



**HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of the Strategy Committee,  
held online via Zoom  
On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

STC/20/1/ 11	<b><u>Public Forum</u></b> None Presented
12	<b><u>Present:</u></b> Cllrs; G. Blake-Coggins, N. Coltman, K. Hinton, P. Holbrook (Chairman), R. Grocock, M. Laxton & J. Puttick.
13	<b><u>Officers Present:</u></b> M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk & Business Enterprise Manager), M. Hagger (Finance Officer), J. Harrison (Town Clerk)
14	<b><u>Apologies For Absence:</u></b> Cllrs A. Clarke and A. O’Rawe
15	<b><u>Declarations of Interest:</u></b> None given
16	<b><u>Confirmation of Minutes</u></b> <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategy Committee held on the 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 (Ref: StC/20/1/1-10) as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.
17	<b><u>Progress Against the Town Council’s Strategic Plan</u></b>
17.1	John Harrison explained that the committee had been given two reports, including an additional report from Michelle Hagger the Finance Officer, advising of the effects of covid on the town council’s services. In this regard the council is essentially back where it was during the previous lockdown with some notable differences. Play Areas can now be open but not multigyms. The Public toilets are open with reduced hours. The Post Office remains open again with slightly reduced hours.  Access to the toilets is being controlled and there is signage advising of the required covid-safety measures. In general Post Office customers are following guidelines and doing as asked by the staff.
17.2	Cllr Laxton advised that she thought it was a good time to be promoting the banking services at the Post Office with Barclays Bank in the town closing at the end of February. It was agreed that the HTC Communications Officer would do some additional publicity on this and that the Town Clerk would request some materials from PO Ltd.
17.3	Mr Caira provided an update on the Street Market. The market is currently open but is very limited as it can only offer food items. There is one trader with three stalls (whereas we did have five or six at one point).  Cllr Holbrook advised he had been challenged as they were selling sweets, which were not ‘essential’, however it was explained these still fit into the food category and they were selling other items of food. There would be no legitimate reason to stop him trading and there would be a possibility of the trader going elsewhere and possibly other stall holders following.
17.4	Mr Caira advised that under the current lockdown rules, play parks can stay open (they could not in first lockdown) but adult gyms are to be closed. We have encased the Western

<p>17.5</p>	<p>Road Gym with Heras fencing as tape is torn down every day and the equipment used.</p> <p>The committee asked for an update on the project to install lights around the Western Road recreation ground: John Harrison explained that there is an ongoing issue with advice provided by the WDC Conservation Officer after the Pre-application meeting, recommending the use of 'heritage' lighting, which would not fulfil the original aims of the project to provide lighting to use the track.</p> <p>It has been necessary to commission an ecological survey to assess the potential impact of the scheme on wildlife, particularly bats. There is a meeting scheduled for next week with a representative from the electrical company to talk to surveyors and Hailsham Active to look at what lighting would work in the site, bearing in mind the Conversation Officer's advice.</p> <p>There is a possibility that more columns will be required if the Conservation Officer's advice is mandatory. The question as to whether this was the case and also whether the lights advised would be more prone to vandalism was raised by Cllr Coltman.</p> <p>The County Council had got involved with advice on the type of lighting required and they had said that their recommendations should carry more weight than the Conservation Officer's. The recommendation to provide heritage lighting did mean that they would be lower and thus more prone to vandalism.</p> <p>Cllr Hinton advised that the Planning Officer is actually the person who would make the recommendation on the scheme and they should be consulted for their views. The intention is to present the Planning Officer with a couple of options and run them past him.</p>
<p>17.6</p>	<p>Cllr Grocock update the committee on the South Road Play Area project, which is still going ahead as planned. He, Richard Gillett (Outdoor Works Team Manager) and Mickey Caira had met with the contractors and been assured that it can still go ahead and carry on as they can manage within the guidelines for social distancing etc.</p> <p>Cllr Puttick asked in we are aware of flooding issues at bottom of recreation ground?</p> <p>Mr Caira advised that we were. Before the path was constructed he had given the contractor all the details about the park. There is a drain that takes water from the inside of path. If we continue to get extreme weather, we will have to dig a 'soak away'. There is no ditch in that area to carry the water away as that would have cost too much. A Section of path is raised as it goes over tree routes, and floods less.</p>
<p>17.7</p>	<p>Cllr Holbrook asked for an update on the land at Welbury Farm (At the James West Centre).</p> <p>Council officers had met with the new Contracts Manager from Taylor Wimpey to progress getting all of the necessary works done to ensure the land was fit to be adopted by HTC. They were fully aware of the need to get an independent soil survey done. There is an issue with trees that were part of planning permission that have died again. They have been asked to get WDC to confirm that the trees are not needed, to ensure there is no come back to HTC once the land is adopted.</p> <p>This will be on the agenda for next week's full council, asking HTC to take on the land subject to everything being in place.</p> <p>The question was raised of whether there is a commuted sum due? Mr Caira advised that the council has agreed to forgo monies to provide more in the centre. WDC can be asked to confirm whether there is any further commuted sum outstanding, but any amount would be less £130K as per the previous agreement. Any amount would be calculated on the amount of land to be transferred and some of the more difficult to maintain areas (such as</p>

<p>17.8</p> <p>17.9</p> <p>17.10</p>	<p>ditches) had been taken out of the agreement.</p> <p>Cllr Holbrook asked for an update on the new photocopiers in the office. Mr Caira explained that we have four copier machines in building on a five-year contract. Every five years we go out to tender to lease and service the machines. The contract was up on 6<sup>th</sup> Jan and so had been renewed.</p> <p>An update on the situation with the Ersham Road Triangle was requested, Mr Harrison has been contacted by WDC approximately six months ago to advise it would be processed in time. He advised he would follow this up for any update.</p> <p>Mr Harrison provided a few additional updates:</p> <p>A meeting is scheduled with WDC for Friday 29<sup>th</sup> at 12am to discuss transferring the Maurice Thornton site to a CIC.</p> <p>The Annual Town Meeting was scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> March as the community hall was not available later because of elections. However. The Civic hall had contacted to advise that even if Hailsham is in tier three by 3<sup>rd</sup> March, they can only have 30 people in that room. <b>The committee agreed to postpone the meeting for a year again.</b></p> <p>The Town Council has been inundated with questions about the covid vaccine, some of those contacting had been very stressed, upset and occasionally abusive. It has been difficult to get any information on the situation from the NHS. Council members are also receiving lots of phone calls. Cllr Holbrook advised that he has been discussing this with ESCC Cllr Gerard Fox and HTC would be putting out a press release shortly with the most up to date information.</p> <p>Cllr Blake-Coggins advised that the Vaccination Hub for Hailsham is Vicarage Field, the vaccine arrives tomorrow (19<sup>th</sup> Jan) and then on Wednesday (20<sup>th</sup>) the vaccinations will start.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.35pm</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">CHAIRMAN</p>