

# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

## ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



AMC/19/4/53

REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Street, Hailsham, on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.00 pm.

### **Public Forum**

Mr G. Osborne of the Bonfire Society thanked the Council for allowing them the use of the Recreation Ground for their event. He considered that the event was their best bonfire event so far, he advised they had received overwhelming good feedback and that the event had been particularly family orientated this year. He further advised the Bonfire Society had attended a very positive meeting at the Police Station on the 11<sup>th</sup> November, along with the emergency services and Wealden Licensing. Some improvements had been suggested for further events, such as extending the road closure to Summerheath Road, further crowd control and extra stewards on site and clearing an area in front of the Recreation Ground to allow the procession to move with more ease.

In light of the success of the event, G. Osborne asked whether the Bonfire Society could have a 5-year agreement for the event, with a review in 3 years?

54 **Committee members present**

Councillors: C. Bryant, R. Grocock (Chairman), Mrs B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton, K. Hinton, T. Powis, C. Tasane

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison and K. Giddings

55 **Apologies For Absence:**

None were received

56 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor M. Laxton declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Community Land Trust as she is a member of the CLT and did not vote on the matter.

Councillor R. Grocock declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Dennis King Sensory Garden as he is the Chairman of Environment Hailsham

57 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (Ref 19/3/42-52) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

58 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Assets Management Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

- The quotations for the paths at the Cemetery are in hand
- T. Powis advised that a surveyor has offered to survey the paths free of charge

- Cemetery Toilet – NUTRA have advised that a new toilet cannot be installed in the existing office as it cannot be attached to the drain so the men’s toilet will now be locked permanently. The women’s toilet will become a unisex toilet which will be locked apart from when there is a funeral in place
- The review of the Quality Council status is on hold for a year
- The style and colour of the bricks for the chimney have not yet been agreed

59 **Hailsham Bonfire Society**

Members were in agreement that the event had been successful and well marshalled, and it was noted that the clean up afterwards had been managed well.

G. Osborne reported that a disability area had been set aside in the garden area by the Library. He advised that the disability area will be better advertised in the future.

Members noted that Hailsham Town Council’s role in this event is as the landowner only, granting the Bonfire Society permission for the use of the Recreation Ground. The Town Council is not the authority that gives permission for the actual event.

Members discussed the request to grant the Bonfire Society permission to hold the event on the Recreation Ground for the next three years. Some concern was expressed at signing an event off for three years and it was proposed that an agreement of three years in principle, with a yearly review, would be more appropriate.

59.1 **RESOLVED** in principle to grant the Bonfire Society a three-year tenure to hold the Bonfire Event on Western Road Recreation Ground, with a review of the event to be held annually, after the event, at the Assets Committee meeting

60 **East Sussex Cycle Network**

S. Wennington addressed the Committee, advising he had met with East Sussex County Council and SUSTRANS. He stated that the only recognised cycle route in Hailsham is in Battle Road and asked for support for the concept of a cycle network connecting the Town, to open up the Town to walking and cycling. He reported he would be applying for funding from the National Lottery.

Members discussed the idea and S. Wennington suggested that the pathway around the Recreation Ground could be lit and CCTV could be placed here.

Members agreed there would be a further need for dog and litter bins alongside the paths and some concern was raised as to who would take on responsibility for these items as well as the running costs for the paths.

60.1 **RESOLVED** to agree to support the overall principle of a cycle network in the Town, connecting developments to green spaces and the Town Centre, subject to agreement of the final plans

61 **Dennis King Sensory Garden**

K. Giddings advised of a request by a member of the public to place a memorial fruit tree in the Dennis King Sensory Garden. Concerns were raised that there are already a large number of trees in the garden and that a fruit tree would take up too much space.

It was suggested that another location such as the County Park or Common Pond would be more suitable for a memorial tree.

- 61.1 **RESOLVED:**
- i) to refuse the request to place a memorial fruit tree in the Dennis King Sensory Garden
  - ii) to suggest another location such as the Common Pond or Country Park for the memorial tree
  - iii) to only approve a suitable tree for the area but not to permit a fruit tree

62 **Cricket Club**

The Cricket Club had stated that they raise £1,400 a year in sponsorship due to the signs on the Recreation Ground and that they would lose this sponsorship if they were forced to remove the signs.

Much discussion ensued and the Town Clerk was asked to write to the Cricket Club to advise them that the signs can remain in place for 12 months and then they must be removed.

- 62.1 **RESOLVED:**
- i) to allow the Cricket Club to keep the sponsorship signs in the current location for a maximum of 12 months, after which time they must be removed
  - ii) The Tennis Club to be permitted to place their sign in its previous position on the Cricket Club sign, for the next 12 months

63 **Costed Maintenance Plan**

K. Giddings reported that the plan is being worked on and the works team are waiting on some costings from third parties. The plan will be ready once these costings have been received.

64 **Dog Bins**

K. Giddings reported that it had been necessary to remove some dog waste bins as they were rotting at the bottom and in a bad state. Members were advised that the replacement of the bins and running costs are extremely high, so the bins had not been replaced. The bins that had been removed were either close to another dog waste bin or near to a normal litter bin. Members were informed that dog waste can be put in a normal litter bin or taken home and placed in the domestic bin but that many members of the public were not aware of this and thought dog waste could only be put in dog waste bins.

Members agreed to the proposal and also requested that an article highlighting the costs of running a dog waste bin and the information on where dog waste can be placed, to be included in a future newsletter.

- 64.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that when a dog waste bin is removed it does not automatically have to be replaced

65 **Street Lighting**

Members discussed the request to place a street light in Summerheath Road

- 65.1 **RESOLVED** to refuse the request to place a new street light at Summerheath Road

66 **Hawkes Road Bus Shelter**

K. Giddings advised that the bus shelter at Hawkes Road cannot be repaired and must be removed. Members discussed whether to replace the old wooden bus shelter on the site and as this is a well used bus shelter it was decided it should be replaced.

It was agreed to contact East Sussex County Council to find out whether it is necessary to use one of their recommended shelters for the replacement.

Requests to put the Hailsham logo on the new bus shelter and to provide seating if possible were noted.

66.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to allocate up to £6,000 to replace the bus shelter at Hawkes Road. Funding to be taken from capital receipts

67 **Battle Road Play Area**

J. Harrison advised that for the play area to comply with ROSPA Best Practice, the hedge needs to be removed the length of the play area and this will be replaced with a fence.

67.1 **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Include Battle Road Play area to the list of recommendations for Community Infrastructure Levy projects for a complete refurbishment of the play area site
- ii) Submit this request to the Strategy Group in January

Councillors P. Holbrook and R. Grocock both abstained from voting on the matter

68 **James West Community Hall**

Members discussed the request to place some badminton court lines on the floor of the hall. K. Giddings advised that the approximate cost just for badminton court lines would be £400 and to put badminton, netball and basketball lines down at the same time would cost approximately £1,100. Funding for the court lines is available within the existing budget for the James West Centre.

It was agreed netball and basketball lines should also be put down at the same time as the badminton court lines.

68.1 **RESOLVED** to agree to the request to place lines for a badminton court in the James West Community Centre Hall and to further place netball and basketball court lines in the Hall at the same time

69 **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.

Community Land Trust

The reason for exclusion is:

(b) terms of tenders, and proposals, and counter-proposals in negotiations for contracts

70

**Community Land Trust**

Members discussed the request and J. Harrison advised he did not quite have enough information yet on the legalities of the matter for a decision to be made

70.1 **RESOLVED** that the Community Land Trust are advised to speak to Wealden District Council Planners before any further action is taken

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.00 pm

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