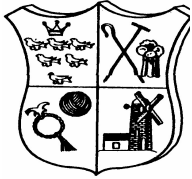


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held remotely **VIA THE INTERNET**, on Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/20/13/
181

Public Forum

None were present

182

Committee members present

Councillors: C. Bryant, R. Grocock (Chairman), K. Hinton (Vice Chairman), P. Holbrook, Mrs M. Laxton, T. Powis

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings and P. Hobden (at 8.05pm) plus E. Ware and J. Thorpe from East Sussex Highways

183

Apologies For Absence:

None were received

184

Declarations of Interest

Councillor P. Holbrook declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Blacksmiths Copse/Carpenters Way, as he distributed flyers to the residents in the area, regarding the play areas.

Councillor M. Laxton declared a personal interest in agenda item for Carpenters Way and Blacksmiths Copse Play Areas as her neighbour wrote to the Council suggesting Carpenters Way could be turned into a wildlife area.

185

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on 10th February 2021 (Ref: AMC/20/12/171-180) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

186

To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Assets Management Committee on 10th February 2021

J Harrison advised he had written to Wealden District Council formally requesting to designate the Maurice Thornton site to Fields in Trust, but had not yet received a response. J. Harrison advised he will follow this up.

The Maurice Thornton Pavilion roof is due to go on the contract finder website, but it was still a requirement that the container there is moved.

- 187 **Confidential Business**
- To resolve that due to the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and possible disclosure of personal or legal information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the public and press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E
- Street Lights
- Carpenters Way and Blacksmiths Copse Play Areas/ Open space
- 188 **Street Lights**
- E. Ware and J. Thorpe from East Sussex Highways advised.
- 188.1 **RESOLVED:**
- i) To request there is an inclusion of a paragraph relating to risk in future reports or emails provided by East Sussex County Council in regard to street lighting
 - ii) The Town Council to obtain a report from East Sussex County Council relating to traffic safety
 - iii) The Town Council to liaise with the Police regarding accident hot spots
- 189 **Street Lighting Repairs**
- Members discussed the outstanding repairs required to existing street lights.
- J. Harrison advised that require repairs for Hailsham Street Lights included the replacement of ten columns, which had been originally quoted at £13,891 plus an additional further cost for two of the columns.
- 189.1 There is currently £14,655 budget available for the repairs (£5,472 from the 2020-2021 budget, £6,000 previously allocated from Capital receipts (sale of land to H. Ripley) and £3,183 in the column repairs budget for 2021-2022) Additional funds would therefore be required.
- ESH will need to requote as some of the pricing is going up as we come into the new financial year. They do however have a plan for this where instead of individual jobs if we revisit and do all the columns as a scheme and may then be able to do re-assess the cost.
- For the lantern replacement programme; ESH suggest working with a figure of 60 lanterns at £250 this will be £15000 which will then have a bit of leeway for any additional failures that come up.
- It is hard to predict the number of columns that need to be replace each year; we can look at previous years and the asset list to maybe have a bit of a column replacement plan (similar to the SOX lantern scheme) based on column type and age.
- 189.2 **RESOLVED** to recommend to council to allocate a further £6K from Ripley's capital receipts to the Column Repairs Budget
- 189.3 **RESOLVED** To request a report on the future financial consequences of future column

replacement is reported to the Finance Committee as part of the next budget making process, ideally over a period of 3 years

E. Ware and J. Thorpe left the meeting at 7.50 pm

190

Carpenters Way and Blacksmiths Copse Play Areas/ Open space

Members discussed the options in the report, of maintaining Carpenters Way play area or turning it back into an open space or wildlife area and the future use of Blacksmiths Copse with the possibility of selling the area of land at Blacksmiths Copse, for development.

J. Harrison advised that the land at Blacksmiths Copse was given to the Town Council with a commuted sum, as a public open space and that the legal implications of selling this land for development would be huge and involve potentially expensive legal work.

Much discussion ensued and it was agreed to remove the play equipment at Carpenters Way and remove the broken fence and old sign at Blacksmiths Copse.

190.1

RESOLVED to pursue the works that need to be undertaken to both pieces of land to establish them both as green open spaces that encourage wildlife and to review the situation at a later date

Councillor P. Holbrook did not vote on the item

191

Common Pond Alcove

P. Hobden joined the meeting at 8.05 pm

Members were advised that the alcove light at the Common Pond was switched off many years ago to help prevent anti-social behaviour in the area but the light had recently been switched back on again and the problems of anti-social behaviour have resurfaced.

P. Hobden asked the Committee to consider switching the light back off again.

191.1

RESOLVED to contact East Sussex County Council to switch the alcove light off at the Common Pond

P. Hobden left the meeting at 8.10pm

192

Bus Shelters

K. Giddings updated members on the bus shelters at Ersham Road. It had been agreed at the previous Assets Management Committee meeting to take on the two bus shelters at Ersham Road and request a commuted sum of £2000 per bus shelter. The developers however have advised they will not pay any commuted sum at all.

Members agreed to take on the bus shelters regardless of no commuted sum being offered.

Members requested a list of all the bus shelters owned by the Town Council, and Councillor M. Laxton asked if the bus shelter at Harmers Hay could be cleaned, providing the Town Council does own that bus shelter.

Councillor K. Hinton abstained from voting.

193 **Hailsham East Community Centre – Asset of Community Value**

J. Harrison advised that five years ago the Town Council nominated the property as an Asset of Community Value which affords the building some protection in that if the owner tries to sell it, the property has to be offered to the community first

The five year period is ending in April and members were asked whether they wished to again nominate the building as an Asset of Community Value.

Members agreed to nominate the property.

193.1 **RESOLVED** to nominate Hailsham East Community Centre as an Asset of Community Value

194 **Western Road Recreation Ground**

Members were advised The Bonfire Society had asked for permission to hold their Bonfire event on Western Road Recreation Ground on Saturday 16th October 2020.

Members agreed to grant provisional permission, which would be dependent on government guidelines at the time, in relation to the pandemic.

194.1 **RESOLVED** to :

- i) Grant provisional permission to hold the Bonfire event on Western Road Recreation Ground on Saturday 16th October, to be reviewed in accordance with the government guidance in the autumn
- ii) Update the current risk assessment to include the new pathway, lighting and benches on the site

195 **Four Market Square**

The Committee were advised that a survey of the roof has been commissioned and the whole front of the building requires re-tiling at a cost of £3450 plus VAT.

Members were advised there is £1639 available in the 4 Market Square budget so J. Harrison suggested the remaining funds for the work could be taken from under spends in the insurance and newsletter budgets.

195.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to release an under spend of £1100 from the insurance budget and £2600 under spend on the newsletter budget to fund the repairs to the roof tiles

196 **Hailsham Country Park**

A report had been received of several dog attacks with dogs attacking other dogs in Hailsham Country Park.

Councillor M. Laxton requested a policy to be put in place for all dog owners to be asked to keep their dogs on leads in the whole of the County Park

Much discussion ensued and concern was expressed that this policy would mean that all dogs would have to be put on a lead across all Town Council public land and this would be unfair to the majority of owners and their dogs, most of whom are responsible.

Members agreed that instead there should be more public awareness on the matter

J. Harrison advised he will bring the matter up at the next meeting he has with the Police and the new Community Inspector.

196.1

RESOLVED to refuse the request to keep dogs on leads in the whole of the Country Park but to raise public awareness instead, on how to be a responsible dog owner and to put information on social media and issue a press release regarding this matter

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities