



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

and

**MINUTES** of the extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held remotely via the internet on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.00pm.

HTC/20/04/X190 **Present:** Councillors: K. Balsdon, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, N. Coltman, R. T. Grocock, K. Hinton, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, K. Nicholls, T. Powis, J. Puttick and A-M Ricketts.

191 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk) and Mr M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager)

192 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors A. Clarke and A. O'Rawe.

193 **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

194 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Laxton and Puttick declared an interest as they are directors of the Community Land Trust.

Councillors Grocock and P Holbrook declared interests as they are members of the Hailsham Aspires Partnership Board.

195 **Confidential Business**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 5 – Hailsham Aspires 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**

196.1 Councillor Hinton said that this meeting follows the last presentation and needed to decide on a formal response to Wealden district Council. It was important that each Councillor expresses a view on the project based on the information that Hailsham Town Council has in its possession.

Councillor Hinton proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Councillor Laxton.

196.2 **RESOLVED** that whilst Hailsham Town Council is pleased to note that the stated

Vision for the Hailsham Aspires project / masterplan seeks to support the Vision set out in the Town Councils Hailsham Neighbourhood Plan but considers, based on the information available and briefings received from the District Council, that the masterplan options will fail to achieve the desired Objectives and that the draft proposals will have an unacceptable, harmful impact on the built and natural environment of the town centre and wider Town.

It is considered that the size and scale of the proposals are excessive and would result in a development at odds with the established character of the town centre and its surrounding hinterland. The development as proposed would involve an excessive land take and expansion of built form amounting to an overdevelopment and proposals which do not reflect the established grain and character of the town environment.

The proposals are predominantly residential development lead at the expense of achieving a satisfactory scale of development and a mix of uses, including the retention of the existing bowling green and other community uses.

The proposals would generate significant levels of traffic into the town centre and surrounding roads increasing current levels of congestion and further adversely affecting air quality. Existing traffic problems are already well known and promised highway infrastructure improvements and mitigation have not been forthcoming despite the significant development that has already taken place and is ongoing.

The Town Council therefore does not support the project proposals as currently presented.

196.3 This resolution was carried by 8 votes to 0 with 5 abstentions.

196.4

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.19pm.

Global/Minutes and Agendas/ DS/ Minutes 17.02.21

CHAIRMAN