



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the James West Centre, Brunel Drive on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.00pm.

HTC/21/  
01/129

## **Public Question Time**

Mr Wennington of Hailsham Active addressed the meeting on a number of issues, including the lease at the Maurice Thornton Playing Field.

Mr Gibson said that the Hailsham Live event had been extremely successful with about 1,500 people attending throughout the day. He thanked Hailsham Town Council for its support, particularly Mr Caira and the outside works team.

Councillor Fox updated the meeting on issues relating to East Sussex County Council. He said he had been working with Councillor Cleaver on a problem on Bakers Farm. He had met with Councillors Standley and White with representatives of Southern Water about local sewage problems.

Councillor Murphy spoke about Hailsham East Community Centre which was on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillor Laxton asked the Town Clerk what arrangements were being put in place for Council meetings after the lifting of restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July. The Town Clerk said committee meetings would take place in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, but full Council meetings would continue to be held in the James West Centre.

130 **Present:** Councillors: K. Balsdon, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, N. Coltman, D. Cottingham, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, R. Newark, K. Nicholls, T. Powis and J. Puttick.

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

131 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk) and Mr D Saxby.

132 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors: A Clarke, B. Granville, R. Grocock, K. Hinton, A O'Rawe and A M Ricketts.

133 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Newark declared an interest as he is a director of Hailsham Active.

134 **Confidential Business**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 5 as they concern the terms of tenders and proposals

and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts, terms and conditions of employment or are otherwise confidential information.

(In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).

### **Land Transfer – Highway Works in South West Hailsham**

135.1 The Chairman introduced Mr S Robins (Head of Planning & Environmental Services) and Mr G Keane (Engineer and Countryside Officer) from the Planning Department at Wealden District Council.

135.3 **RESOLVED** to agree to the de-registration of the Triangle at Ersham Road as a village green, sign the de-registration application document and discuss the ownership of a new village green in Station Road in the future.

Councillor Blake-Coggins requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

### 136 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman said he had attended events at St Wilfrid's Hospice and St Wilfrid's Church. He had also attended the Hailsham Live event on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July; he congratulated Mr P Gibson on making it a success.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

137 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

138 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **Committee Recommendations to Council**

139.1 **Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Formation of a Staffing Committee**

139.2 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021, the Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee had recommended a formation of a Staffing Committee.

Resolved to:

- a) Accept the proposal for the formation of a Staffing Committee
- b) Agree the draft terms of reference
- c) To rename the Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee to the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee
- d) That the Staffing Committee be comprised of six councillors.

139.3 Seven councillors were nominated to sit on the Committee.

139.4 **RESOLVED** to rescind part D of the motion above in order for seven councillors to make up the Staffing Committee; and that the Committee comprise of Councillors Blake-Coggins, Clarke, Coltman, P Holbrook, Laxton, Newark and Nicholls. This was passed by the requisite two thirds majority.

### **Motion 178 – Code of Conduct Training**

140.1 The following motion was submitted by Councillor Grocock and seconded by Councillor Bryant:

*That the council purchase Code of Conduct Training for members of the council whether on-line or in person in the hope that all members attend to enhance their understanding of their role in public life.*

As Councillor Grocock was not present, Councillor Bryant moved the motion, and it was seconded by Councillor Balsdon.

Debate ensued.

140.2 **RESOLVED** that the council purchase Code of Conduct Training for members of the council whether on-line or in person in the hope that all members attend to enhance their understanding of their role in public life.

The motion was carried by 5 votes to 4.

### 141 **Save The DGH Campaign**

**RESOLVED** to join the Save the DGH Campaign and that Councillor Blake-Coggins is Hailsham Town Council's representative.

### 142 **Proposed Developments in South Hailsham & Proposed Street Lighting Provision**

**RESOLVED** to ask officers from East Sussex County Council to attend the next Council meeting in September,

### 143 **Confidential Business**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda items 13, 14, 15 and 16 as they concern the terms of tenders and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts, terms and conditions of employment or are otherwise confidential information.

(In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).

### **Recommendations from Committees**

#### 144.1 **Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Formation of a Staffing Committee (Independent Facilitator)**

The Finance, Budget, Resources & Staffing Committee at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 recommended to commission an independent facilitator to arrange staff and councillor liaison sessions.

144.2 **RESOLVED** to use £4,000 from Reserves to employ an independent facilitator.

### **Motion 179 Hailsham East Community Centre**

145.1 The following motion was received by the Town Clerk. It was proposed by Councillor Blake-Coggins and seconded by Councillor P Holbrook.

*The Hailsham East Community Centre was completed in 2000 with £2.6million of Sure Start and Single Regeneration Budget money.*

*Built of WDC land and originally leased to HECT (Hailsham East Community Trust), who managed the centre for 18 months before ESCC took over control of the centre in 2002. It took ESCC and WDC 14 years to sign the occupation lease.*

*Clause 1.m in the lease agreement states there shall be a local management board which shall provide for the inclusion of representatives of the local community. This clause has never been enacted to the detriment of the local community.*

*The Town Farm Residents Association is charged £54 per session to hire the committee room which is beyond their means, so the centre is used less and less by the local community. Many of the original services have been discontinued by ESCC further disenfranchising the local community.*

*This Council Resolves to write to ESCC and WDC immediately, to state that this council is willing to work collaboratively with the County Council and Wealden District Council with a view to taking on the responsibility of managing Hailsham East Community Centre on behalf of the local community for which it was built.*

In light of councillors' comments, Councillors Blake-Coggins and P Holbrook withdrew their motion.

- 145.2 **RESOLVED** to delegate this matter to the Assets Committee to employ the services of a project manager for a six-month period, financed, possibly from Capital Receipts or Community Infrastructure Levy money, to produce a report on services, costs and repairs.

#### **Maurice Thornton Playing Field**

- 146.1 Members were asked to consider a proposal from Wealden District Council regarding the lease of the Maurice Thornton Playing Field.
- 146.2 **RESOLVED** to accept WDC's offer to extend the lease on the condition that Hailsham Active can contribute to the draft terms to ensure opportunities for external funding are maximised.

- 147 **Hailsham Aspires**  
There was nothing to report.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.24pm.

CHAIRMAN