



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 26th January 2022 at 7.00pm.

Public Question Time

Mr S Wennington from Hailsham Active updated the meeting on a number of issues. In particular, he had arranged a meeting with Nusrat Ghani, MP to discuss issues relating to local sports facilities.

at Hailsham East Community Centre and the opening of the Ropemakers Academy.

Present: Councillors: G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, J. Cook, J. Crittenden, R. Grocock, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, S. Lawrence, M. Laxton, R. Newark, K. Nicholls, T. Powis, J. Puttick and A-M Ricketts.

Councillor G. Fox (East Sussex County Council) was also in attendance.

Officers in Attendance

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs M Webber, Mrs K Giddings Mr D Saxby and Mr T Hall.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors A. Clarke, N. Coltman and D Cottingham.

Declarations of Interest

None presented. The Chairman

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 24th November 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Update

The Chairman thanked Town Council staff for their attendance.

He said that he had received many telephone queries about his health; he was very grateful and thanked people for their concern and good wishes.

Last year he had attended 120 events. Since the last meeting many shops had participated in the Christmas Best Shop Windows. He was very grateful to those who had taken part and helped make shopping in Hailsham a more pleasant experience.

He had £1,500 remaining from his Chairman's Allowance. He wanted Council's

permission to give this to community groups and charities.

RESOLVED that the Chairman compiles a list of groups and charities that he would like to donate the remaining money from the Chairman's Allowance and bring it to the Council meeting in March for agreement.

East Sussex County Council Update

The Chairman said that a letter had been received from Councillor Murphy, who was unable to attend this meeting, outlining recent activity.

Councillor Fox said that he had been dealing with a lot of highways issues, in particular the problems around South Road by the bridge. He had asked the Highways Department to carry out a proper assessment.

Councillor Fox was asked to investigate reinstating the 7 and a half tonne limit on the bridge and to move the pedestrian crossing near the local shops.

Committee Recommendations to Council

Assets Management Committee 15 December 2021 - 4 Market Square

The Assets Management Committee had been advised that as prices for materials had increased from the last quotations a new budget for a new UPVC door and window was required.

The Committee had resolved to recommend to Council that a further £1,500 to be taken from Ripley's Capital Receipts for the new UPVC door and window at 4 Market Square.

RESOLVED to allocate further £1,500 to be taken from Ripley's Capital Receipts for the new UPVC door and window at 4 Market Square.

Communities Committee 10 January 2022

The Communities Committee had agreed that up to £2,060 be made available for additional Christmas motifs.

Mrs Giddings reported that following a competition involving local school children to design the motifs extra funding would be needed to allow for four motifs to be purchased.

RESOLVED that up to £3,740 be made available for extra Christmas motifs.

Jubilee Proposal

The Chairman invited Paul Gibson to address the meeting.

Mr Gibson said that as part of Queen's Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend on 2nd to 5th June he would like to facilitate a number of events free of charge.

He would, however, want some administrative help from the Council. He also requested that the money provided from the Council for this year's Hailsham Live, which was no longer going ahead, be transferred to provide for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

RESOLVED to transfer the £6,000 provided to Hailsham Live 2022 to the events for the Queen's Jubilee and to provide appropriate administrative support.

Advertising Proposal

Members were asked to consider a proposal to take out an advert in the newly launched monthly newspaper, Hailsham News.

The options were:

A full-page advertisement every other month at a cost of £1,470 per year, or
A full-page advertisement every month at a cost of £2,700 per year.

RESOLVED to proceed with an advertisement in Hailsham News every other month at a cost of £1,470 per year.

Newsletter Distribution

Members were asked to consider options regarding the distribution of the Town Council's newsletter.

The Finance, Budget and Resources Committee held on 12th January 2022 recommended that the Town Council's newsletter be distributed from set locations in Hailsham, thus not requiring an increase in the current budget for 2022-23.

RESOLVED that the Town Council's newsletter be distributed from set locations in Hailsham (Post Office, Library, supermarkets and when possible, doctors' surgeries), thus not requiring an increase in the current budget for 2022-23; and to introduce a subscription service,

Changing Places

Members were asked to consider changing the location of the Changing Places facility to the Western Road Recreation Ground.

It was proposed that Councillor Laxton, the Town Clerk and the Works Supervisor conduct a site visit to investigate the infrastructure needed to make this move viable.

Councillor Grocock suggested carrying out a feasibility study to determine the number of people who would benefit from this facility.

RESOLVED, by 11 votes to 3 to proceed with the proposal to site the Changing Places facility on the Western Road Recreation Ground.

Councillors Bryant, Cook and Grocock asked for their votes against this proposal to be recorded.

Precept 2022-23

The Finance Officer spoke in respect of the decisions taken by the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee on 12th January 2022, and their implications for the precept.

The supporting documents from the Finance, Budget, Resources and Staffing Committee on 12th January 2022 as appended to this agenda were adopted.

RESOLVED to:

- a) Approve the budget of £1,254,440 as set out in the officers' report circulated with the agenda.
- b) That Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £1,254,440 for the financial year 2022/23. This represents a 8% increase in the Band D Tax rate. The shortfall of £1,584 to be drawn from the Council's reserves.

Committee Membership

RESOLVED that:

- a) The following officers are added to the existing committees
Councillor Cook – Planning and Development
Councillor Cook – Assets Committee
Councillor Crittenden – Planning and Development
Councillor Crittenden – Communities Committee
Councillor Lawrence – Communities Committee
Councillor Bryant – Planning and Development
Councillor Newark – Neighbourhood Plan Committee
Councillor Ricketts – Staffing Committee, and
- b) Increase the membership of all committees.

Annual Town Meeting

The Town Clerk reminded members that the date of the Annual Town Meeting was 27th April 2020. The Civic Community Hall had been booked.

RESOLVED that the normal format be followed and that the following stakeholders be asked to attend with stalls:

WDC Planning
WDC senior policy officers
ESCC Highways
NHS
Twinning Association
Hailsham Aspires Board

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).

Hailsham Aspires Project

Councillor Powis reported that the Council Sub-Committee had met with Mr Kelly of Wealden District Council.

He thought there was goodwill on both sides and a willingness to put aside past disagreement. Areas discussed were the transfer of land and the Neighbourhood Plan along with the need to work towards a memorandum of understanding.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.04

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CHAIRMAN