



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close on Thursday 14th October 2021 at 7.00pm.

HTC/21/
02/148

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

149 **Present:** Councillors: K. Balsdon, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, R. Grocock, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, R. Newark, K. Nicholls. J. Puttick and A M Ricketts.

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

150 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs K Giddings and Mr D Saxby.

151 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors: A Clarke, N. Coltman, D. Cottingham. M. Laxton and T. Powis

152 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Grocock declared an interest in agenda item 5 – Hailsham Aspires Project, as he is a member of the Hailsham Aspires Board.

153 **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).

154 **Hailsham Aspires Project**

The Chairman introduced Mr T Scott (Chief Executive), Councillor R Standley (Council Leader) and Mr K Stevens from Wealden District Council.

Mr Scott spoke about the revised plan for the revitalisation of the town centre.

Town Crier

155.1 The Town Clerk reported that the current Town Crier had given up the position. He asked members if they wished to continue having a town crier and, if so, how to recruit one.

155.2 **RESOLVED** to

- a) invite the retiring Town Crier, Mr G Rowe to attend a future meeting of the Council to make a presentation and
- b) Issue a press release inviting candidates to take over the role.

156 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman said he had attended a number of events including a service for the Victoria Gates and the opening of the new path.

He would be attending an event at the Hailsham Pavilion to commemorate the life of June Bourne who had done so much to raise funds for the Pavilion's restoration. She had also been a Town Mayor of Hailsham.

Confirmation of Minutes

157 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 13th July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

158 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 4th August 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Committee Recommendations to Council**Staffing Committee**

159.1 The Staffing Committee had recommended the rescinding of Motion 117 - Rewarding Post Office Staff.

Discussion ensued.

159.2 **RESOLVED** to rescind Motion 117 – Rewarding Post Office Staff.

159.3 The resolution was carried by 5 votes to 4. Councillors Balsdon, Bryant, Grocock and Puttick requested that their opposition to the resolution be recorded.

Staffing Committee

160.1 The Staffing Committee had resolved to thank all staff for their work to keep Hailsham Town Council services open during the two lockdowns because of Covid.

161.2 **RESOLVED** to thank all staff for their work to keep Hailsham Town Council services open during the two lockdowns because of Covid.

Communities Committee

162.1 The Communities Committee had recommended that Hailsham Town Council match the contribution made to Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce by Wealden District Council, up to £1,000.

162.3 **RESOLVED** that that Hailsham Town Council match the contribution made by Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce and by Wealden District Council, up to

£1,000 to secure start-up funding.

Committee Membership

163.1 Members were asked to consider amendments to the Council's committee membership.

163.2 **RESOLVED** that

- a) the substitutes for the Staffing Committee be Councillors Balsdon, B Holbrook and Ricketts, and
- b) Councillor Newark be added to the list of substitutes for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

Costed Report for Events

164.1 Members were asked to agree the costs produced to stage festivities and events for 2022.

164.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate £18,585 to stage festivities and events for 2020.

Review of Council's Standing Orders

165.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the report circulated with the agenda. The Council had to review its Standing Orders on an annual basis. He said there were no changes to existing Standing Orders.

165.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the Standing Orders.

Urban Grass Cutting

166.1 Members were asked to consider a request from East Sussex County Council in respect of urban grass cutting. The options were as follows:

Option 1 - Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish/Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts (two standard and four extra) over the course of the year. This would cost the Parish/Town Council a total of £9450 for the year. (previous year cost £9262)

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in their area. This must include a minimum of two cuts over the course of the year. ESCC will not carry out any urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £4725 to do this. (Previous year offer £4631)

166.2 **RESOLVED** to

- a) proceed with option 2 above at a cost of £9,262, and
- b) that this is an on-going resolution for the lifetime of this Council.

167 The Chairman asked if the two East Sussex County Councillors would like to

address the meeting.

Councillor Murphy said that he had attended an on-line meeting with Wealden District Council about the future of the Hailsham East Community Centre. He had further information on costs for the building, but these were confidential.

Councillor Fox said that at the last meeting he had spoken about the East Sussex County Council underspend on finances. Some of this would be spent on highway improvements,

There had been an increase in the amount of ant-social behaviour. He was going to discuss this with Councillor Grocock.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.47pm.

CHAIRMAN