

Our Hailsham

JUNE 2021



Long-serving local councillor Paul Holbrook has been voted to serve a third year as Town Mayor and Chairman at the Town Council's Annual Meeting held at the James West Community Centre on Thursday 27th May.

The Annual Meeting also elected Councillor John Puttick as Deputy Town Mayor and Vice-Chairman (formerly Cllr Amanda O'Rawe), as well as various representatives for local community organisations.

During his address, Councillor Holbrook stated that it will be another busy year ahead for the Town Council and looks forward to contributing to its future achievements, including continuing to help provide more facilities for Hailsham, helping towards revitalising the town, and supporting the local community as we recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

"Thank you to everyone for having faith in me to carry out the duty of Mayor and Chairman for a third year," said Cllr



Holbrook. "I am deeply honoured to continue on as Mayor, yet, despite the many privileges associated with the role, I am aware of the burden of responsibility which it brings as an ambassador and representative of the people of Hailsham."

"A lot can be achieved in our town and, as Town Mayor, I will endeavour to work with different groups of people to overcome the challenges we face in the future, especially moving forward and seeing us through the Covid-19 pandemic. Hailsham is a special place, and I will work hard to ensure that it remains so."

COUNCIL COMMITTEE STRUCTURE FOR 2021/22

Following on from proposals made at the Annual Meeting held last month, the Council's committee structure for the next year has been put in place.

Five Standing Committees have been appointed for the 2021/22 municipal year, these being the:

ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Monitors the operation of all Town Council buildings, assets and some projects and services, ensuring a high standard of provision. It considers their further development and the development of other buildings or projects. The Committee is responsible for working in partnership with other organisations to achieve these objectives.

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Responsibilities include working with partners and stakeholders on business, retail and town centre revitalisation projects, the coordination of Hailsham Street Market, Christmas Market and Christmas Lights Switch-on events, as well as other community events.

FINANCE, BUDGET, RESOURCES & STAFFING COMMITTEE

Appointed to make recommendation to the Council on all aspects of the Town Council's financial and budgetary management, staffing and resources. The Committee is responsible for working in partnership with other organisations to achieve these objectives.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Delegated powers include commenting on planning applications, enforcement notices, notices of appeal (against planning decisions); tree preservation orders (TPOs), conservation areas and listed buildings; local development proposals; street closures; street naming and footpath diversions.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Neighbourhood Plan was voted in at public referendum on 6th May. The committee will now review its remit and look at ways of taking the Plan forwards.



A full schedule of Committee meetings, in addition to bi-monthly meetings of Full Council, is available to view on the Town Council website (www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk).

A copy of the agenda for these meetings is displayed on the notice boards outside the Town Council offices and in Vicarage Field, as well as on the Town Council's website.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND EXTERNAL BODY REPRESENTATIVES

At the Town Council's Annual Meeting held last month, members considered and agreed to councillor representation on external bodies as proposed:

Wealden District Association of Local Councils:

Cllr Paul Holbrook and Cllr John Puttick

Hailsham Active:

TBA

Hailsham /Forward (Executive):

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins and Cllr Ross Newark

Cuckmere Buses Stakeholder Group:

Cllr Trevor Powis

Environment Hailsham (Board):

Cllr John Puttick

Wealden & District Citizens' Advice Bureau (Board):

Cllr Karen Nicholls

Wealden Dementia Action Alliance:

Cllr Anne-Marie Ricketts

Movement & Access Strategy for Hailsham and Hellingly (MASHH) Steering Group:

Cllr Paul Holbrook and Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins



TOWN COUNCIL RECEPTION REOPENED TO PUBLIC

Following the latest government advice, Hailsham Town Council reception in Market Street is currently open Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm, and changes have been made to the reception area in line with social distancing and hygiene guidelines to ensure the safety of visitors, as well as staff during their visit.

It is anticipated that normal office opening hours of 9am-4pm (Monday to Friday, except bank holidays) will be reintroduced from 21st June, subject to coronavirus guidelines at the time.

The key changes to be aware of before visiting the Town Council reception area are that all visitors must wear a face covering (unless exempt) and will need to sanitise their hands as they enter the building.

To maintain social distancing and safety, only one person, family group or 'support bubble' at a time will be allowed to enter the main reception area and people may have to queue before entering the building. Other visitors will be directed by signage to remain outside the building until the reception has been vacated.

Perspex screens and barriers have been installed in the reception area to protect the public and staff and members of the public will not be permitted to handle any printed material. Anyone showing any of the COVID-19 symptoms must not enter the reception area.

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Twitter updates:
[hailshamtowncouncil \(HailshamTC\)](https://twitter.com/hailshamtowncouncil)

LAND & PROPERTY

MANAGED/MAINTAINED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL



PUBLIC OPEN SPACES & PARKS

Land at Butts Field; Land at rear of Retail Park (Diplocks Way); Land at Arlington Road East; Land at Blacksmith's Copse; Common Pond; Land at Ersham Road Triangle; Land on west side of Solway; Land to the south side of Quinnell Drive; Dennis King Memorial Sensory Garden; Cameron Close public open space; Orchard Park and land adjacent to Grovelands Barn

RECREATION LAND & PLAY AREAS

Hailsham Country Park (including lake and ponds); Western Road Recreation Ground (including Beaconsfield and tennis courts); Maurice Thornton Playing Fields; Carpenters Way play area; Stroma Gardens play area; Battle Road play area; Maurice Thornton play area; Quinnell Drive play area; Maurice Thornton skate park

ALLOTMENT SITES

Station Road; Battle Road; Harold Avenue

CEMETERY LAND

Cemetery site at Ersham Road

PREMISES MANAGED

1 Market Square (Square Youth Cafe/SafeHub/The Foyer); Cemetery Lodge (Ersham Road); Cemetery buildings inc. chapel; 3 Market Street; Inglenook & Fleur de Lys (Market Street); 4 Market Street; James West Community Centre; Union Corner Hall and car park; Maurice Thornton Pavilion, Grovelands Barn; 2 North Street building (inc. public toilets)

OTHER

War Memorial (Vicarage Field); Victoria Gate (High Street)

POST OFFICE

10 High Street

FOR A MORE DETAILED LIST OF LAND & PROPERTIES MANAGED BY HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL, PLEASE CALL 01323 841702.

RESIDENTS VOTE IN FAVOUR OF ADOPTING NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

After more than six years work by the Town Council, volunteers and professional advisers, residents voted 'yes' to adopt the Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan at a referendum held last month.

The community-led plan for Hailsham received overwhelming support at the Referendum, with a turnout of 30% voting in favour of the plan - a total of 72.8% of votes.

Now that the people of Hailsham have voted in favour of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan, it will be formally adopted by Wealden District Council in the near future. When looking at Hailsham planning applications up to 2028, the Local Planning Authority will have to take into consideration the policies contained within the neighbourhood plan.

The Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan, written by a group made up of members from the community and from Hailsham Town Council's Neighbourhood Planning Committee, proposes a number of policies relating to what infrastructure and development is needed to sustain future housing growth in the Hailsham area, taking into consideration local environment and sustainability, design, housing type, traffic and transport, economy, services and facilities.

The plan does not identify housing numbers or growth as such (which is the role of the Wealden District Council planning authority) and is based on the concept of the '10-Minute Town', promoting social cohesion, health and well-being in the local community.



Town Clerk John Harrison commented: "It's been a very long journey with the development of a neighbourhood plan for Hailsham and to reach referendum stage. The fact that the majority of residents taking part in the referendum voted in favour of adopting the plan is a great achievement for the local community after the amount of work they have contributed from the outset."

"This means that local people will have more of a say on how the town will grow and change between now and 2028," said Cllr Mary Laxton of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee

"We're extremely grateful to all residents who made the effort to vote in the referendum and to everyone in our town who have worked so hard and dedicated a lot of time for years to consult on, promote and produce this plan. The recently announced result is a clear indication that the Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan has been formally brought to life."

To view the Referendum Version of the Hailsham Neighbourhood Development Plan, visit www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning/





CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE DOG-WALKING

The Town Council has launched a new campaign to raise awareness of responsible dog-walking at the Council's parks and public open spaces.

The Town Council wants to ensure that all residents and visitors to the town's open spaces - including Hailsham Country Park, the Common Pond and Western Road Recreation Ground - can enjoy the locations and, in the current pandemic, is pleased that many residents are using this space to get their daily exercise.

The launch of the campaign comes as a result of numerous concerns raised by residents in recent months regarding dogs running loose and being out of control, attacking other dogs, fouling and causing other problems at Hailsham Country Park in particular.

In response to these concerns, the Town Council wants to continue to support the use of the park by residents, including responsible dog owners, and politely asks that people respect other park users, keeping dogs in sight and under control at all times.

The Town Council has published some guidance concerning responsible dog-walking and encourages residents to follow the tips, which will keep the park enjoyable for dog-walkers, their dogs and other people:



KEEP YOUR DOG IN SIGHT AND RESPECT OTHER PARK USERS

Keep your dog in sight and under control and put your dog on a lead if necessary. Also, please be aware that some people are intimidated by or frightened of dogs. Please ask before you let your dog approach other park users, train them not to jump up and to have a good recall. This in turn, will also help to keep your dog safe near roads and other potential dangers too.

PREVENT YOUR DOG FROM CHASING WATERFOWL AND OTHER WILDLIFE

We are lucky to share our parks and open spaces with several species of waterfowl and other wildlife. Always keep your dog at heel or on a lead near wildlife.

KEEP DOGS OUT OF PONDS AND LAKES

It is not appropriate to exercise dogs in ponds or lakes as this activity may cause distress to young birds and other wildlife, and this may also cause damage to the banks and fish stock. Where possible, please keep your dogs on leads when close to ponds and lakes.



CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG - 'BAG IT AND BIN IT'

Clearing up after your dog helps to prevent the spread of diseases that can affect not only dogs, but people too. It also keeps our public open spaces clean for other visitors. Please remember to 'bag it and bin it'. The Town Council has several dog waste bins available at different sites, although the public can also use normal litter bins to put their dog waste in (dog waste goes into the normal waste cycle, plus it can also be discarded in your domestic waste bin should you take the dog waste home with you).

LIMIT THE NUMBER OF DOGS YOU WALK AT ANY ONE TIME

Please restrict the number of dogs walked at any one time. Whilst there are no legal restrictions on the number of dogs that one person can be responsible for out on a walk whilst visiting the Town Council's open spaces, we do ask that every dog in your care is kept under control, so they don't have a negative effect on the environment, people or other dogs.

CONSIDER DOG TRAINING IF NECESSARY

Training a dog can be very rewarding and can go some way in helping to prevent dogs being out of control, attacking other dogs and causing other problems whilst dog-walking. You can obtain advice about dog training from your vet and animal welfare organisations.

"Many residents in Hailsham are keen dog owners so our Country Park and other public open spaces maintained by the Town Council are regularly visited and enjoyed," said town councillor Mary Laxton.

"We know that the vast majority of dog owners in the town are responsible. However, recent feedback provided by park users has highlighted concerns about dogs running out of control and even attacking other dogs at Hailsham Country Park. This, of course, needs addressing and we hope that the tips we have published help to make sure that everyone can enjoy our parks and public open spaces safely."

Cllr Laxton added: "It may be appropriate for dogs to be off the lead in areas with wider space such as the Country Park, but they should always be kept under control and able to respond quickly when recalled. This is crucial, as the Country Park is a community space which is also used by young children, walkers and cyclists."

"With summer already here, it's important that dog owners understand their responsibilities and exercise appropriate caution when accessing public open spaces."

JAMES WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE REOPENED WITH RESTRICTIONS

Bookings from residents and local community groups are once again being taken for the hire of the James West Community Centre located off Brunel Drive in the north of the town.

Town Council officers have been working hard to put in place all the measures needed to ensure a safe return for Centre users and hall staff, including the undertaking of an additional, comprehensive risk assessment and drawing up of social distancing guidelines as well as and health and safety regulations for user groups.

Community groups and other hirers are able to hire the facility for community events, sports, business meetings and other events, but with social distancing and hygiene measures in place (in line with the latest Government guidelines), full details of which are available on the Town Council's website: www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk

Regrettably, the Town Council is unable to take any bookings for some activities, including parties and live performances for the time being, until at least the end of restrictions (21st June - TBC).

"While we had to close the James West Community Centre for some time as a direct result of the coronavirus pandemic, we continually monitored developments and are delighted to be in a position to reopen the Centre, albeit with strict guidelines in place as set by the Government," said Deputy Town Clerk Mickey Cairn.

"A lot of work has gone into dealing safely with COVID-19 and implementing it all has been a challenge, but we are pleased that the Centre is available for use by the community once again."



"In terms of running the Centre effectively since the easing of restrictions, we will continue to follow Government advice closely, react appropriately to local situations as they arise, and maintain good communication to ensure everyone has the latest information about potential restrictions to hire in the future."

For further information or to make a booking, contact Hailsham Town Council on 01323 841702 or by email: sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

A colorful promotional poster for the 'Hailsham Live Community Event'. The top text reads 'HAILSHAM TOWN CENTRE | JULY 10 2021 11AM TILL 4PM'. Below this, the event title 'HAILSHAM LIVE COMMUNITY EVENT' is written in large, bold, red letters. Underneath, a list of activities is provided: 'STAGED MUSIC AND GAMES ★ CHARITY STANDS', 'FOOD & DRINK ★ DISCOUNTS & GIVEAWAYS', 'RIDES AND ENTERTAINMENT ★ FACEPAINTING & KIDS RIDES', and 'AND MUCH MORE...'. The poster features several images: a person in a white and black diamond-patterned costume, a group of people in green costumes, a carousel, and two children with face paint. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Crane & Co', 'Hailsham Live', 'Royal', and 'Hailsham Town Council'. The text 'FREE TO ATTEND DURING 11AM-4PM. <https://hailsham.live>' is at the very bottom.

HAILSHAM YOUTH SERVICE REOPENS MORE CENTRES

Hailsham Youth Service has reopened many of its centres and reinstated many activities in recent weeks, in line with the latest guidance concerning social distancing and coronavirus protection measures.

The Service, which provides activities, support and opportunities for young people in the local area, started its gradual reopening of centres in April, including the Square Youth Cafe, Monday Youth Hub and the newly established Hellingly Youth Hub.

"With the reopening of centres and services recently, we've had to make sure that we can make it the safest environment possible for young people and youth workers," said Andy Joyes, Youth Services Manager at Hailsham Town Council.

"The Square Youth Cafe, for example, looks and feels considerably different for those attending and there are strict measures in place to ensure that the required social distancing and hygiene measures are practised at all times."

"Having said that, it's been very good for the youth worker team to see everyone again and we will endeavour to provide as many fun activities as possible in the coming months whilst operating under these measures."

To maximise the opportunity for young people to attend, the Square Youth Cafe currently runs multiple sessions on weekday afternoons and evenings:



AFTERNOONS (3.15-5pm):

Monday/Tuesday - Yr 7
Wednesday/Thursday - Yr 8
Friday - Yr 6

EVENINGS (6.45-9pm):

Monday - Yr 9
Tuesday - Yr 8
Wednesday - Yr 10
Thursday/Friday - Yr 11

The Hellingly Youth Hub takes place at the Hellingly Community Hub on Wednesday evenings.

SESSION 1 (5.30pm-7pm): School Years 6-8
SESSION 2 (7.30pm-9pm): School Years 9-12

The Monday Youth Hub takes place at the James West Community Centre on Monday evenings

SESSION 1 (6.15pm-7.30pm): School Years 6-8
SESSION 2 (7.45pm-9pm): School Years 9-11

The most significant change for all sessions is that that is a restriction on the number of young people allowed at the centre at any one time, and that everyone who enters the premises wear a face covering at all times.

The 'SafeHub' facility at 1 Market Square, is open on Friday evenings (5.30pm-10.30pm), a facility set up to accommodate young people who are under the influence of alcohol or other substances.

Regular updates and activities can be accessed on Hailsham Youth Service's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HailshamYouthService/) and Instagram account (www.instagram.com/hailshamyouth/).



IMPROVEMENT WORKS AT HAILSHAM CEMETERY

Additional improvements and repair works have been completed at Hailsham Cemetery in Ersham Road.

The improvements saw the recent completion of the refurbishment of the New Garden of Remembrance section of the cemetery which, by the start of the pandemic in March 2020, was only partially completed.

The refurbishment included the removal of the central brick floor pattern, as the bricks have become loosened over time. The central path has also been re-laid, the former weed membrane replaced with a brand new one, and the beach stones that lay above the weed membrane for the memorial plaques to sit upon removed and replaced.

"Hailsham Cemetery is a quiet, secluded burial ground run by the Town Council and maintained for maximum peace for those visiting loved ones," said Cllr Richard Grocock of the Assets Management Committee "We want to ensure that our cemetery provides a fitting and appropriate place for people to visit their loved ones which is why we continue make improvements by carrying out any upgrades and repair work necessary on site. By doing this, we can ensure that the cemetery remains a place the community can be truly proud of."



WESTERN ROAD PLAY AREA REBUILD

Children in Hailsham can now benefit from new improved facilities as work to rebuild the play area in Western Road has reached completion, delivering an exciting upgrade to the play equipment next to the recreation ground.

Most of the equipment has been renewed and the rebuild includes the installation of new DDA-approved play equipment making it accessible to more people, as well as the resurfacing of the playground as required and additional public benches.

The revamp of the play area is part of Hailsham Town Council's continued commitment to improve local parks and open spaces and involved the installation of a large multi-play unit, a wheelchair-accessible carousel, 4-person springer seesaw, sensory play area, toddler area with a theme based on the former Hailsham train station, new picnic bench plus three new benches and two new litter bins with recycle option.

The project, which had a budget of £125,000, was funded by using Section 106 funds from Wealden District Council.

Cllr Richard Grocock of the Assets Management Committee said: "The Town Council's play areas strike a balance between providing stimulating play and meeting current safety requirements, which is why we pride ourselves in maintaining our facilities to the highest standards and undertaking regular inspections and repairs where necessary, and major revamps such as this one."

"We are very pleased to be able to provide a major rebuild of the Western Road play area. The facility is well-used and the rebuild was aimed at improving and refreshing the equipment, plus it has also helped the Town Council tackle the challenge of a growing number of families with children in the area."

James West Community Centre
BRUNEL DRIVE • HAILSHAM • BN27 3FY

A multi-purpose venue for residents, businesses and community groups in Hailsham.

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Booking/enquiries:
01323 841702
enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

www.jameswestcommunitycentre.org

Your Hailsham Town Councillors

KEVIN BALS DON, NORTH WEST WARD, CONSERVATIVE,
Telephone: 07870 649418 Email: cllr.kevin.balsdon@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

GAVIN BLAKE-COGGINS, EAST WARD, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT,
Telephone: 07766 077398 Email: cllr.gavin.blake-coggins@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

CHRISTOPHER BRYANT, MAGHAM DOWN WARD, CONSERVATIVE,
Telephone: 07865 357846 Email: cllr.christopher.bryant@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

ALEXA CLARKE, EAST WARD, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT,
Telephone: 07725 027613 Email: cllr.alex.clarke@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

NIGEL COLTMAN, CENTRAL WARD, CONSERVATIVE,
Telephone: 01323 841925 Email: cllr.nigel.coltman@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

DAVID COTTINGHAM, EAST WARD, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT,
Telephone: 01323 845792 Email: cllr.david.cottingham@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

BEN GRANVILLE, NORTH WEST WARD, CONSERVATIVE,
Telephone: 07880 321912 Email: cllr.ben.granville@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

RICHARD GROCOCK, WEST WARD, CONSERVATIVE,
Telephone: 01323 841931 Email: cllr.richard.grocock@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

KELVIN HINTON, CENTRAL WARD, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 01323 441041 Email: cllr.kelvin.hinton@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

BARBARA HOLBROOK, NORTH WARD, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT,
Telephone: 01323 841978

PAUL HOLBROOK, CENTRAL WARD, LIBERAL DEMOCRAT,
Telephone: 01323 841978

MARY LAXTON, NORTH WARD, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 01323 370984 Email: cllr.mary.laxton@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

ROSS NEWARK, HAILSHAM NORTH, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 07725 747556 Email: cllr.ross.newark@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

KAREN NICHOLLS, SOUTH WARD, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 01323 841702 Email: cllr.karen.nicholls@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

AMANDA O'RAWE, SOUTH WARD, CONSERVATIVE,
Telephone: 07525 351580 Email: cllr.amanda.orawe@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

TREVOR POWIS, WEST WARD, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 07824 466720 Email: cllr.trevor.powis@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

JOHN PUTTICK, WEST WARD, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 07762 502362 Email: cllr.john.puttick@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

ANNE MARIE RICKETTS, NORTH WEST WARD, INDEPENDENT,
Telephone: 07837 208877 Email: cllr.annemarie.ricketts@hailsham-tc.gov.uk

HAILSHAM POST OFFICE/ BANKING

A concern among many residents is the closure of bank branches, however, the Town Council wishes to assure customers that normal bank transactions can be carried out in branch at the town centre Post Office located at 10 High Street, including business deposits.

Hailsham residents can access their high street bank accounts at the town centre Post Office - this service is free of charge and as long as customers have their debit card with them, they can check your balance and withdraw or deposit cash. If you don't have a debit card, some banks will still allow you to deposit cash via the Post Office, as long as you have a deposit slip.

The Post Office's free everyday banking service is available to both businesses and individuals.

However, customers cannot transfer money from their account at the Post Office, or get advice on savings, credit, mortgages or other forms of lending offered by your bank. For these, you will need to contact your bank direct or visit in-branch.

Information on which banks offer what services at the Post Office is available online at www.postoffice.co.uk/everydaybanking.

Physical distancing guidelines and other protocols are in place on the premises, in keeping with current Government recommendations. Members of the public must wear a face mask or other face covering when entering the post office building.



HAILSHAM Heritage TRAIL

Published by:  Hailsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Learn more about our heritage and history by walking the Hailsham Heritage Trail.

Copies of the Hailsham Heritage Map & Guide are available for members of the public to purchase (cost £2) at the Town Council offices in Market Street.

Interactive copies of the Trail can be downloaded from the Hailsham Town & Shopping Guide, details of which can be found at www.hailshamforward.co.uk.

