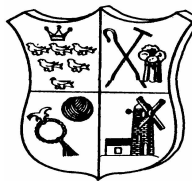


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/22/3/32 Public Forum

Councillor A. Clarke introduced two members of the craft group “Calamity Crafters”. The two members of the group addressed the Committee in relation to their crafting group, stating that they had lost their booking at the Community Hub as this has lost funding. They asked if they could hire either the Fleur de Lys room or the Members Room at a discounted rate ?

G. Landon and H. Marks from Hailsham Tennis Club were present, and advised they would like to address the Committee in relation to the Tennis Club’s request for an extra sign on Western Road Recreation Ground, to advertise the Tennis Club.

Mr R. Wilkinson of Hailsham Cricket Club requested the Committee approve their request to extend the picket fence outside the Cricket Club Pavilion, so the club can move their covers to this area, as they had been vandalised recently.

33 Committee members present

Councillors: C. Bryant, N. Coltman (substituting for J. Cook), R. Grocock, P. Holbrook, S. Keogh, T. Powis

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings and M. Webber

34 Apologies For Absence:

Councillor J. Cook. M. Laxton and R. Newark

35 Declarations of Interest

S. Keogh declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Hailsham Active as he advertises within the Hailsham Brochure

36 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 (Ref: AMC/ 22/2/21-31) as printed and circulated, may be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

37 To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Assets Management Committee on 20th July 2022

J. Harrison stated he has written to the police and East Sussex County Council regarding the parking issues at Brunel Drive, by the James West Centre. S. Keogh also advised he

had sent a report to Councillor G. Fox of ESCC and this has been passed onto the Highways Department.

P. Holbrook advised that a meeting is due to take place shortly with Sussex Police and this matter will be brought up with them at the meeting.

J. Harrison reported that the football goal posts are still situated at Hailsham Country Park and there have been no further problems.

38

Youth Shelter

Mr A. Joyes, Youth Manager for the Youth Service, addressed the Committee regarding the Youth Shelter at Western Road Recreation Ground. He reported that the Shelter was a huge success in some ways, one of the reasons for its installation in this location was to draw away anti social behaviour from the Town Centre, and this has worked, with reports of reduced anti social behaviour by Asda and the Police, in the last two months.

He reported there has also been no vandalism in the South Road Play area in the last two months.

A Joyes explained that the Youth Shelter has given the young people a place to go and he agreed that there has been some litter issues here but that this was not just caused by the young people but also by adults leaving the MI Club in the evening. He further advised he had only received two direct complaints regarding the shelter.

A Joyes asked if a vandal proof bin could be placed directly next to the shelter, to help with the litter problem.

The Committee thanked A. Joyes for everything that he and his staff do to help the young people of the Town.

Members agreed that the many positive aspects of the Shelter should be advertised through press releases, to the public.

38.1 **RESOLVED** that the Youth Shelter will remain on the Western Road Recreation Ground

39

Hailsham Active

S. Wennington introduced the Chair of Hailsham United to the Committee, Mr J. Bartlett.

S. Wennington requested that Maurice Thornton Pavilion is sub let to the Hailsham united Football Club.

J. Harrison stated that Hailsham Active would need to organise the CIC.

Members agreed that a formal Sub Lease would need to be drawn up for the Pavilion

39.1 **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Town Clerk will contact the Town Council's Solicitors to draw up a lease for Maurice Thornton Pavilion to allow the Football Club to take responsibility for the Pavilion
- ii) The Town Clerk will contact Wealden Council regarding the implications of a Lease

40

Tennis Club

G Landon of Hailsham Tennis Club requested the Tennis Club are allowed to place a separate sign on the Recreation Ground, advertising the Tennis Club.

Much discussion ensued. Members also discussed the main sign which was due to be created with the names of all the Clubs that are situated on the Recreation Ground. Some concern was expressed as to whether a separate sign was needed for the Tennis Club in addition to the main sign.

Members suggested a banner could be placed along the railings, advertising the Club, but the Tennis Club were concerned that this would not be visible from the road side.

40.1 **RESOLVED** to arrange a site meeting with the Tennis Club to discuss their request for an additional sign on Western Road Recreation Ground

41

Cricket Club

R. Wilkinson of Hailsham Cricket Club explained that the Cricket Club covers had been vandalised recently and he stated that if the picket fence could be extended and the covers placed directly inside the fence next to the cricket pavilion, there was less chance of them being vandalised.

41.1 **RESOLVED** to agree to the Cricket Club's request to extend the picket fence by the Cricket Pavilion

42

Budget

M. Webber addressed the Committee in relation to the budget and advised that there is now a shortfall of £100,000 in the Council budget and that some savings will need to be put in place to reduce this shortfall. M. Webber asked the Committee to consider possible changes that can be made to the budget in time for the next meeting.

M. Webber asked the following points are taken into account by the Assets Committee when deciding on where to make changes in the Assets Committee budget:

Common Pond Island tree works – this will be a considerable amount of work required – in the region of £5,000

New Teen shelters at Western Road Recreation ground and Maurice Thornton recreation ground require a maintenance budget, provisionally £1,000 per shelter for 2023-2024 to be reviewed

James West Hall will need an increase in budget due to higher utilities for air conditioning unit, water, maintenance of the building, cleaning. £28,000 .

Street lighting annual repairs - £12,384.00 based on a 5-year average as per FBRC recommendation. .

Post Office is an area for discussion as at present there is £60,000 in the budget to help support the post office, but there is a Post office Sub-committee reviewing the situation of the post office.

The Committee agreed to take into account the above points made by the Accounts Officer.

Members agreed that some projects and works may have to be cancelled or postponed to help save costs and a list of possible savings identified as follows:

Bus Concessions	£8,000
Island Maintenance	
Common Pond	£5,000
Maintenance Plan	£29,675 (half of the original budget, so in theory extending the maintenance plan by 1 year)
Changing Places	£13,000
Urban Grass Cutting	£9,500
Total Savings	£65,175

Leaving a shortfall remaining of £35,300

T. Powis thanked M. Webber for all her work in relation to the budget and proposed costs.

The budget will be discussed further at the next meeting

43

Pitch and hire Fees

M. Webber advised that pitch and hire fees had not been increased since 2007.

Members agreed to charge per team for the pitch fees, rather than per day as is the currently agreement. Charges will also be made per team for training days.

The charges will also be put in place for the Cricket Club.

It was suggested that the Fleur de Lys charges could be changed to per hour, rather than per 4 hours, with a minimum booking of two hours.

Maurice Thornton to be increased to £16 per session

Fleur de lys to £7.00 an hour

James West to be increased to £17 per hour for the main hall

£22.00 per day for all pitches

Much discussion ensued and members agreed to the proposed increases in the hire charges, suggested in the report by M. Webber.

43.1

RESOLVED to recommend to increase the pitch and hire fees as proposed by the Accounts Manager, from April 2023

44

Calamity Crafters

The request by Calamity Crafts for a reduction in booking fees was discussed

Although members were sympathetic, they were concerned that by reducing booking fees for one group, this would set a precedent for any other group booking the room

Members suggested the group could contact the Council to possibly apply for a grant, to

help with booking fees

- 44.1 **RESOLVED** not to approve the request by the Crafting Group to offer a reduced rate for fees

45 **Changing Spaces**

In light of the recent need to reduce costs, members discussed the costs involved with the proposed changing spaces pod and whether the Town Council had the funds for such a large project.

Members were advised that Wealden District Council are planning on installing a changing spaces pod in the Town Centre and members agreed that the Town Council could liaise with Wealden on this project, rather than the Town Council take on the costs for the project

- 45.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council not to progress with this project on the basis that no rigorous feasibility study or operational costs had been defined, taking into account the Town Council's overall budget position and the potential need to minimise any budget increases.

The Town Council may wish to enter into discussions with Wealden District Council to discuss their potential location of a Changing Places facility at Vicarage Field, working with them to identify solutions and timescales, and investigate operational and other costs with them.

46 **Confidential Business**

To Resolve that due to the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and possible disclosure of personal or legal information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E.

Post Office

Welbury Farm

Erasham Road Triangle

Kemer Kebab

47 **Post Office**

Members all agreed with the content of the report on the Post Office

C. Bryant thanked the Sub Committee for their work and the report

It was agreed that the next step is for the Committee to speak directly to the Post Office staff and arrange a meeting

48 **Welbury Farm**

It was agreed to defer this item to the next Assets Committee meeting, once a response

has been received from Wealden Council in relation to the planning conditions

48.1 **RESOLVED** to contact Wealden District Council to investigate whether Taylor Wimpey are in breach of the planning conditions

49 **Ersham Road Triangle**

J. Harrison reported that this agenda item could not be discussed as the land transfer documents have not been received

It was agreed to defer the item to the Full Council meeting

50 **Kemer Kebab**

Members approved the quotation to carry out the work to the window at Kemer Kebab

50.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £2281.20 plus VAT, plus £300.00 for making good, to be taken from the maintenance budget

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities