



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the James West Centre, Brunel Drive on Wednesday 5th October 2022 at 7.00pm.

HTC/22/
02/141

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance who wished to address the meeting.

142 **Present:** Councillors: C. Bryant, N Coltman, D. Cottingham, J Crittenden, R. Grocock, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, S. Keogh, K. Lawrence, R Newark, J Puttick and A M Ricketts.

Councillor N Cleaver (Wealden District Council) was also in attendance.

143 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr M. Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), Mrs M. Webber (Responsible Finance Officer), Mrs K. Giddings and Mr. D. Saxby.

144 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors G. Blake-Coggins, A. Clarke, J. Cook, M. Laxton, K. Nicholls and T. Powis.

145 **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

146 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman said he had received a letter from the Mayor of Gournay-en-Bray expressing sorrow at the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. He spoke about what Hailsham Town Council had done following her death.

He had been on a walkabout with Inspector Lauren Buck of Sussex Police.

On Saturday evening he was holding a Reception before the performance of "String – The Musical".

147 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 13th July 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

148 **East Sussex County Council Update**

The Town Clerk said that both East Sussex County Councillors were unable to attend but he had received a written update from Councillor Murphy.

He was meeting county officers to discuss the Eastwell Place bridge art project.

He had booked the Hailsham East Community Centre for the Christmas lunch for lonely, isolated and homeless people.

There is a planning application for the installation of solar panels at the Hailsham East Community Centre.

Hailsham and District BID

- 149.1 The Chairman introduced Mark Hallett and Clive Soper who had asked to address Council in respect of funding.

Mr Hallett said that the offer of a £50,000 loan from the Government had been withdrawn. They, therefore, had to obtain funding from other sources. They requested Hailsham Town Council offer funding of £10,000, which would be paid back if the BID scheme was successful.

Following discussion, the following proposal was put to the meeting:

That the request for funding of £10,000 for the Hailsham and District BID project be refused. On a show of hands, this proposal was agreed.

- 149.2 **RESOLVED** that the request for funding of £10,000 for the Hailsham and District BID project be refused.

Committee Recommendations to Council

- 150.1 **Assets Management Committee – 28th September 2022 - Changing Spaces**

At the Assets Management Committee held on 28th September 2022, it had been resolved not to proceed with this project on the basis that no rigorous feasibility study had taken place or operational costs defined, considering the Town Council's overall budget position and the potential need to minimise any budget increases. The Town Council may also wish to enter into discussions with Wealden District Council to discuss their potential location of a Changing Places facility at Vicarage Field.

- 150.2 **RESOLVED** to rescind the previous resolution and work with Wealden District Council on the location of their proposal to provide a Changing Places facility at Vicarage Field.

This resolution was carried unanimously, therefore reaching the two thirds majority needed to rescind a previous resolution.

Review of Standing Orders

- 151.1 The Town Clerk referred members to the report with suggested amendments to Standing Orders circulated with the agenda.

He explained that an annual review of Standing Orders was necessary by law.

Any written amends/additions are highlighted in red. The following have been removed or made bold as per the model standards.

Page 14/15 – SO 13 (a-d) Management Information – This is now in bold.

Page 20 – SO 20 (c) Financial Controls and Procurement – Removed

Page 20 – SO 20 (d) Financial Controls and Procurement – amended in red

Page 21 – SO 20 (g) – Financial Controls and Procurement – amended in red

Page 21 – SO 20 (h) – Financial Controls and Procurement – Removed

Page 21 – SO 21 (a & b) – Responsibilities to provide information – This I now in bold.

Page 22 – SO 22 (g – j) – Responsibilities Under Data Protection Legislation – Removed

152.2 **RESOLVED** that the suggested amendments be agreed and stand adjourned until the next meeting.

Budget Approach 2023/24

153.1 The Responsible Finance Officer addressed the meeting. She said that the Council was facing a shortfall of £100,000 if it were to maintain present levels of service. This equated to an 8% increase in the precept. The following projects had been identified as savings:

Subsidy to Cuckmere Community Bus

Urban Grass Cutting

Common Pond Island upgrade

Changing Places

Councillor Bryant suggested investigating if CIL money could be used for maintenance work.

153.2 **RESOLVED** that the Hailsham Town Council works towards a 0% precept increase for 2023/24; and that the Responsible Finance Officer produce a report for the next Council meeting detailing costings for producing a budget for as the Council stands now, a 2.5% increase in the precept and a 0% increase in the precept.

Streetlights

154.1 The Town Clerk said that East Sussex County Council lighting engineer had provided a list of 36 streetlights that were not working or needing repair, some of these had been out of action for a long time. The total cost for repairing these lights is £47,095.61. Completion of the entire programme would require an additional £32,385.61 is not in the budget.

154.2 **RESOLVED** to investigate meeting the additional cost of £32,385.61 from CIL payments or, if not possible, vie the money from capital receipts.

Warm Bank

155.1 Wealden District Council had written asking if Hailsham Town Council had any plans to participate in the Warn Banks initiative that was being set up to help residents save on their home energy bills during the winter.

- 155.2 **RESOLVED** to in principle support the Warm Bank initiative and possibly utilise the James West Centre for the purpose; and to ask the Assets Management Committee to investigate further.

Hailsham War Memorial

- 156.1 The Town Clerk read a letter he had received from the Hailsham & District branch of the Royal British Legion. They had received letters of complaint from some members of the public that wreaths were being laid on the memorial stone laid on behalf of Nelson Victor Carter VC. This was considered disrespectful.
- 156.2 **RESOLVED** that in future wreaths would not be laid in a way that covered any names of those commemorated at the War Memorial.

Confidential Business

- 157 **RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 15 as it concerns 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).

Land Exchange

- 158.1 The Town Clerk explained that he had been expecting a document from Wealden District Council. Despite it being promised in time for the meeting, it had not been received.
- 158.2 **RESOLVED** to write to Wealden District Council expressing unhappiness that the promised document had not been received,

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

CHAIRMAN