

Our Hailsham

FEBRUARY 2022



TOWN COUNCIL SETS BUDGET FOR NEXT YEAR

Hailsham Town Council has agreed its budget for 2022-2023.

The Council adopted the recommendation put forward by the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee for the next financial year (April 2022 to March 2023) and agreed a budget of £1,254,440, with the amount of precept of £1,252,856 to be requisitioned from Wealden District Council.

This means that council tax for a Band D property in Hailsham will be £163.23, which represents just a 23p per week increase on the previous year.

The shortfall in the budget of £1,584 is to be drawn from the Council's reserves.

In making the recommendations for the budget, the Town Council aims to provide continuing security for essential services for residents and visitors alike with value for money improvements where possible.

COVID-19 has still had an impact on the current 2021-2022 figures due to some facilities being closed or operating at reduced hours, resulting in a loss of income. It has also impacted expenditure due to putting in place safety and hygiene facilities in its properties, including the public toilets, halls and play areas, which will be ongoing.



"The Town Council has agreed to increase its share of the council tax for the next financial year," said Councillor Gavin Blake-Coggins, chairman of the Finance, Budget & Resources Committee. "Nobody likes to see an increase in the Town Council's share of the precept, but a 23p per week increase I think represents value for money when you consider all the things that we do, as well as increased running, administrative, contract and other costs."

"The Town Council continues to deliver value for money and I think the budget proposal for the next year will enable us to continue to do that and go some way towards making a significant difference for the residents of Hailsham."

Some key changes which have affected the Town Council and justified an increase in its share of council tax include a necessary increase in financial support for the town centre post office, an increase in youth service provision, the reinstating of annual grants to local community groups/voluntary organisations, and other new or increased costs expected.

Councillor Blake-Coggins added: "The Finance, Budget & Resources Committee was in agreement that the Town Council cannot continue to remove items of expenditure year on year, as this in turn causes a false starting point the following financial year, in turn increasing financial difficulties in setting the budget."

"Our focus for the next year will be to continue to ensure all services are run as efficiently as possible, including the running of the high street post office, public conveniences, community halls, cemetery, play areas and youth services, as well as funding for additional grass cutting."

Council taxpayers should be aware that only a small percentage of the council tax demand goes to Hailsham Town Council - the remaining percentage goes to Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council, the Police Authority and the Fire Service for the services they provide.



UPDATE ON STATUS OF TOWN COUNCIL SERVICES

Most services and facilities run by the Town Council are up and running as normal, although some remain accessible but with changes in place. Please note that the public will be updated as soon as any further changes are proposed.

Town Council offices and reception

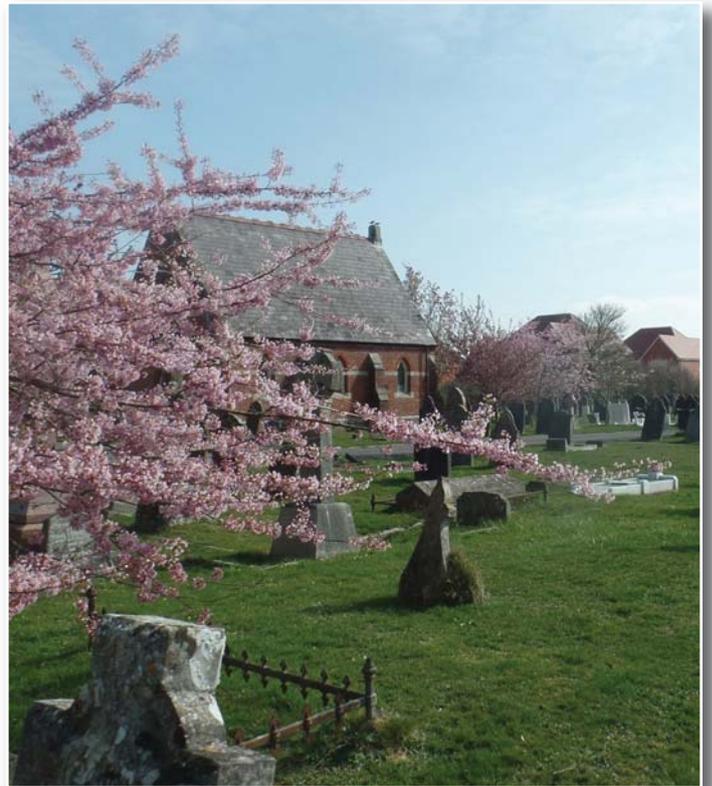
The Town Council reception, located within the Inglenook building in Market Street, is currently staffed on weekdays from 10am to 3pm, although visitors are still encouraged to wear face coverings to ensure the safety of visitors and staff.

Normal office opening hours of 9am-4pm (Monday to Friday, except bank holidays) will be reintroduced in the near future, subject to coronavirus guidelines.

Members of the public are encouraged to follow the Town Council's social media pages and keep updated via the following website: <https://www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk>

Burials and cemetery

Hailsham Cemetery in Ersham Road is open for graveside and ashes burials. Currently, there isn't a cap on the maximum number of mourners/attendees allowed at graveside burial services.



High Street post office

The high street post office is currently open from 8.30am-5.30pm Monday to Friday and on Saturdays from 10am-1pm. The wearing of face masks/coverings whilst on the premises is preferred and encouraged.

Community hall and meeting room hire

The James West Community Centre in Brunel Drive and the Southview Community Rooms in Western Road are available for hire/bookings from individuals, businesses, classes and community groups. Please call **01323 841702** or email sherridan.harper@hailsham-tc.gov.uk for details. Hire of the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room in Market Street is unavailable for hire until further notice.



Hailsham Youth Service

Many of the Town Council's face-to-face youth service venues/activities are operating at different opening hours., details of which are available by visiting: hailshamyouthservice.org



Hailsham Street Market

The market is currently open in Vicarage Field from 8.30am to 1.30pm on Saturdays.

"We are working hard to ensure that vital Town Council services are maintained and that our most vulnerable residents are protected from COVID-19," said Town Clerk John Harrison. "Things continue to change and we thank everyone for their patience. Please rest assured that we will endeavour to reinstate any other services affected as early as we can and will keep the public updated through the local press, on our website and via our social media pages."

Public conveniences

An outside contractor is currently responsible for the opening, closing and cleaning of the public conveniences adjacent to the Asda car park in North Street on a daily basis. To allow more frequent cleaning of toilets, the facility currently operates six days a week (Monday to Saturday), from 9.30am-4pm each day.



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

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

MODERN AND WELL-EQUIPPED HALL IDEAL FOR SPORTS EVENTS & TRAINING, MEETINGS, PLAYGROUP SESSIONS, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, FAMILY FUNCTIONS AND MORE!
TWO MEETING ROOMS SUITABLE FOR GROUP MEETINGS, TRAINING SESSIONS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

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

www.jameswestcommunitycentre.org



HAVE YOUR SAY AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Hailsham Town Council invites residents to attend the next Annual Town Meeting which takes place at Hailsham Civic Community Hall in Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 27th April (restrictions permitting).

The main part of the meeting will start at 7.30pm and will be chaired by the Town Mayor and Chairman, Councillor Paul Holbrook.

Those who attend will be given the opportunity to discuss matters applicable to the parish of Hailsham and ask relevant questions, subject to the provisions of Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972. The subject of the questions can properly cover any issue of public concern affecting residents of the parish.

Prior to the main residents' meeting there will be an opportunity for you to view information stands from local groups and talk to representatives of those organisations from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

"It's been another very busy year where we have been taking forward a number of projects, including improvements to existing services and helping the local community tackle the Covid-19 pandemic and the many challenges it has brought about for us," said Town Clerk, John Harrison

"Our Annual Town Meeting offers a great opportunity to provide a clear update on the significant community projects that we have been working on to take the town forward. Furthermore, this important meeting gives all residents an opportunity to tell us what you would like to see over the coming year and put forward your views on ways to improve our town for everyone."

"It's a shame that we were unable to hold the Annual Town Meetings last year and the one before due to the pandemic and restrictions in place - disappointing for all of us. But, subject to there being no reinstating of restrictions before then, we're delighted to be able to bring the meeting to residents this year!"

Town Mayor Councillor Paul Holbrook said: "It is the responsibility of all of us to help ensure that the town continues to be a pleasant place to live, work and visit, so I encourage you to come along and put forward your comments and suggestions. Your town councillors will be there to listen, help and answer any questions relating to our services and projects."

A full Agenda for the evening will available on the Town Council website and public notice-boards in Market Street and Vicarage Field prior to the meeting.

To ask a question in advance, please write to: John Harrison (Town Clerk), Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham, BN27 2AE.

The deadline for submission of questions is Friday 22nd April. Residents can also turn up and ask questions on the night.



'OUR HAILSHAM': CHANGES TO DISTRIBUTION

The Town Council has made changes to the way in which it distributes its newsletter to residents.

'Our Hailsham', which is currently published three times a year and includes information on the Town Council's activities, service updates, upcoming community projects, events and councillor contact details, is now distributed to a small number of public outlets for display/collection by residents, as opposed to being delivered to households in the town.

The newsletter will continue to be published in February, June and October and is currently available to collect at the following locations:

Hailsham Town Council Offices, Market Street

Hailsham Library, Western Road

James West Community Centre, Brunel Drive

Hailsham East Community Centre, Vega Close

Additional locations may be added in the future subject to approval, including doctors' surgeries, supermarkets, street market stalls and the Wealden District Council offices.

LOCATION AGREED FOR CHANGING PLACES FACILITY

Hailsham Town Council has agreed to fund a Changing Places room at the Western Road Recreation Ground, subject to various permissions.

The decision to spend up to £100,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) on this much-needed facility in the town was taken by the Town Council's Assets Management Committee and subsequently approved by Full Council at its meeting held last month.

The decision comes amidst a high-profile national campaign over the past few years to increase the numbers of these specialist toilet facilities.

Changing Places facilities are designed in a way so that they are completely accessible and provide sufficient space and equipment for people with multiple and complex disabilities, or who are not able to use a toilet independently.

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "The Town Council and its Assets Management Committee have investigated the possibility of

Newsletter

Residents can access the publication online as a downloadable Portable Document Format file via the Town Council website (<https://www.hailsham-tc.gov.uk>), and can subscribe to receive a link to the latest newsletter as and when it is published.

To subscribe, send an email to enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk with 'SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER' typed in the subject bar. Those who subscribe will be able to unsubscribe at any time by contacting the Town Council.

Town Clerk John Harrison said: "We hope that people continue to read the newsletter and continue to take an interest in the workings of their Town Council."

"Whilst we regret to inform residents that are not receiving the newsletter through their letterboxes anymore via a contracted distribution company, the reduction in the number of newsletters printed, the introduction of a new online subscription option and availability for collection at public outlets will result in considerable savings for the Town Council."

The reduced number of printed copies and methods of distribution will be subject to review at a later date, based on any feedback received from residents.

installing a Changing Places facility and agreed that the most feasible location at this time would be the recreation ground in Western Road."

"This is, however, subject to a number of permissions and other hurdles over the course of the next few months, but we have at least moved one step closer by deciding on the best location for the facility."

Town councillor Mary Laxton, who sits on the Assets Management Committee said: "It's been a challenging debate from the outset. Inclusion, equality and dignity are values taken seriously by the Council in representing the residents in our community."

Many of my co-members at the Town Council were keen to understand how they could best help those with complex disabilities, and it is wonderful that we have been able to work together to agree the delivery of a Changing Places facility that will benefit the local community."

"The next steps, including procurement and the obtaining of planning permission, are crucial and required in a timely manner."





HAILSHAM POST OFFICE SUCCESS STORY

Last month marked the 3-year anniversary of the Town Council acquiring the franchise for and ultimately saving the town centre post office from closure.

In setting its budget in 2018, the Town Council agreed to take over the post office if other franchise applications were unsuccessful, in order to protect the service and the staff. Subsequently, the Town Council took over the lease of the premises located at 10 High Street, before arranging a complete refurbishment of the new post office and official opening in July 2019.

Operating 51 hours of post office service a week (different times during the pandemic), the modern, open-plan premises provides all the standard counter services with four serving positions, and the same wide range of Post Office products and services are available, including banking services for personal customers and small businesses.

Hailsham Town Council is believed to be the first council in the UK to operate a post office.

Town Clerk and Postmaster John Harrison said: "We're delighted to have helped the local community by taking over the post office franchise three years ago. Not only did the

Town Council save the much-needed post office services in the town centre by doing so, but we can say with confidence that we built a brilliant and modern new branch, conveniently located for local businesses and residents, especially the elderly who often rely heavily on ease of access to local post office services."

"It's a rare thing for a town to run its own post office, but by agreeing to take over the franchise for the town centre branch in 2018, we ensured that the essential service every resident deserves was safeguarded."

The town centre post office received much positive feedback from residents during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic last year in response to social media posts published highlighting the fact that Hailsham residents have reacted in an appreciative manner, praising staff for their excellent customer service and the post office's willingness to remain open during the lockdowns as an essential community asset.



HAILSHAM STREET MARKET



**EVERY
SATURDAY**

**8.30am-1.30pm
VICARAGE FIELD**



MEET THE NEW TOWN CRIER

Terry Tozer has been appointed new Town Crier for Hailsham, following the retirement of Geoff Rowe after 12 years in the post.

Mr Tozer was selected earlier this month by a recruitment panel which included the Town Mayor, Town Clerk and town councillors, and will assist the Town Council and its partners to promote important community events and special occasions.

The role of Town Crier was, since medieval times, one of the most important ways of spreading news and local bylaws, royal proclamations, market days, holidays and community events were all pronounced by a bellman or town crier.

Today, the role is a ceremonial one and Hailsham's new town crier will assist by opening major town events, introducing guest dignitaries to the town and introducing an element of pageantry to special occasions.

"Oyez, oyez, oyez!," said Terry Tozer. "I am really honoured and excited to have been chosen for the prestigious post of Town Crier for Hailsham. "2022 is going to be an exciting year, what with Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and festivities including street parties, celebrating her long seventy-year reign and service to God and the country."

"I pray that I will be able to serve you all well and uphold the long proud English tradition of Hailsham Town Crier. God Save the Queen."



Subject to availability, as well as promoting the town's community events, market and festivities, the town crier can be hired by individuals, groups, schools or commercial ventures for events and official openings, as well as charity events.

If you are interested in hiring the Town Crier to promote your event, please send an email to enquiries@hailsham-tc.gov.uk.

TOWN COUNCIL JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Preparations by local event organisers are under way for a string of events taking place in Hailsham this summer to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

At their meeting held last month, town councillors gave the green light for plans from Hailsham News to facilitate a number of localised events around the town to coincide with the extended bank holiday (2nd-5th June). The Town Council agreed to allocate £6,000 funding towards the project in addition to funds accrued via an under-spend by the Town Council's Communities Committee.

The four-day celebration will be a time for local residents, businesses and community groups to mark and celebrate the Queen's 70-year historic reign, and Hailsham News has confirmed it will be putting together and organising the programme of events alongside and on behalf of the Town Council.

Town Mayor Paul Holbrook commented: "Summer 2022 will be an exciting time for Hailsham, and on behalf of the Town Council, I'm delighted that we have been able to finance the



cost of organising the celebrations, so ably being carried out by Hailsham News with our staff and Council member support. This year, we're aiming to do something bigger and better than ever before."

"Whilst only some of the arrangements are in place, we are confident that the programme of events to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee will be well received by residents and visitors alike, as well as bringing energy and atmosphere to the town."

All the celebrations are not-for-profit and any money raised will be going directly to local charities and causes. More information about the events will be announced in the coming weeks.



NEWS IN BRIEF

BANKING SERVICES AVAILABLE AT HIGH STREET POST OFFICE

The Town Council wishes to assure residents and businesses that normal bank transactions can be carried out in branch at the town centre Post Office located at 10 High Street, including business deposits.

You can access your high street bank account(s) at the town centre Post Office free of charge and, as long as you have your debit card with you, you can check your balance and withdraw or deposit cash.

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



FREE PUBLICITY FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Town Council is inviting all non-profit-making organisations, voluntary groups, sports clubs and registered charities in Hailsham to publicise themselves on the Council's website and public notice-boards.

All eligible organisations will be listed free of charge in the Community & Residents section of the website and on the notice-boards located in Vicarage Field and the Town Council offices in Market Street.

To advertise your group, call 01323 841702 (during office hours) or send an email to terry.hall@hailsham-tc.gov.uk, including a description of your organisation and relevant contact information in your message.

TEA WITH THE MAYOR ADVICE SURGERY

Residents can visit the Town Council offices and meet the Mayor of Hailsham Cllr Paul Holbrook at his monthly surgeries, which have recently been reinstated due to the easing of Covid-19 restrictions.

'Tea with the Mayor' advice surgeries take place on the second Friday of every month (10am-12pm), enabling residents to make enquiries about the services the Town Council provides, as well as discuss local issues and raise items of concern.

Although the surgeries have returned to running on a drop-in basis, anyone who attends the surgery will be encouraged to wear a face mask/covering whilst on the premises.

FREE ONLINE GUIDE FOR HAILSHAM SHOPPERS

A number of local businesses are featured in the smartphone-accessible Hailsham Town & Shopping Guide, which has been recently updated by Town Council staff to include newly established businesses.

The resource is a searchable collection of local shops, service providers and leisure facilities, details of which can be found at hailshamforward.co.uk.

The directory is also accessible on smartphones (via scannable QR codes) and is the first comprehensive online service Hailsham Forward has produced in partnership with the Town Council.



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.

Your Hailsham Town Councillors

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NEW YOUTH CLUB TO OPEN IN HAILSHAM THIS SPRING

A new youth club will open its doors this spring subject to agreement, which will engage young people in Hailsham and the surrounding area.

The proposal by Hailsham Youth Service to further expand its operations and open a satellite youth centre in the town - Eastside Youth Hub - is undergoing further planning and will be based at the Hailsham East Community Centre in Vega Close.

Starting on 21st April, the new Eastside Youth Hub will run sessions on Thursday evenings at the following times, operating all year round:

5.30pm-7pm: School Years 6-8 (from September)

7.30pm-9.30pm School Year 9-11

Sessions will be free to enter for local young people and offer activities such as table tennis, games, crafts, well-being and more, with light snacks and refreshments served. A programme of activities such as cookery and sports will also be included.

Hailsham Youth Service, managed and funded by the Town Council, currently operates the Square Youth Cafe in Market Square, the Monday Youth Hub at the James West Community Centre, and the recently opened Hellingly Youth Hub at the village's Community Hub premises, as well as Friday Night Project activity sessions and support services for young people such as SafeHub and Sexual Health.

The benefits of expanding the youth service into the east of the town is considered to be of benefit to young people and the local community in general.

"The new Eastside Youth Hub will provide a safe place for the young people of Hailsham to go to receive mentorship, acceptance and empowerment, and to have fun in a constructive way, building community spirit and well-being, as well as preventing boredom," said Youth Service Manager Andy Joyes.



"The new youth hub will be a great addition to Hailsham and I believe it will provide a safe space for many young people, but also give them a range of great opportunities just like the young people who attend the Square Youth Cafe and our other centres receive."

"Within growing communities, provision needs to be made for young people, and by running an additional free centre catering for 11-16 year olds, our hope is to encourage them to take part in other activities run by Hailsham Youth Service if they don't already, such as the Friday Night Project."

Town Mayor Councillor Paul Holbrook commented: "The idea to set up a youth club based at the Hailsham East Community Centre is brilliant and, having identified this need, we're optimistic that we can go even further in terms of meeting the needs of young people through facilitated activities and support. In short, Eastside Youth Hub will be a great addition to Hailsham Youth Service's offering."

"Managing the greater demand from young people to have safe places to go and something to do out of school time is important. The Eastside Youth Hub's aim will be to provide a space where young people can chill out and make new friends and, like our other venues, will ensure a safe and welcoming environment for them regardless of background, gender or culture."

"Youth service provision is within easy reach for the majority of young people in Hailsham, with record numbers attending the Square Youth Café, Monday Youth Hub, Hellingly Youth Hub and Friday Night Project sessions every week, and we hope a considerable number will attend the new Eastside Youth Hub facility as well."

