



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council held remotely via the internet on Tuesday 11th August at 7.00pm.

Public Question Time

The Deputy Chairman of the Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce said that the Chamber had been contacted by East Sussex County Council informing them of a government initiated fund to revitalise retail in light of the Covid 19 situation and asked for their comments. He said that all businesses in the town centre would welcome more consultation.

A member of the public who worked in the High Street said he was opposed to the scheme.

County Councillor Fox reiterated that this was a government initiative designed to help local businesses and commerce. Personally, he was open-minded about the scheme and was keen to hear the view of local businesses.

Councillor Tasane said he would like to speak as a member of the public. As a person with disabilities and a user of the town he welcomed the proposed changes.

The Deputy Town Clerk said that if the scheme did proceed signage confirming that the High Street was still open for business would be needed.

HTC/20
/2/X118 **Present:** Councillors: C. Bryant, G. Blake-Coggins, N. S. Coltman, K. Hinton, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, K. Nicholls, T. Powis, J. Puttick, A M Ricketts and C Tasane.

119 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr M Cairra (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager) and Mr. T. Hall (Communications Officer).

120 **Also in Attendance**

County Councillors B Bowdler and G Fox and Wealden District Councillor N Cleaver.

121 **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Councillors K Balsdon, A Clarke, D Cottingham, B Granville, R Grocock, M Laxton and A O'Rawe.

122 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hinton declared an interest in agenda item 4 – Covid 19: Local Physical Distancing Measures. Traffic Restrictions on the High Street as he is a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

123 **Covid 19: Local Physical Distancing Measures. Traffic Restrictions on the High**

Street

The Chairman opened the debate by reminding members that Hailsham Town Council operated the post office situated in the High Street.

Councillor Blake-Coggins said that he had a number of concerns about the proposed scheme. These included that there was no mention of a risk assessment; why was Hailsham chosen to be part of this scheme? It had take a long time for businesses to pick up following the renovations to the High Street and the need to be able to drive down the High Street,

Councillor Hinton asked if any views on the scheme had been given already to East Sussex County Council.

The Town Clerk responded that six views from individual councillors had been submitted to ESCC following their initial letter in July. Three members were vaguely in favour of the scheme and three were opposed.

Councillor Hinton said that his concern was that a decision would be based on subjective views, nothing had been received from ESCC that had put this in objective terms. He thought that ESCC had rushed into this scheme and had not proven its case for it.

Councillor Bryant said that these proposals do very little to promote cycling in the town and that the closure of the High Street to traffic will hinder businesses.

Councillor O'Rawe said that she can see both sides of the debate but there was a need to help people with disabilities.

Councillor Tasane suggested having a meeting of all interested parties, but the Town Clerk stated that there was a meeting at ESCC on 12th August where a decision on whether of not to proceed with the scheme would have to be taken. Therefore, there was no time to do this.

Councillor Hinton proposed that a decision on giving a view on the scheme be given.

RESOLVED to request, in line with the recommendation to delegate authority to Councillor Dowling, the Lead Member for Transport and the Environment at East Sussex County Council and the Director to finalise the list of schemes and take any action to finalise them; that any final decisions on the Hailsham scheme and its implementation are deferred to enable further discussions with key stakeholders, including ourselves. In the hope of arriving at an agreeable scheme.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.13pm.

CHAIRMAN