



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held remotely via the internet on Wednesday 17th June at 7.00pm.

Public Question Time

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.

A member of the public requested to speak about agenda item 6 – Marshfoot Lane Development.

HTC/20
/100 **Present:** Councillors: K. Basldon, C. Bryant, G. Blake-Coggins, N. S. Coltman, R. T. Grocock, K. Hinton, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, K. Nicholls, T. Powis, A. O’Rawe and A M Ricketts

101 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr M Cairn (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).

102 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Councillors A Clarke, B Granville, M Laxton and J Puttick.

RESOLVED to accept apologies from Councillors A Clarke, B Granville, M Laxton and J Puttick.

103 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Coltman declared an interest in agenda item 6 – Marshfoot Lane Development as he lives in Marshfoot Lane.

104 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council held on 29th April 2020, be taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105 **Emergency Grants Panel**

The Town Clerk said that members had received the minutes of the Emergency Grants panel meeting held on 19th May.

A decision had been taken to make an underspend of £1,093 to allow for future grants to be awarded.

RESOLVED to note the minutes of the Emergency Grants Panel meeting held on 19th May 2020.

Marshfoot Lane Development

106.1 The Town Clerk said that the papers sent to members included a letter from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to Wealden District Council advising them not to proceed with the Marshfoot Lane Development until a decision had been taken on calling the matter in. They also included a draft letter from the Chairman of Hellingly Parish Council to send to the Secretary of State, if members so decided.

There were two key questions for Council to take:

1. To consider writing to the Secretary of State in support of calling in the decision, and
2. Whether to make a financial contribution to the funding of a legal challenge.

Indicative costs had been received for the cost of employing a legal advocate as follows:

Lowest level – to attend the enquiry £8-9,000 plus £150 per hour thereafter.

Intermediate level – to attend the enquiry £15-17,000 plus £150 per hour thereafter.

Barrister level – to attend the enquiry £25-27,000 plus £350 per hour thereafter.

106.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government supporting the calling in of the Marshfoot Lane development, and
- b) Defer any decision on financing a legal challenge until the Secretary of State's decision is made, and if necessary, call an extraordinary meeting of the Council

107 **Annual Governance Statement**

RESOLVED to note, approve and adopt section 1 of the un-audited Annual Return for 2019/20 and approve they be signed off by the Clerk/RFO and Chairman of the Council.

End of Year Accounts and Audit 2019– 2020

108 **RESOLVED** to note, approve and adopt the Annual Internal Audit report for 2019-20 for submission to the external auditors.

109 **RESOLVED** to note, approve and adopt the Statement of Accounts for year ending 31.03.2020.

110 **RESOLVED** to approve they be signed off by the Responsible Finance Officer and the Chairman of the Council.

111 **RESOLVED** to note, approve and adopt Section 2 of the un-audited Annual Return for 2019/20 and approve they be signed off by the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Council.

112 **RESOLVED** to note, approve the report in respect of the Fixed Asset Summary as at 31.03.20 as required by the external auditor.

Online Banking

113.1 The Finance Officer referred members to the officer's report previously circulated.

She explained that because of the COVID 19 pandemic Wealden District Council was no longer accepting cheques and East Sussex County Council was now following suit. Combined with the fact that each cheque cost 65 pence she had enquired about online banking.

The Barclays Business manager had said there were two options available: Barclays Net or Online Banking with Dual Authorisation. The Finance Officer said that her preference was the second option.

113.2 **RESOLVED** to move to online banking and to use the Online Banking with Dual Authorisation option.

Hellingly Proposal

114.1 Members were asked to consider providing a satellite youth group run by Hailsham Youth Service in Hellingly using the new village hall.

The Youth Services coordinator said that his service had received funding from JAG to provide services in Hellingly. What was needed from Hellingly Parish Council was free use of its village hall and to fund one member of staff at a cost £64.12 per week plus other costs amounting to £4,206 per financial year.

114.2 **RESOLVED** to put this proposal to Hellingly Parish Council and if agreement is reached delegate to the Town Clerk, Head of Youth Services and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Assets Management Committee to take forward.

Hailsham Community Safety Action Group

115.1 The Town Clerk said that a letter had been received from Inspector Jon Gross, Sussex Police formally asking if Hailsham Town Council wanted to formally join the Hailsham Community Safety Action Group.

115.2 **RESOLVED** to join the Hailsham Community Safety Action Group.

Confidential Business

RESOLVED that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on the item (13) 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).

Hailsham Aspires

117.1 The Deputy Town Clerk had attended a meeting of the Hailsham Aspires Board that afternoon.

The Town Clerk was asked to arrange an extraordinary meeting of trustees on

Tuesday 23rd June.

117.2

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.08pm.

CHAIRMAN

Global/Minutes and Agendas/ DS/ AM Minutes 15.05.19