



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council, held remotely via the internet on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

HTC/20/4  
/230 **Public Questions**

To deal with any questions or representations from members of the public, relevant to the remit of the Council, in accordance with Standing Order 1 and Hailsham Town Council Policy.

None presented.

The Town Clerk read an email received from Councillor Laxton in respect of agenda items 5 and 6 –Scheme of Delegation and Emergency Grant Funding. She was fully supportive of delegated authority to carry out the functions of the Council, as required. Councillor Laxton said that COVID-19 grants must be subject a full report four weeks after receiving funds detailing what the grant was used for. This was noted.

The Chairman asked Councillor O'Rawe to say a few words about Chriss Triandafyllou who had passed away recently.

Councillor O'Rawe said that Mr Triandafyllou had been a member of Hailsham Town Council and Wealden District Council for many years and worked tirelessly for the community. He was well respected and liked. She asked members and staff to observe 30 seconds silence in remembrance.

231 **Present:** Councillors: K. Balsdon, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, B Granville, R. Grocock, K. Hinton, P.S. Holbrook (Chairman), K. Nicholls, A. O'Rawe, T Powis, J. Puttick and A M. Ricketts.

232 **Officers in Attendance**

J. Harrison (Town Clerk), M. Foster (Finance Officer) and T Hall (Communications Officer).

233 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A. Clarke, N Coltman, D. Cottingham, B. Holbrook and M. Laxton.

234 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Hinton and Ricketts declared an interest in agenda item 76 – Emergency Grant Funding. Councillor Hinton because he is a trustee of Hailsham FM and Councillor Ricketts because she is part of the mental health referrals team for Sunflowers.

## **Scheme of Delegation**

235.1 The Town Clerk said that a document had been sent with the agenda detailing how services could be run on a day to day basis by himself and other officers. No key decisions would be taken.

Councillor Blake-Coggins asked why it had been decided that Councillors Coltman and Grocock only were signatories to cheques. The Finance Officer explained that the paperwork allowing Councillors Blake-Coggins and P Holbrook was still awaiting clearance by the bank.

235.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Adopt the scheme of delegation for as long as deemed necessary by the Town Clerk acting in accordance with national guidelines, and
- b) Agree the flexible home working policy.

## **Emergency Grant Funding**

236.1 Councillor Granville recorded an interest as his wife works for the NHS.

236.2 The Town Clerk referred members to the report sent with the agenda and was asking for agreement on the following five key recommendations:

Agreement that the underspend of the Communities Committee budget of £16,000 and the underspend of the Mayor's allowance of £778 be transferred to the Emergency Grants Fund (Note: £2,500 had already been spent in this respect).

He was looking for Council to note and approve in retrospect the £2,500 already given to Hailsham Crisis Support.

To consider the two applications for funding already formally received from the NHS Care Packages and Care for Carers,

Whilst details of the activities from Kings Head had been received, they were not looking for any funding at this stage.

The process for future grant applications.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Hailsham Foodbank had not submitted an application form for funding.

236.3 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Move underspent monies from the Communities Committee budget and the Mayoral allowance to the grants fund. This amounted to £14,278.
- b) Note and approve in retrospect the £2,500 given to Hailsham Crisis Support.
- c) Defer judgement on the two applications received and to go back to the charities that Hailsham Town Council had previously approached so that an informed decision could be taken based on the needs across the town. If councillors are aware of groups that would benefit from funding, they should inform the Town Clerk. The Communications Officer Should promote the scheme on social media informing groups of the deadline of 10 working days for applications to be received.
- d) Note the Kingshead/Cacklebury response.

- e) Delegate decisions on funding to Councillors Blake-Coggins, P Holbrook and O’Rawe.

### **Long Term Apologies for Absence**

- 237.1 The Town Clerk explained that legislation had been changed to allow for remote meetings but had not removed the six-month rule for non-attendance at meetings leading to automatic disqualification from office.
- 237.2 **RESOLVED** to accept long-term apologies from members on the basis that they are unable to attend meetings of Hailsham Town Council due to coronavirus restrictions.

### **Annual Council Meeting**

- 238.1 The Town Clerk said that members could choose between holding the Annual Council Meeting remotely or to postpone it for 12 months.
- 238.2 Councillor Tasane proposed that the Annual Town Meeting be held remotely in May 2020. This was seconded by Councillor Balsdon.
- On being put to the vote, this proposal was defeated by 9 votes to 1.
- 238.3 **RESOLVED** not to hold the Annual Council Meeting in 2020, with the next meeting being held in May 2021. Therefore, all appointments made at the last Annual Council Meeting, including Mayor, Deputy Mayor and membership of committees are carried over until the next Annual Council Meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.34pm

CHAIRMAN