



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

and

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held remotely via the internet on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 7.00pm.

HTC/20/4
174 **Present:** Councillors: K. Balsdon, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, N. Coltman, R. T. Grocock, K. Hinton, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, K. Nicholls, T. Powis and A-M Ricketts.

175 Councillors N. Cleaver (Wealden District Council) and G. Fox (East Sussex County Council) were also in attendance.

176 **Officers in Attendance**

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

177 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors A. Clarke, D. Cottingham, B. Granville, B. Holbrook A. O'Rawe and J. Puttick.

178 **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Councillor Fox updated the meeting on the provision of the Covid vaccination supply in Hailsham. People in care homes were being vaccinated first, followed by supplying doctors' surgeries. There was an over-seventy population of 4,300 in Hailsham, of which 1,200 had already been vaccinated.

179 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

180 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman reported the passing of Mrs June Bourne, who had been a Hailsham Town councillor for many years, as well as being Town Mayor. He invited Councillor Coltman to speak.

Councillor Coltman said that Mrs Bourne should take a lot of the credit for the reopening of the Hailsham Pavilion.

The Chairman spoke about the issues surrounding the Covid vaccination.

He also addressed the limited number of vacant shops in the town centre. He had been interviewed on Brighton FM.

181 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the Minutes and Reports of the meeting of the Hailsham Town Council held on 25th November 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Committee Recommendations to Council

Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee -20th January 2021 – Youth Project Co-ordinator

- 182.1 The Town Clerk reported that the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee had recommended, that following a review of the Youth Co-ordinator's job description, that the job be upgraded, resulting in a one-point increase in salary from next year. The job title would now be Youth Service Manager.
- 182.3 **RESOLVED** that the job of Youth Co-ordinator be upgraded, resulting in a one-point increase in salary from next year. The job title would now be Youth Service Manager.

Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel 2021/22

- 183.1 Members were asked to consider the recent report and recommendations of the Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel and its implications for Hailsham Town Council.
- The Panel had recommended a basic increase of 2% in allowances for the Chairman and members.
- 183.2 **RESOLVED** not to accept the recommended increase in members' allowances for 2021/22.
- 183.3 Councillor Blake-Coggins requested that his abstention from voting be recorded,

Confidential Business

- 184 **RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 9 – Transfer of Land to Hailsham Town Council – Welbury Farm 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).

Transfer of Land to Hailsham Town Council – Welbury Farm

- 185.1 The Town Clerk said that this item dated back to a 2019 resolution where the Council had asked the developers to carry out remedial work to the land. Taylor Wimpey had done what had been requested. They were currently in the process of removing vandalised trees.
- 185.2 **RESOLVED** to move to the completion of the land transfer at Welbury Farm, subject to a satisfactory land report and solicitor's report being received; and subject to all repairs contained in the report being completed.

Before finally signing off completely the Assets Management Committee would see the report.

Precept 2021-2022

- 186.1 The Finance Officer spoke in respect of the decisions taken by the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee on 20th January 2021, and their implications for the precept.

A peppercorn rent of £1.00 per annum be charged to the Citizens Advice Bureau for its use of South View for the next two financial years, subject to the Trust approval.

The supporting documents from the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee on 20th January 2021 as appended to this agenda were adopted.

- 186.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Approve the budget of £1,146,870 as set out in the officers' report circulated with the agenda.
- b) That Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £1,146,274 for the financial year 2021/22. This represents a 3.4% increase in the Band D Tax rate. The shortfall of £596 to be drawn from the Council's reserves.

Councillors Balsdon, Hinton and Laxton requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

Green Spaces Project

- 187.1 Members were asked to consider a request by Wealden District Council to take part in a Green Spaces Project. It would involve taking part in a survey of one of Hailsham Town Council's green spaces. This would provide information on potential future use of the land.

- 187.2 **RESOLVED** to proceed with the pilot project with Wealden District Council.

- 187.3 Councillors Laxton, Nicholls and Ricketts requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

- 188 **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

- 189.1 The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager reported that he had attended the meeting of the Board held earlier today.

- 189.2 **RESOLVED** to hold an extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council on 17th February to discuss issues arising from the meeting with consultants the previous week.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49pm.

CHAIRMAN

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