



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Civic and Community Hall, Hailsham on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 7.00pm.

HTC/22/
03/159

Public Question Time

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

Councillor Keogh said that there were a significant number of migrants and asylum seekers being housed in hotels in the area. He wanted to know from Wealden District Council why Hailsham Town Council had not been informed, which hotels were being used and what were the implications for local residents.

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

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

161 **Officers in Attendance**

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

162 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors G. Blake-Coggins, J. Cook and K. Nicholls.

163 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Laxton and Newark declared an interest as they were directors of Hailsham Active.

164 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman thanked members for attending Remembrance Sunday and remarked that it had been an excellent turnout.

He had attended a number of events including a Choral Society concert in Eastbourne.

He had a walkabout in the town to get shops and businesses to sign up for the Hailsham Card. This had been very successful.

He thanked Karen Giddings for her work in respect of the Christmas lights and to Terry Hall for publicising the switch-on event.

Councillor Keogh thanked David Saxby for organising the repainting of the names on

the War Memorial.

165 **Confirmation of Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 5th October 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

166 **East Sussex County Council Update**

Councillor Puttick read out a letter received from Councillor Fox who was unable to attend the meeting. This updated the meeting on issues relating to Hailsham.

Councillor Murphy reported that permission for the solar panels to be placed on Hailsham Community College had been granted.

There were no plans for any further primary schools in Hailsham for the next 3-5 years.

There would be no work on the South Road bridge until the publication of the Local Plan.

167 **Review of Standing Orders**

RESOLVED to agree the revised Standing Orders as debated and adjourned for the last meeting.

Urban Grass Cutting

168.1 Members were asked to consider a request from East Sussex County Council in respect 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 Hailsham 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 over the year. This would cost Hailsham Town Council a total of £9,639 for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £4,820.\

168.2 **RESOLVED** to proceed with option 1 above.

Councillor Laxton requested that her opposition to the proposal be recorded.

Costed Report for Events

169.1 The Communities Committee had prepared a costed report on events for 2023/24, which members were asked to consider.

169.2 **RESOLVED** to accept the Communities Committee costed report on events for 2023/24 of £13, 250.

170 Notice of Completion of Audit

RESOLVED to note the completion of audit.

Budget

171.1 The Town Clerk said that report of the Wealden Remuneration Panel was not known at the time of writing the report; this would have a bearing on the budget. The updated position on the budget had been circulated with the agenda.

171.2 **RESOLVED** to note the update on the situation regarding the budget.

172 Confidential Business

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).

Committee Recommendations to Council**Assets Management Committee – 26th October 2022 – Welbury Farm**

173.1

The Assets Management Committee had recommended the adoption of the land at Welbury Farm.

Councillor Ricketts said that members needed to be aware that the land needed some work on it to bring it up to standard.

Councillor Keogh stated that ROSPA had produced a report stating that the land was fit for use, and this is what members should be guided by.

173.2 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham Town Council adopt the land at Welbury Farm from Taylor Wimpey.

Maurice Thornton Playing Field – S106 Obligation Payment and Lease

174.1 Members were asked to the Council's use of the available Section 106 funding and to note the situation regarding the lease.

The amount received was £322,093.37 including indexation. The only caveats that are binding was that the money must be spent on youth and adult projects, and they must be at the Maurice Thornton playing fields.

174.2 **RESOLVED:**

to accept in principle the acceptance of the Section 106 money and to ask the Assets Management Committee to investigate what to use the money on, and

to sign the surrender of lease, subject to receiving independent legal advice.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.22pm.

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CHAIRMAN