



# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm.

HTC/23/  
04/220

## **Public Question Time**

A member of the public who lived in Gratten Mews, Eastwell Place asked if an additional streetlight could be purchased under the bridge at Eastwell Place. County Councillor Murphy said he would investigate.

Mr S Wennington of Hailsham Active spoke about the group's recent activities and asked if he could talk to the Council at a future meeting.

The recently appointed Chairman of Environment Hailsham introduced himself.

201 **Present:** Councillors: A Blake-Goggins, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, K-M Blundell-Smith D. Chapman, A Clarke, F. Clarke, N Hayes, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls, S Potts, A M Ricketts D. Rusu and G White.

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

202 **Officers in Attendance**

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

203 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillor J Crittenden. The Town Clerk said that Councillors Hayes and Laxton would be late.

204 **Councillor N Hayes**

Councillor Hayes joined the meeting at 7.10 pm.

205 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Hayes declared an interest in agenda item 15 as she is a member of the Hockey Club.

## **Confirmation of Minutes**

206.1 Councillor Mitchell said that he thought that Minute 195 of the minutes of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 should read 'to *not* contribute to the initial cost of improving the following bus shelters':

206.2 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- 206.3 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 207 **PCSO Update**
- The Chairman introduced the Hailsham PCSO. He spoke about the work he had done with young people. He would be moving to another district in a few weeks.
- 208 **Councillor M Laxton**
- Councillor Laxton joined the meeting at 7.22 pm.
- 209 **Chairman's Update**
- The Chairman updated the meeting on mayoral duties he had undertaken and correspondence he had received.
- 210 **East Sussex County Council Update**
- Councillors Fox and Murphy had provided written reports. Councillor Murphy answered questions that members and the public had, mostly regarding recent and required road and pothole repairs
- 211 **Committee Recommendations to Council**
- Assets Management Committee 20/12/2023**
- RESOLVED** to allocate up to £2.000 to pay for information signs, to be allocated from CIL funding.
- Chairman's Allowance**
- 212.1 The Chairman read out a list of nine organisations he wanted to make a donation of £100 to, from the underspend of the Chairman's allowance. The organisations were:
- Historical Society  
Hailsham Festival  
Choral Society  
Environment Hailsham  
Prospect House  
Charles Hunt Centre  
FROGS  
Pass It On  
Medi Tech Trust
- 212.2 **RESOLVED** that £100 from the underspend of the Chairman's allowance be donated to these organisations.

## **Report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel 2024/25**

- 213.1 A copy of the report of the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel for 2024/25 had been circulated with the agenda. Members were asked to consider whether to accept the increase in members' allowances as recommended by the Panel.

The recommendation was to increase the basic allowance and the Chairman's allowance by 4.6%.

- 213.2 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of a 4.6% increase in allowances as recommended by the Independent Wealden Parish Remuneration Panel 2024/25.

## **214 Risk Assessments Policy**

**RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Risk Assessment policy.

## **Precept 2023/24**

- 215.1 The Responsible Finance Officer spoke in respect of the decisions taken and recommendations made by the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024, and their implications for the precept.

- 215.2 **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Approve the budget of £1,582,898 as set out in the officers' report circulated with the agenda.
- b) That Wealden District Council is requisitioned for a precept of £1,582,898 for the financial year 2024/25. This represents an increase of 73p per week in the Band D Tax rate.

The resolution on the precept was by 16 votes to 1.

- 215.3 Councillor Bryant requested that his opposition was recorded.

## **Confidential Business**

- 216 **RESOLVED** that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda items 10 and 11 as they concern 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).

## **217 Mrs M Webber**

The Chairman apologised to Mrs Webber for his behaviour towards her at a Finance, Budget and Resources Committee last year.

## **Battle Road Play Area**

- 218.1 At the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the council resolved to commission the resurfacing the Battle Road Play area at a cost of £8,500 for 30mm thickness tarmac. The other quote received was £3,176.16 for 25mm thickness

tarmac.

The Works Team Manager has asked if the council wished to reconsider this decision on the basis that 30mm thickness is not deemed necessary and does not warrant the additional costs. This would be a rescinding of a previous resolution and therefore require a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

- 218.2 **RESOLVED** to rescind the resolution of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to commission the resurface the Battle Road Play Area and instead to award it to Hailsham Roadways at a cost of £3,176.16.

This resolution was carried unanimously, thus exceeding the two thirds majority needed.

### **Sports Facility Improvements at Hailsham Community College**

- 219.1 Councillors Laxton and Nicholls declared an interest as they are directors of Hailsham Active.

Members were asked to consider a request from Wealden District Council to contribute towards the resurfacing and improvements to the lighting of the Hockey pitch at Hailsham Community College. Within the Assessment report, the pitch was assessed as 'poor' and heading towards the 'end of its life'. Hailsham Community College has stated that the cost of the project is £291,406. The school has confirmed that it can commit £50,000 and Hailsham Hockey Club, the main user of the pitch, a further £25,000, leaving a shortfall of £216,406.

Hailsham Town Council were asked to contribute £25,000 from CIL funds.

- 219.2 **RESOLVED** to contribute £15,000 towards the new hockey pitch at Hailsham Community College; and this to be paid directly to Hailsham Hockey Club thus enabling them to attract match funding.

### **CCTV**

- 220.1 The Town Clerk reported that Sussex Police had advised all authorities that it will be a legal requirement that the camera-owning authority (i.e. HTC) and Sussex Police will be joint data controllers. The implications and any accompanying workload for this are unclear and this assertion has been queried.

At present the Wealden Clerks involved have been working together to discuss these issues in conjunction with Wealden District Council.

A meeting with the Town Clerks, ESALC, WDC and Sussex Police was held on 19.01.2024, at which it was agreed; that Sussex Police will issue a simplified Data Governance document, FOI and SAR requests will be handled entirely by Sussex Police, The Governance duties falling on Town Council will be minimal, ESALC will be looking into recruiting a Data Protection expert to offer advice to all town councils, this post to be jointly funded at a small rate per months.

- 220.2 **RESOLVED** to note the latest position in respect of CCTV.

221 **Councillor Blundell-Smith**

Councillor Blundell-Smith left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

**Visioning Day**

222.1 Two quotations had been received for the provision of the Visioning Day arising from the Staff Review, as follows:

222.2 **RESOLVED** to employ HR Governance and Support to provide the Visioning Day and subsequent report.

**Persimmon Homes**

223.1 Councillor White declared an interest as he sits on the Wealden District Council Planning Committee.

The Town Clerk reported that Persimmon Homes had made an improved offer for the use of land.

223.2 **RESOLVED** to not accept this offer and that the Town Clerk should write to Persimmon Homes informing them of this and stating the agreed amount. To delegate any further discussions to the Planning and Development Committee.

224 **Councillor A. Clarke**

Councillor A Clarke left the meeting at 9.25 pm.

225 **Suspension of Standing Order 1(e)**

As the meeting approached the three-hour mark at 10.00pm, the council **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 1 (e) thus enabling the meeting to continue

**Staff Review**

226.1 The Chair Cllr Nicholls, and other members of the Staffing Committee, Cllrs Potts and Ricketts, updated the meeting on the status of the Staff Review. This was following meetings and discussions held with affected officers and the consultant engaged for the process, and they explained the Staffing Committee's recommendation to council from its meeting held on 18.01.2024.

226.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation of the Staffing Committee

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35pm.

CHAIRMAN