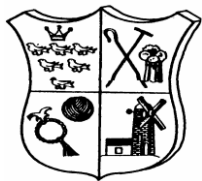


# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/21/7/  
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## **Public Forum**

Mr P. Gibson of Hailsham News, spoke in respect of the upcoming Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

He advised that any Town hosting a beacon event for the Jubilee was being asked to plant some new trees in their Town.

He asked whether the Town Council would consider organising and funding seven trees to be planted on Town Council land, for the Jubilee and whether this could be included as part of the Town Council's Tree Management programme? He also asked whether plaques could be placed alongside the trees.

K. Giddings advised she would speak to the Works Manager about this request and see what could be arranged.

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## **Committee members present**

Councillors: C. Bryant, Mrs J. Cook, R. Grocock, P. Holbrook, Mrs M. Laxton, T. Powis

Other Councillors Present: Councillors G. Blake-Coggins and S. Keogh

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison and K. Giddings

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## **Apologies For Absence:**

Councillor R. Newark

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## **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor R. Grocock declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Tree Management, as he was involved in the initial conversations regarding this, with Councillor Gerard Fox. Councillor Grocock also declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Hailsham Aspires, as he is on the Assets Management Board.

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## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Ref: AMC/ 21/6/62-78) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

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## **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Assets Management Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Members were updated on the following:

- The Youth Shelters have been purchased and should be installed in May
- The Bonfire Society have been advised they can use Western Road Recreation Ground for this year's Bonfire event
- "Totally Wild UK" have provided the dates for their foraging event
- Request for extra funding for the Hawks Road bus shelter will be taken to Full Council at the end of the month

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### **Tree Management Programme**

K. Giddings advised that the Council had been approached by Councillors Gerard Fox, R. Grocock and N. Coltman as to whether the Council would plant three trees on an area of East Sussex owned land, after a request was made to East Sussex County Council by a local resident. East Sussex County Council had asked that the trees are maintained for a period of five years to ensure good establishment, after which East Sussex County Council take on ownership and maintenance of them.

The Committee were advised that there were originally three trees here, but these were removed by Highways the previous year.

K. Giddings stated that East Sussex County Council have advised they do not currently have a tree planting policy or budget, but aim to help community groups, including town and parish councils who wish to plant trees on East Sussex County Council property.

East Sussex County Council have stated that If the Town Council replaced the three trees and added them to our current planting programs, they would help conduct a below ground services search and carry out a site visit to ensure the best positioning.

Concerned was raised as to why East Sussex County Council could not fund the planting of the trees immediately, rather than do so in five years time?

Members were advised that the Council is presently committed to a five-year tree planting plan at the Hailsham Country Park and on other Town Council land, so there is no capacity for other projects in the tree budget for 2022/2023 so funding for these trees would have to be taken from another area. Members were reminded the trees would also need to be covered by the Town Council's insurance

Members expressed concern at setting a precedent by planting and maintaining trees on areas of land that are not in its responsibility and agreed the Town Council should only plant and maintain trees on its own land.

**RESOLVED** to refuse the request from East Sussex County Council for the Town Council to plant trees on an area of land owned by East Sussex County Council

Councillor R. Grocock and Councillor C. Bryant abstained from voting on the matter

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### **Mini Bus**

K. Giddings reported that the Town Council's mini-bus had not been used in the last couple of years, it has now been SORN and the options were to either sell the bus as it is or sell it for scrap.

Members agreed to leave this decision to the Officer's discretion and for the Officers to pick whichever option obtained the greatest price.

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### **James West Centre**

Members were advised that the Town Council has been approached by an individual who operates a community Food Operation from Hailsham East, Monday to Friday, handing out food to the local community

The food is chilled and frozen and therefore is stored in a fridge and freezer located at Hailsham East.

The individual wants to expand this to able to operate on a Saturday and Sunday but is unable to do so from Hailsham East.

K. Giddings advised that the request is for the Council to allow her to place a fridge and freezer in the lobby of the James West. These will be brand new appliances and will be available from April.

The operation will require access to the centre on a Friday evening from 9.30pm to stock the fridge and freezer this will take around 30 minutes.

Much discussion ensued and members raised concerns that the lobby area gets extremely hot in the summer and whether it would be possible to run such a facility from here.

Members also suggested that if the lobby was used, the area could be screened off, when in use.

Members agreed that they approved of the request in principle but would like further details on the cost in relation to the Centre Manager's time in allowing access in and out of the building, plus further consideration as to the best location in the building to run the operation from.

K. Giddings reported she would speak to the Deputy Clerk to get further details and place this item back on the agenda for the next meeting, for further discussion.

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### **Review of Town Council's Strategic Plan**

Members noted and agreed the Town Council's proposed Strategic Plan.

It was agreed that the Strategic Plan could be further worked on at the workshops planned in the future.

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### **CIL Projects**

Members were advised the new agreed list of CIL Projects will be rewritten into the Strategic Plan, to include the proposed projects as follows: -

- Contribution towards the Cricket Club nets -
- Contribution towards the refurbishment of the Football Club Toilets -
- Battle Road Play area refurbishment (to include wet pour for all play areas) -
- New pathway at Maurice Thornton Recreation Ground, to include lighting -
- Maurice Thornton Pavilion refurbishment

J. Harrison reported that Wealden District Council requires forms to be completed for all the projects

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**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.

Western Road Recreation Ground

106 Contribution

Hailsham Aspires

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**Western Road Recreation Ground**

Members noted and agreed the proposed lighting scheme

Members were advised that the full tender documents for the pathway lighting at Western Road Recreation Ground were posted on the Government Procurement Gateway Website, as per legal requirements and under the Council's financial regulations.

J. Harrison advised that only one tender had been received back however,

Much discussion ensued and some members expressed concern that only one tender was being considered for the work and suggested the project could be re-tendered, if this did not result in the deadline for funding from Veolia being missed.

**RESOLVED** that the work to the pathway lights is re- tendered, providing that re-tending the project will not result in the Veolia deadline being missed.

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**Section 106 Contribution**

J. Harrison advised he had been approached by a developer in relation to potential Section 106 funding for the Maurice Thornton site.

Members agreed the Town Clerk should contact the Parish Council in which the development is taking place, to establish whether they are in favour of this proposal to allocate Section 106 funds, before any decision is made

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**Hailsham Aspires**

The Committee received an update from T. Powis and noted that the next Hailsham Aspires meeting is on March 29<sup>th</sup>

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities