



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

and

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held remotely via the internet on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm.

HTC/20/  
03/158 **Present:** Councillors: K. Balsdon, C. Bryant, D. Cottingham, R. T. Grocock, K. Hinton, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, K. Nicholls, T. Powis and A-M Ricketts

Councillors B. Bowdler and G. Fox (East Sussex County Council) was also in attendance.

159 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager) Ms M Foster (Finance Officer), Mrs K Giddings (Planning and Development Officer) and Mr. T. Hall Communications Officer).

160 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors G. Blake-Coggins, N. Coltman, A. Clarke, B. Granville, B. Holbrook A. O’Rawe and J. Puttick.

161 **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

162 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Cottingham and Holbrook declared an interest in agenda item 7 – Twinning, as they are members of the Twinning Association.

163 **Chairman’s Update**

The Chairman reported the number of official visits he had undertaken. He had been interviewed by Radio Brighton and spoke about what Hailsham Town Council was doing to attract more shops to the town centre.

A number of people had contacted him congratulating him for the cheques he had presented to the Youth Service, the Foodbank and St. Wilfrids Hospice.

164 **Confirmation of Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**Wealden Works**

165.1 The Chairman welcomed Victoria Bowdler and Lisa Crozier from Wealden Works and invited them to address the meeting, particularly in respect of their request from funding.

Ms Bowdler said that a detailed report on the activities of Wealden Works to the Council.

Wealden Works had now been going for four years and had helped many young people find work. They ran 10-week course for young people aged between 16 and 24. This included help with writing CVs as well as general life skills.

Hailsham young people now made up the second biggest intake and their request for funding was for over a three-year period.

Councillors Powis and Laxton both said they were admirers of the work undertaken by Wealden Works but there were huge pressures on the budget.

The Finance Officer confirmed this, saying that there would be a shortfall of over £100,000 in the next financial year. This would equate to a 9% increase in the Hailsham Town Council precept. She said there were two options available to members if they were minded to provide funding for Wealden Works: the first by providing a grant as part of the normal grant process or to add it in to the precept.

Councillor Hinton said that he could not support agree a substantial budget spend in isolation from the budget setting process. Decisions on funding should not be made on an ad-hoc basis.

The Chairman proposed giving Wealden Works £1,000 out of capital receipts as a one-off payment. The Town Clerk said that capital receipts cannot be used for this project and that any funding would have to come from revenue income. In any case, there was not £1,000 available for use.

The Chairman said that he would bring this matter before the next meeting of the Finance, Budget, Resource and Staffing Committee.

165.2 **RESOLVED** that the provision of £1,000 to Wealden Works should be added to the budget to be considered at meeting of the Finance, Budget, Resource and Staffing Committee.

This proposal was carried by 7 votes to 0 with 2 abstentions. Councillors Balsdon and Hinton requested that their abstentions be noted.

### **Twinning**

166.1 The Town Clerk reported that an email had been received from the Chairperson of a local council in the Kamuli District in Uganda and requesting a twinning arrangement with Hailsham. This had been discussed at the last meeting where the Town Clerk had been instructed to reply asking for more details on the type of things the twinning arrangement, if agreed, would cover.

They local council had replied citing a number of items that they wanted advice on; these fell well outside the scope of issues Hailsham Town Council could offer help on.

166.2 **RESOLVED** to write back to the local council in the Kamuli District in Uganda saying that Hailsham Town Council was not in a position to offer help on the areas wanted and suggesting that they contact East Sussex County Council and Wealden District Council.

## **Urban Grass Cutting**

167.1 Members were asked to consider a request from East Sussex County Council to fund urban grass cutting for 2021.

There were three options:

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish/Town Council a total of £9,262 for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £4,631 to do this.

167.2 **RESOLVED** to fund an additional four cuts a year at a cost of £9,262.

## **Risk Assessments Policy**

168.1 The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager said that the adoption of a Risk Assessments Policy is something that the Council needs to do on a periodical basis. An updated policy was attached to the agenda.

168.2 **RESOLVED** to adopt the draft Risk Assessments Policy with the addition of an officers highlight of the top 4 or 5 risks and adding a policy on homeworking and that Hailsham Town Council would pursue debtors.

## **Meeting Dates for 2021**

**RESOLVED** to adopt the schedule of meeting dates as attached to the agenda.

## **Confidential Business**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on the items (12,13 and 14) of the agenda as it concerns: The terms of tenders and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts:

(In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).

## **CIL Hailsham Meaningful Proportion**

171.1 The Town Clerk said that he had received a letter from Wealden District Council suggesting a meeting with representatives of Hailsham Town Council and Hellingly Parish Council to discuss CIL payments and projects following the delay in adopting Neighbourhood Plans via referenda because of COVID-19. The meeting was to be held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

Wealden was still required to pass on the 15% of the relevant CIL receipts to parish councils (rather than the 25% as would have been the case had Neighbourhood Plan been adopted via successful referendum taken place). However, Wealden had been considering whether an additional sum, equal to the shortfall in expected CIL

receipts could be made available to support the delivery of infrastructure in the town.

The funding would be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and would have a value of approximately £82,465.

- 171.2 **RESOLVED** to attend the meeting with Wealden District Council and Hellingly Parish Council on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to discuss CIL spending in principle; the Hailsham Town Council delegation to comprise of Councillors P Holbrook, Blake-Coggins, Bryant, Hinton and Laxton and the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk to write to Wealden District Council in advance of the meeting to ascertain if East Sussex County had made contact in respect of work at the Boship roundabout and Hempstead Lane.

### **Hailsham Aspires**

- 172.1 The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager reported that he had attended the last meeting of the Working Group.

The overall policy had been agreed and the comments made by Hailsham Town Council and Hailsham Forward had been taken into account. The meeting discussed how to proceed in the next six months.

- 172.2 **RESOLVED** to note the update on the Hailsham Aspires project.

### **Committee Recommendation to Council**

- 173.1 Councillor Hinton said that the meeting of the Assets Management Committee had recommended at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 that a CCTV system provided by Kiss Security, plus an intruder alarm system be purchase for the James West Centre at a cost of £7,670 (plus VAT) be purchased and be funded by capital receipts. Councillor Hinton commended the recommendation.

Councillors Laxton and Ricketts spoke in favour of the recommendation.

- 173.2 **RESOLVED** that a CCTV system provided by Kiss Security, plus an intruder alarm system be purchase for the James West Centre at a cost of £7,670 (plus VAT) be purchased and be funded by capital receipts.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN