

# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Communities Committee relating to the organisation of festivities and events held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham, on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at 6.00 pm.

CC/22/3/22

## **Public Forum**

To deal with any questions or brief representations from members of the public relevant to the remit of the committee, in accordance with Standing Order 1. and Hailsham Town Council policy. (15 Minutes)

P. Gibson read out a proposal to the Committee from Mrs V. Cowley:

*I am proposing to work with, and on behalf of, Hailsham Town Council to improve the weekly Community Street Market in Vicarage Field. I have a passion for supporting local independent businesses and I do this via Facebook and Instagram on a part-time, voluntary basis. Due to having a full time job it restricts what I can do regularly. However, I do write regularly for Hailsham News in the Shopping Feature and Events Guide which further supports local independents and local groups/not for profits/charities. Purpose I would like to see an uptake on traders, to encourage new stall holders who offer a more diverse and varying range of products to the town. This will encourage more people into the town and will encourage them to spend more in the local shops, thereby boosting the town's economy. I think in today's current economic nationwide climate, it's important to improve this before it declines further, otherwise the downturn may continue and if left to do so, the days of the market will surely be numbered. With the expansion of the town and more people living in Hailsham it's important to provide a diverse town in which shoppers can find great local products and produce, instead of people going out of town to find it, because our Saturday market is not sufficient or exciting enough for shoppers' needs. Hailsham still prides itself on having free parking. This is a great USP to bring shoppers into the area as most towns now charge for parking. I will use social media channels, websites and local papers, email and newsletters to keep the market and shopping awareness current, exciting and informative to shoppers. Details I propose to work part time 2 days a week, every week - £250pw*

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## **Committee members present**

Councillors: A. Clarke, C. Bryant, B Holbrook (substituting for G. Blake Coggins), K. Lawrence, K. Nicholls, J. Puttick, A. Ricketts

## **Other members present**

T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival), G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), P. Gibson (Hailsham News) N. Mullery (Hailsham FM), B. Pratt (Hailsham Farmers' Market), D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish Church) T. Tozer (Town Cryer)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings and M. Webber (Responsible Finance Officer)

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## **Apologies For Absence:**

Councillors G Blake Coggins and N. Coltman

**Declarations of Interest**

C. Bryant declared a personal interest in the item discussing the Bonfire Society as he is a member of the Bonfire Society

**Confirmation of Minutes**

To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Committee held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July (Ref 22/1/1-21), as printed and circulated, may be taken as read, and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

**To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

There was no update

**Costed Report / Budget**

M. Webber addressed the Committee in relation to the Town Council's current budget. She advised that there is currently a shortfall of £100,000 and therefore the Council needs to consider ways to reduce the budget, to prevent an 8% increase on next year's Council tax.

Members agreed it may be necessary to streamline some of next year's events to help reduce the budget.

The Committee considered that the Christmas lights contract ends this Christmas, 2022, and one possible saving could be to cancel the Christmas lights in the Town for 2023, but this could be looked into in further detail early next year.

Members suggested K. Giddings write to some of the larger local businesses to see if any of the businesses would be willing to sponsor any events for next year.

M. Webber advised she would attend the November Communities Committee meeting to provide an update on the budget.

Members discussed the charges made by Wealden Council for the licence required to hold events. It was agreed to write to Wealden District Council to ask whether these charges could be re-considered.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to make the following changes to the costed report:

- i) To remove the funding set aside for a summer market, creating a saving of £2005
- ii) To remove the funding set aside for the coronation flags – creating a saving of £2000

**TOTAL SAVINGS £4,005**

It was further agreed to cancel the proposed Christmas motifs which were due to be placed in George Street, creating a saving of £3740 from the Revitalisation Fund

M. Webber left the meeting at 6.35 pm

**Street Market**

Members discussed the proposal from Mrs V. Cowley and agreed to put this item on the agenda for further discussion at the November meeting.

K. Giddings advised that the Council has not identified a need for this job contract and does not currently have the funding for it. It was noted that the Council is currently looking at ways to reduce its budget and save money. Members noted that if such a proposal were considered the Council would have to procure this job vacancy competitively as per the Council's legal requirements and financial regulations.

K. Giddings reminded members that the Council already has a Communications Officer who promotes the Council's events and activities and also a Business Enterprise Assistant who is paid to recruit market stalls.

K. Giddings read an update to the Committee, from M. Cairra: (please note this update was intended for the September meeting which was cancelled)

*We are accommodating the Hailsham Festival within the market over two Saturdays, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of September and providing around 10 gazebos for the Nostalgia Fair on 17<sup>th</sup> September at the Cattle Market Site.*

*We have one new trader who started at the end of August, selling ladies clothing, he is planning to also sell men's clothing later in the year. We have also signed up a jewellery trader who will start on 17<sup>th</sup> September. There are also a few other potential traders who we are working with at the moment and hopefully this will lead to more new traders in the coming weeks.*

**Hailsham Forward**

K. Giddings read an update to the Committee, from M. Cairra:

*The two key projects at the moment are:*

**Health and Wellbeing:**

*Hailsham Forward is seeking a firm commitment from Wealden District Council to secure land and other facilities to provide suitable/accessible recreational facilities for Hailsham and the surrounding area. The new footpath around the Western Road Recreation Ground – which includes an all-weather exercise area - is now complete. Thanks to the hard work of Steve Wennington on behalf of Hailsham Active, further funding was secured which resulted in the building of a new hard surface footpath connecting Diplocks Way to the Diplocks residential area at the rear of the industrial units. The 'Active Spaces' programme is continuing to operate, with new programmes being established across the area.*

**Hailsham Business Improvement District (BID):**

*The original proposal put forward by the Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for Hailsham has had to be shelved, as the funding required to set up the BID is no longer available.*

*A new proposal has now been worked on by the Chamber that is focused on the environment. This will be for the entire Wealden district.*

*The overview is for green energy to be used to produce hydrogen that can be used in vehicle hydrogen cells. Buses and trucks will not operate with electric motors and need a different form of fuel such as hydrogen, which does not produce CO2. This proposal will need the full support of Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council to secure Government funding. Wealden District Council will also need to source land in the district to build wind turbines or house a solar farm that will then be used in a plant to create hydrogen, which can then be sold in an adjacent filling station. It is possible to sell this*

scheme across the country as a model and help in the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.

*The proposal is being supported by Brighton University which is also able to supply data to all individual industrial units on their carbon footprints, with details of how to reduce this - including the installation of insulation. The proposal is also being supported by Hydrogen Sussex and Power Networks. There were many issues with this project, including the reluctance to have onshore wind turbines, and the lack of initial funding to get the BID to a vote. The Chamber are currently seeking grants from local councils and businesses to raise the £100,000 required to take this project forward.*

31 **French Market/Summer Market**

In light of the savings agreed to be made in the budget and the removal of funding for next year's summer event, it was agreed that discussions on this item be postponed until further information is available on whether there may be possible sponsorship for events from local businesses.

32 **Hailsham 999 Day**

K. Giddings advised she had received a request from Councillor S. Murphy to hold a "999 Day" event on Western Road Recreation Ground

The proposed date was the Bank Holiday at the end of May 2023, on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May

K. Giddings reported that she had contacted the Cricket Club, who were in support of the event, providing that the cricket pitch is protected on the day. She further advised that she had asked Councillor Murphy to liaise directly with the Cricket Club in relation to the event.

Councillor Murphy had advised that all he was requesting was the use of the Recreation Ground. He was not asking for either financial support from the Council or staffing support in either helping to organise the event or for staffing support on the day.

Members agreed they were fully in support of the event.

C. Bryant considered that this request may also need to be considered by the Assets Committee, to approve the use of the land, and K. Giddings advised she would also take this proposal to the Assets Committee meeting in October.

33 **Coronation of the King**

P. Gibson advised he was not intending to organise any events in 2023 and was unsure whether he would be in a position to arrange an event to mark the King's Coronation.

It was agreed to discuss this item further once a date has been announced for the Coronation.

34 **Christmas 2022**

Members discussed some concerns that had been raised by the Manager of The Corn Exchange in that the switch on event is on the same evening as England's match in the World Cup.

It was agreed that as the events were at different times, with the switch on ending before the football match begins, that this was not a concern and the date of the switch on would remain the same.

Hailsham FM confirmed they would be present for both the switch on event on 25<sup>th</sup> November and the Christmas market on 10<sup>th</sup> December

G. Constable advised that the Lions would be present selling candy floss at the Switch on event but were unable to attend the Christmas market on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

B. Pratt advised he has secured a tractor for the Christmas market, to lead the fancy dress parade.

K. Giddings reported that the Sub Committee would be meeting the following day and an update would be provided at the next Communities meeting.

35 **Community Forum**

Members were advised that J. Hollister has left the Community Forum due to the closure of the SCDA Community Hub, but that J. Coates, the Manger of Hailsham Foodbank, was still involved in the Forum.

36 **Bonfire Society**

Members were advised that everything is in hand for the event.

37 **Lions**

G. Constable advised that the Lions had recently held a summer tea party and their Christmas party is on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. She further advised that the Lions are currently co-ordinating food bundles with Hailsham Food Bank.

38 **Hailsham Festival**

T. Biggin expressed his great disappointment that the “Nostalgia Day” event had to be cancelled due to the death of the Queen and the period of mourning which took place. He advised that the event organisers had to turn away around 70 people on the day of the event, who were unaware that the event had been cancelled. He questioned why the event had needed to be cancelled? T. Biggin also expressed concern that he had been charged £250 by Wealden District Council for the licence for this event, which was non refundable.

K. Giddings and J. Puttick stated that unfortunately the Town Clerk had been advised that it would be necessary to cancel the event.

T. Biggin reported that “String” was taking place this coming weekend.

39 **Hailsham Farmers’ Market**

B. Pratt stated that the market currently had two stalls selling chocolate. They currently have a trader selling Game and bread is now also available at the Market.

The Farmers’ Market Father Christmas will judge the Children’s Fancy Dress competition on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

40 **Hailsham FM**

N. Mullery advised that Hailsham FM are getting prepared for Remembrance Sunday, the Switch on and the Christmas Market.

41 **Hailsham Parish Church**

D. Sinden advised that the Church now has a new Vicar.

Hailsham Church opened to allow the public to write in the Book Of Condolence for the Queen and a Civil Service had taken place on the 18<sup>th</sup> September which was well attended.

The Church was also able to show the Queen’s funeral to members of the public, on a large screen in the Church.

**Remembrance Sunday**

K. Giddings reported that Councillors P. Holbrook and S. Keogh had requested to join the Remembrance Sunday Sub Committee

All members agreed to this request and P. Holbrook and S. Keogh were added as members of the Sub Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15 pm.

**The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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