



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held at the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Hailsham, on Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

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.

Members of the public spoke against the decision by Wealden District Council to approve the building of 300 dwellings on land at Old Marshfoot Farm, Marshfoot lane, for up to 300 dwellings on the edge of Pevensey Levels. The opposition was on environmental, ecological and traffic grounds.

A member of the public stated that members who were also Wealden District Councillors had a conflict of interest and, therefore, the Chairman should vacate the chair during the debate on the Judicial Review.

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Present: Councillors: F Berry, G. Blake-Coggins, Mrs A Clarke, N. S. Coltman (Chairman), Mrs. S.P.M. Cottingham, G. De Jongh, Mrs, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Mrs. M. Laxton, Graham Moore, Glenn Moore, Ms A O’Rawe, M. Pickney, S. Potts, J. Puttick, C. Triandafyllou and Mrs. S. Van Der Geyten.

Officers in Attendance

Mr. J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Ms M. Foster, Mrs K Giddings and Mr. D. Saxby.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs B Beckett, T Burns, N Collinson, R Grocock, C Tasane and A Willis.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Coltman declared an interest as he lives in Marshfoot Lane and is a Wealden District Councillor, Councillors Ms O’Rawe and Triandafyllou declared interests as they are Wealden District Councillors.

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, item 5 of this agenda be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the public and press, in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders No. 1E:

The reasons for exclusion are:

Preparation of cases in legal cases
The early stages of dispute
Terms of tenders and proposals for contract

Judicial Review

Members were asked to consider a request from the Planning and Development Committee to appoint a barrister to seek clarity on whether there are material planning grounds to lodge a judicial review

Councillor Glenn Moore spoke in his position as Vice-Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee. He said that members should vote on this issue alone, not on whether they feel that further action is appropriate.

Councillor Mrs Van Der Geyten requested that there should be a record of how members voted on this issue.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Thank the Planning and Development Officer, Mrs K Giddings for her hard work on this issue to date.
- b) Allocate up to £5,000 from the Contingency Fund for the purpose of appointing a barrister to clarify if there are material planning grounds to lodge a judicial review
- c) Delegate the matter to a sub-committee comprising of Councillors P Holbrook, Glenn Moore and Ms O'Rawe and Mrs K Giddings, who would act on behalf of the Town Clerk.

The resolution was carried unanimously apart from the Chairman who abstained from voting.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.41pm.

CHAIRMAN