



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 22nd March 2023 at 7.00pm.

HTC/22/
04/187

Election of Chairman

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the council elected Councillor Steve Keogh to chair the meeting, until the Vice-Chair Councillor John Puttick arrived.

188

Public Question Time

No members of the public wished to speak.

189

Present: Councillors: C. Bryant, N. Coltman, R. Grocock, S Keogh, K. Lawrence, T. Powis and J. Puttick.

190.1

Councillor S. Murphy (East Sussex County Council) was also in attendance.

Officers in Attendance

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

190.2

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors G Blake-Coggins, A. Clarke, J. Cook, D. Cottingham, J Crittenden, B Holbrook, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton, R. Newark, K. Nicholls and A M Ricketts.

191

Declarations of Interest

None presented.

192

Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 25th January 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

193

East Sussex County Council Update

Councillor Murphy gave a verbal report.

He said that up to 60 nursery places would be available for children at the Hailsham East Community Centre.

SGN had not completed it scheduled work at the South Road/Ersham Road junction, consequently the resurfacing of the road would be delayed.

The Eastwell Place bridge project had now been agreed; the next step would be to go to Wealden District Council

East Sussex Highways had been made aware of the subsidence issues in Hawkes Road.

Residents of Garfield Road had asked that the road be made one-way.

Councillor Murphy said that he would like a meeting with Hailsham Town Council to discuss streetlights.

The First Field site was up for disposal and may be used as a retirement home. Councillor Murphy said he would be opposing this.

Councillor Murphy thanked Hailsham Town Council for its help in the Ukraine candlelight vigil to mark the first anniversary of the invasion by Russia.

Councillor Fox had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting and provided a written update.

ESCC Highways contractors had repaired 8261 potholes since the start of the year, this left a further 595 reported potholes currently in the system awaiting repair.

The zebra crossing on South Road will be refreshed once resurfacing work is completed later in the year.

Families are being urged to check their eligibility for help to buy milk and food through the NHS Healthy Start initiative. It was estimated that over 1400 eligible families in East Sussex were missing out on at least £320,000 of available funding every year.

194 **Councillor J Puttick**

Councillor Puttick joined the meeting at 7.15pm and took over the role of Chairman.

195.1 **Committee Recommendations to Council**

Communities Committee 8th February 2023 – Eastwell Place Bridge Project

The Communities Committee had resolved to recommend that the Eastwell Place bridge project be funded by £1,200 from CIL receipts.

Councillor Powis said that he had seen other projects similar to this one and they had worked well. He was wholeheartedly in favour of this project.

Councillor Keogh asked what preventative measures were in place to prevent misuse and who would pay for it. He also asked for an assurance that this was a one-off payment for Hailsham Town Council.

County Councillor Murphy said that the panels were easy clean and confirmed that Hailsham Town Council would not be asked for any future funding.

195.2 **RESOLVED** that £1,200 be made available from CIL receipts for the Eastwell Place bridge project.

196.1 **Assets Management Committee 15th March 2023 – Brunel Drive**

196.2 The Assets Management Committee had resolved to recommend spending £500 from Professional Fees on a feasibility study for Brunel Drive. This would be for an expert to review all the issues and potential options to ameliorate the road safety and parking issues on Brunel Drive and Hedley Way.

RESOLVED to spend £500 from Professional Fees on a feasibility study on the traffic and parking problems on Brunel Drive.

197.1 **Committee Membership**

Councillor Cook had submitted her resignation from the Planning and Development Committee for personal reasons. Member were asked to consider a replacement for her, or alternatively leaving a vacancy until the Annual Meeting in May.

197.2 **RESOLVED** that Councillor Keogh replace Councillor Cook as a member of the Planning and Development Committee for the remainder of the Council year.

198.1 **Social Media, Town Crier and Mayoral Protocols**

The Town Clerk said that he and the Communications Officer had drawn up Social Media, Town Crier and Mayoral protocols. This mirrored what many other councils already had in place.

198.2 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Social Media, Town Crier and Mayoral protocols as circulated with the agenda.

199.1 **Stoney Lane Residents' Parking**

Councillor Coltman said that he had been approached by a member of the public who lived in Stoney Lane. Residents here used to be able to park in Victoria Road car park. This is a 23-hour car park operated by Wealden District Council. The Council used to allow residents free use of the car park as they had no off-road parking nearby. This situation had changed recently resulting in some residents of Stoney Lane receiving a fine.

199.2 **RESOLVED** to write to Wealden District Council asking them why the policy had changed and to reverse the decision of fining residents of Stoney Lane who park in Victoria Road car park for longer than 23 hours.

200 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 11 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).

201 **Hailsham Aspires**

An update on the scheme was provided by Councillor Grocock who was a member of the Hailsham Aspires Board. The next meeting would be in April.

The Town Clerk said that there was some confusion at the Annual Town Meeting about the Hailsham Town Council representative on the board, he confirmed that

Councillor Grocock attended in his capacity as a Wealden District Councillor. The Chairman of Hailsham Town Council was its representative.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.49 pm.

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CHAIRMAN