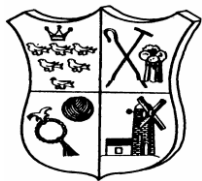


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Wednesday 24th April 2024 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/23/9
/159

Public Forum

P. Hobden, the Common Pond Warden, and P. Spires were present to speak on matters at the Common Pond.

P. Gibson from Hailsham News was present but did not wish to speak.

M. Laxton thanked the Committee members for their attendance, hard work and contribution to the Assets Management Committee over the past year.

Mr P. Turner of Hailsham Football Club addressed the Committee in relation to the grass cutting at the Recreation Ground. He stated that the grass is not being cut properly and also complained about the drainage on the Ground. It was his opinion that the new path on the Recreation Ground is one of the main reasons why the Recreation Ground floods now. He also stated that the ground has been "slit" after February- he stated this should not have been done. Mr Turner asked the Committee to look into putting money into Hailsham facilities.

S. Wennington addressed the Committee in relation to the Lease for Maurice Thornton Recreation Ground and stated he would like Wealden Council to give the land at Maurice Thornton to the Town Council.

J. Harrison stated that the Lease is still with the Town Council's Solicitor and any decision on the land would need to be agreed at Full Council.

160

Committee members present

Councillors: A Blake Coggins, K. Blundell-Smith (Vice Chair), C. Bryant, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton (Chair), C. Mitchell

Other Councillors in attendance: D Chapman, B. Holbrook

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings

161

Apologies For Absence:

N. Hayes

162

Declarations of Interest

K. Blundell-Smith declared a personal interest in Station Road Sports Facilities and abstained from voting on the agenda item.

C. Bryant declared a personal interest in the agenda item for the Scout Hut as he was a

member of the 2nd Hailsham Scout Group.

163 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 20th March 2024 may be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

164 **Update**

- K. Giddings advised she is waiting to hear back from ESCC for an update in relation to the bus shelters
- The notice boards have been ordered to be placed on various Council owned sites
- J. Harrison is investigating other contractors for the street lights
- At the recent Full Council meeting in March it had been agreed not to review the Feasibility Study for Brunel Drive
- The work to the play areas at Stroma Gardens, Quinnell Drive and the outdoor gym at Westen Road Recreation Ground is all in hand
- J. Harrison has not received a response yet from the YMCA in relation to the Lease on the building
- The grave digging vacancy is on the gateway

165 **Tree Planting Initiative**

K. Giddings advised she had invited G. Jones to the meeting so he could address the Committee on this matter, but he had not responded to the invitation.

166 **Common Pond**

J. Harrison stated he had not received much of a response from the companies he had contacted in relation to his request to test the fish at the Pond. P. Spires suggested J. Harrison contact Mid Kent Fisheries.

P. Spires advised that there is not a silt problem at the Pond.

Members discussed the blue green algae in the pond and P. Spires reported that this is very toxic and among other things is created by the large amount of waste produced by the geese in the area.

Members agreed some signs could be placed on site asking members of the public not to feed the geese.

P. Hobden advised that the new path around the Pond is unfinished as it does not go all the way round the pond. He stated that there are areas left which need a barrier. He stated he would speak to R. Gillett about this.

Members discussed the large population of geese on the site and P. Hobden requested that ways of reducing the population could be considered. Members agreed for P. Hobden and P. Spires to deal with the geese population issue.

P. Hobden and P. Spires left the meeting at 7.40 pm

167 **Community Infrastructure Levy**

Members noted that the Town Council is due to be paid an additional payment of £690,000 in CIL funding.

168 **Cemetery Toilets**

Cllrs B. Holbrook and A. Blake Coggins advised that they had not been involved in the work on the toilet facility at the Cemetery in their capacity as Cemetery Wardens. Cllrs M. Laxton and C. Mitchell apologised to them for this.

It was agreed all parties would communicate over the toilet project and work together.

Members noted the area around the toilet vicinity requires clearing of rubbish and the fence needs replacing.

An external contractor would need to be employed to clean the new toilets.

Members supported the proposal to undertake the project for a new toilet facility at the Cemetery.

168.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council to allocate £83,264 from CIL funding to build a new toilet facility at the Cemetery.

169 **Station Road Sports Facility**

M. Laxton reported that Wealden Council have some funding available for sports and suggested they could be approached for a sum of £50,000 for low level lighting at the new sports facility in Station Road.

It was agreed to write to Wealden Council to apply for this funding.

169.1 **RESOLVED** to write to Mr C. Bending at Wealden District Council to request funding of £50,000 towards low level lighting at the new Sports Facility at Station Road

170 **Vicarage Field Changing Places Toilets**

Members noted an extra quotation for approximately £20,000 for the water connection to the new toilets.

Members were advised that the area needs to be hand dug due to electric cables in this location.

C. Mitchell acknowledged there needs to be some hand digging but questioned whether the entire area needs to be hand dug? He asked for other quotations to be obtained.

Members noted that with the additional £20,000 quotation for a hand dig, the work is still in budget.

It was agreed to place a notice on the toilets advising the public that the toilets are not in use yet. It was further agreed to put a reference to the Community Use Scheme on the site, advising of other public facilities in the Town that can be used.

171 **Confidential Business**

Resolved 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.

172 **Hailsham Cemetery**

Members noted that filming is due to take place at the Cemetery for a Sky TV series and J. Harrison asked the Committee to approve the script in relation to the scene at the Cemetery.

Members agreed they did not have any issues to raise over the script for the scene at the Cemetery.

172.1 **RESOLVED** to approve the script of the scene at Hailsham Cemetery and request a donation is given to allow filming at the Cemetery

173 **Maurice Thornton Play Area**

Members discussed a quotation for the zip wire surface at Maurice Thornton Play Area

The surface has become worn and needs replacing.

Members agreed that before any further work is considered, for R. Gillett to investigate whether the Council can claim under warranty for the work that has to be undertaken. R. Gillett was asked to look into whether an insurance claim can be made first as the original work took place fairly recently.

174 **Town Council Offices**

Members discussed the costs of the electrical works which have increased due to the fire safety requirements and cost of the building works.

It was agreed to ask Full Council for extra funding to cover for this work.

174.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council for a total of £200,000 from CIL funding, for the costs for the electrical works, to include building works.

175 **Scout Hut**

J. Harrison updated members on the request from 2nd Hailsham Scouts, to place a scout hut on Maurice Thornton Recreation Ground.

Members noted that in June 2023, the Assets Management Committee resolved to sub-let a part of the site to a Scout Group, following the construction of a scout hut. However, Wealden Council had advised that the current lease which is between the Town Council and Wealden Council does not allow for a new construction and therefore either a completely new lease would be required, or a Deed of Variation once the lease is in place.

In light of this, members agreed it would be preferable not to request a new lease at the current time and suggested other locations could be considered for the hut, possibly an area at the James West Community Hall site.

It was suggested that the Lead Volunteer of 2nd Hailsham Scouts could be invited to the

next meeting of the Assets Committee, to discuss further.

175.1

RESOLVED to:

- i) refuse the 2nd Hailsham Scout's request to locate their Scout Hut at Maurice Thornton Recreation Ground.
- ii) suggest a location for the Scout Hut at an alternative area of land, possibly at the James West Community Hall

176

CCTV

Members noted that the Police are now advising that The Town Council will not need to be Data Controllers. Councils can be given the option to be data processors only, rather than Data Controllers

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities