

HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/21/4/17 **Public Forum**

S. Wennington advised that funding has been approved for Hailsham Footpath 18a and work will commence on 4th October. The work has been funded by East Sussex County Council.

S. Wennington and T. Powis had met with R. Gillett, the Town Council Works Manager, as the toilets at Maurice Thornton Pavilion are currently out of order and the football matches cannot go ahead without access to toilets. Access to the toilets at Hailsham East Community Centre has been organised as a temporary solution however until the toilets at Maurice Thornton Pavilion are repaired.

S. Wennington suggested toilets would be beneficial to have at Western Road Recreation Ground and he further considered that the Changing spaces pod could also be installed here. This is something that could be considered for the future if grants could be obtained.

S Wennington and I. Fairweather left the meeting at 7.10 pm

A Hailsham resident addressed the Committee, asking for a street light to be placed in Compton Terrace.

18 **Committee members present**

Councillors: C. Bryant, N. Coltman (substituting for R. Grocock), P. Holbrook, Mrs B. Holbrook (substituting for K. Hinton), Mrs M. Laxton, R. Newark, T. Powis

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison and K. Giddings

Also present: S. Wennington (Hailsham Active), I. Fairweather (Hailsham Town Football Club), P. Gibson (Hailsham News and Talk), P. Hobden (Common Pond Warden)

19 **Apologies For Absence:**

Councillors R. Grocock and K. Hinton

20 **Declarations of Interest**

M. Laxton declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Hailsham Run, as she is helping to organise the event.

21 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on

Wednesday 28th July 2021 (Ref: AMC/ 21/3/1-16) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

22

To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Assets Management Committee on 28th July 2021

- J. Harrison is investigating various companies in relation to the work to the skatepark
- A response has been received from the resident at Quinell Drive who asked for the football post to be removed. It was agreed that P. Holbrook and T. Powis would meet the resident on site to discuss the matter further
- The Police have been contacted in relation to the CCTV on Western Road Recreation Ground and J. Harrison is awaiting a reply
- J. Harrison advised that the cleaning contract for the North Street toilets has been renewed.
- A meeting is being arranged in relation to Hailsham East Community Centre
- The work to the trees at Western Road Recreation Ground, by the new pathway, is being organised

23

Street Lighting

A request had been received for the Town Council to install a new street light at Compton Terrace due to the lack of lighting in this area.

Much discussion ensued and some concern was expressed at the high level of cost for a new street light, not just the cost for the lamp itself but the cost for the work that needs to be undertaken to the road to allow for power to be installed to the new street light.

Members were reminded that the Town Council is currently upgrading its current street lamps and there are no funds set aside for additional lamps.

It was agreed to consider other options initially, such as security lighting placed on the resident's property. As the property is owned by Wealden District Council housing, it was agreed to arrange a site meeting with the District Council.

It was agreed a site visit would be organised with Councillors P. Holbrook and T. Powis and Wealden District Council Housing Department to enquire as to whether a security light could be placed here. This option was agreed to be looked into before any other options are considered.

24

Recreation Ground Maintenance

Members noted the update already given by S. Wennington for Maurice Thornton Pavilion.

Members were advised that the Pavilion is currently unusable, and work needs to be undertaken to the ceiling of the Pavilion and that the ceiling will require an asbestos survey. The Ceiling repairs will be in the region of £5000 but this does not include the cost for the asbestos removal.

Members noted these costs.

25

Hailsham Active Run

M. Laxton requested permission to collect a key for the electrical point at the War Memorial and a key to the Western Road Recreation Ground gate, for the Hailsham Active Run. It was agreed the keys would be collected from the Council offices on Friday 20th May.

K. Giddings requested M. Laxton liaise with the Cricket Club regarding the use of the Recreation Ground and M. Laxton confirmed she would speak directly to R Wilkinson of the Cricket Club.

K. Giddings and M. Laxton agreed they would meet in the next few days to go over the dates requested for advertising on Town Council land prior to the Run.

26

Community Sports Hub

Members discussed their response to the Wealden consultation for the Community Sports Hub and requested the following concerns are raised:

- There is no public transport to access the site
- East Sussex County Council need to look at the condition of the footpaths
- There are no facilities in the north of Hailsham
- There needs to be a minimum of 200 car parking spaces and also disability spaces
- The indoor sports hall needs to be full sized
- A Changing Spaces needs to be installed
- An area of the site is on a flood plain and a large proportion of the site floods every year
- The site is not big enough

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk will respond to Wealden District Council by letter, listing the above points

27

Hailsham Country Park

Two letters of complaint had been received from two residents living adjacent Hailsham Country Park, in relation to the Council's decision to create a small football pitch at the County Park

Much discussion ensued and members discussed the fact that only one small pitch is being created, and this is primarily for use for a new girl's football team.

It was suggested that the residents are advised of these details to allay any fears they may have and it was agreed a press release would be put out advising that this new small pitch would allow a girls team to play and also the positive effect this will have for community use.

28

Common Pond

Members noted the work that needs to be undertaken to the Common Pond area and agreed this will be a long term plan with funds allocated for the work over the next 4/5 years.

Work to the drainage, repairs to pathways, repairs to the island, and infilling and landscaping will all be allocated

Costs for the drainage are being looked into and this item will be discussed further at the next meeting, once quotations are received.

29

Budget

Members discussed the budget for 2022/2023

The Committee queried whether the grass at the Country Park field should be cut more frequently now that it's been marked out for a football pitch and therefore whether the grass cutting budget should be increased. J. Harrison advised he would speak to the Works Manager to check whether this is necessary.

RESOLVED that the Committee agree to adopt the 2022/2023 budget, subject to confirmation with regards to the grass cutting at Hailsham Country Park

30

Air Ambulance

Members discussed a request that had been received to install a recycling bank on Council owned land, for the Air Ambulance Charity.

Members supported this worthy cause but noted that the Council does not own any suitable areas of land for this facility and suggested a car park area would be more suitable to accommodate this.

K. Giddings stated she would contact the Air Ambulance and suggest they get in touch with Wealden District Council to request the use of one of their car park areas.

31

Hailsham Youth Service

Members noted the report

J. Harrison reported that the Deputy Youth Manager, Helen Deane, had recently left her employment at the Town Council. A new Deputy would be appointed in time.

Members praised Andy Joyes for all his hard work and stated that the Committee very much appreciated the work of Andy and all his staff.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.