**

The committee suggested that the revamp of the Battle Road play area should be added into the next Assets Management agenda, in order to identify a time frame for that piece of work.

20.3 Grovelands Barn; have we discussed receiving contribution towards costs from other users of the facility? It was explained that 'Men in Sheds' are no longer using the barn, whilst the others are bonfire society and Environment Hailsham.

- 20.4 Clarification sought regarding committee's suggestions for CIL projects. The previous resolution was that suggested projects would come to the Strategy Committee in the new year.
- 20.5 MASHH – have we established that representatives of the ESCC will be coming to full council? It was confirmed that ESCC officers have advised that they will come to November council meeting. It would be necessary to check whether discussions would have to be held under confidential business.
- 20.6 Discussion regarding the MASHH committee's plan centred around why HTC has agreed to de-register the village green. It was confirmed that this is one of the key projects identified in the original MASHH study commissioned several years ago by ESCC to identify key interventions in the road network needed as a result of the housing numbers in the previous Local Plan.
- ESCC will be commissioning the next MASHH study in the future. Will explain when they come and talk to us. The previous Town Council had resolved some years ago that it is in favour of de-registration of village green in order to allow roundabout to be developed in that area.
- 20.7 Youth Projects – recruitment of Deputy Youth Project Co-ordinator.
- We have successfully recruited a new Deputy Youth Project Co-ordinator. As they currently work in a school setting & have to give a term's notice, they will be starting closer to Christmas.
- 20.8 Youth Projects - Cllr Clarke spoke about what an effective and high-quality service the Friday Night Project is.
- 20.9 Youth Projects – were we still thinking about increasing the offer at Welbury Farm? The service still has a few staffing issues, so have had to close that service a few times, but was working to increase staffing cover.
- 20.10 The committee noted that Tea with The Mayor sessions have started and have been relatively successful.
- 20.11 It was confirmed that the criteria for the staffing review will be on the agenda for next council meeting
- 20.12 Identification of Councillors training needs; Councillors have not expressed much interest in training opportunities. It was agreed that Mr Harrison would send training information to councillors to remind them.
- The committee also mentioned the Wealden Parish Conference on Wednesday 6th November at WDC, as included in Town Clerk's Friday emails.
- 20.13 Hailsham Hero – the committee agreed this needed to be reviewed in time for the new year. **RESOLVED** to add to the agenda for full council in November.

21 Local Councils Awards Scheme

The committee discussed the merits and what would be involved in completing the Local Councils Awards scheme as published by NALC. Town Clerk explained that this was a replacement of the old Quality Council scheme.

It was noted that could potentially be a large amount of work, although to a certain extent it was felt that HTC covers most of the criteria already. The committee felt it was not necessarily to add into this year's targets. Although the town council probably already ticks many of the boxes, it was agreed that this is reviewed in a year's time.

With any quality standard is about what you put in place to reach the standard – although there are some areas that the Town Council does not cover and would require investigation and some development.

RESOLVED to put on hold for a year and to look at in more detail in 12 months' time.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.47pm

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT