

# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Communities Committee relating to the organisation of festivities and events held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 6.00 pm.

CC/21/4xx/  
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## **Public Forum**

To deal with any questions or brief representations from members of the public relevant to the remit of the committee, in accordance with Standing Order 1. and Hailsham Town Council policy. (15 Minutes)

A local resident who wished to trade at the Street Markets addressed the Committee in relation to the markets. He advised he was also speaking on behalf of a dozen potential traders.

He stated that no matter what a trader wishes to sell, they are advised by the Town Council that they cannot trade due to the restrictions in place by Wealden District Council, and that these rules are in place to protect the shopkeepers. He advised that the goods he sells, such as new age goods, carved wood and herbs are not sold in any of the local shops and could not understand why he was not allowed to trade at the street markets. He reported that a dozen potential traders had been turned away from the street markets because of the current rules in place.

The Committee asked that Councillor Clarke and K. Giddings investigate this matter further with Wealden District Council.

K. Giddings advised she would update the Committee on the situation as soon as she had more information.

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## **Committee members present**

Councillors: G. Blake Coggins, C. Bryant, Mrs A. Clarke (Chairman) N. Coltman (Vice Chairman), Mrs K. Nicholls, Mrs A. Ricketts

## **Other members present**

T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival), G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), P. Gibson (Hailsham News and Talk), B. Pratt (Hailsham Farmers' Market) Mrs D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish Church)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings

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## **Apologies For Absence:**

118 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

119 **Confirmation of Minutes**

To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Committee held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 (Ref 21/4x/97-114), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

120 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 1<sup>s</sup> November 2021**

It was agreed all updates would be discussed throughout the meeting

121 **Street Markets**

K. Giddings advised there are only two traders trading at the markets at the moment.

K. Giddings read out an email update from M. Caira in relation to the street markets:

*There is a lot of disinformation going around on social media about the Council restricting potential traders from trading and these seems to be fuelled by someone. I have tried to put this straight. For clarity there are clauses in the leases of the businesses on Vicarage Field that provide some protection from direct competition, it is this that we must respect and may prevent a potential trader from trading or selling the full range of their goods.*

P. Gibson advised he had spoken to some of the local shop keepers and stated they had advised they would welcome new traders and competition in the Town, as this would increase footfall into the town and therefore increase their own trade.

122 **Hailsham Forward**

K. Giddings read out a further email update from M. Caira in relation to Hailsham Forward:

*The Team met again recently and are focussing on Shop Local and supporting the Hailsham BID, which is being pursued by the Chamber of Commerce.*

123 **Hailsham Live**

The Committee discussed forming a Working Group to plan and organise some events in the Town to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

The Working Group would report to the Communities Committee and any proposals would need to be agreed by the Communities Committee.

Councillors A. Ricketts and G. Blake Coggins volunteered to be on the Group, alongside P. Gibson and D. Sinden. Councillor C. Bryant advised he may also be able to put his name down to volunteer on the Committee.

The Town Council will be able to support the events by providing gazebos.

B. Pratt advised the Farmers' Market would like to be involved in the events and he will investigate ways in which they can be involved.

D. Sinden also advised Hailsham Church will be involved in the events.

P. Gibson reported that Hailsham Live may take place in early July and he is speaking to Wealden Council at the moment regarding the location of the venue.

124 **Christmas Light Switch on**

The Committee agreed the Switch On event had been a success with a good atmosphere in the Town.

G. Constable reported that the Lions had been extremely busy and sold 230 candy floss.

D. Sinden advised that over 200 people had attended the Church after the Switch On, and commented on the wonderful atmosphere at the event and in the Church afterwards.

125 **Community Forum**

K. Giddings reported that J. Seale had stepped down from the Community Forum and would not be attending any further meetings of the Communities Committee.

G. Constable stated she could provide an update on behalf of the Forum.

K. Giddings advised that both J. Coates and J. Hollister, who are involved in the Community Forum, had stated they would also provide updates and attend meetings when they can.

126 **Bonfire Society**

There was no further update.

127 **Lions**

G. Constable advised that the Lions Christmas party had been postponed due to the pandemic and a party would be planned instead for the spring.

A tombola was planned for the 11<sup>th</sup> December in Langley.

128 **Hailsham Festival**

T. Biggin updated members on Hailsham Festival Extra, and reported that an art exhibition was arranged on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December on the Hellingly Hub.

A murder mystery is also planned for February, date to be confirmed.

129 **Hailsham Farmers' Market**

B. Pratt advised that the Farmers' Market are trying to source another Baker as the Farmers Market Baker had sadly passed away and the bakery is being closed down.

Father Christmas will be attending the next Farmers' Market, their Christmas market is due to be busy with a large number of traders, including the RSPB who have also booked a stall.

130 **Hailsham FM**

There was no further update.

131 **Hailsham Parish Church**

D. Sinden advised that an interactive event was arranged at the Church on 12<sup>th</sup> December, for families with young children.

A number of Christmas services will be held at the Church over December including two "Carols by Candlelight" on 19<sup>th</sup> December and four services on Christmas Eve.

132 **Remembrance Sunday**

A "wash up" meeting had been held on 29<sup>th</sup> November to discuss feedback from the event.

Members agreed the event had been well attended and had run relatively smoothly. Unfortunately, a number of people had fainted at the event. It was agreed this was unusual and it was unsure at the moment why there was such a high level of fainting, but this was being looked into.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant had attended the event and had been looked after well, both by Councillor Bryant who escorted her at the event and also by the Charles Hunt Centre and by Hailsham Parish Church, who provided refreshments. There had just been a couple of minor issues in relation to protocol that had been raised by the British Legion at the wash up meeting.

It was noted that some Councillors had been unsure where to stand at the event and it was agreed this would be made clearer at the next event.

K. Giddings advised that the meetings to organise the next Remembrance Sunday event in 2022 would begin in June/July.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.50 pm.

**The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

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