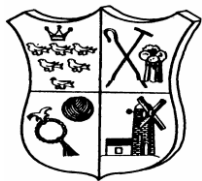


# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at 7.00 pm.

## AMC/23/2/18 **Public Forum**

Councillor N. Cleaver and Dr Hall addressed the Committee about their concerns at levels of E.coli present in areas of water in Hailsham. Councillor Cleaver raised concerns that this is a public health issue.

They presented a number of slides to Councillors and advised they had tested a number of sites around Hailsham and found high levels of E.coli.

## 19 **Committee members present**

Councillors: K. Blundell (Deputy Chair), C. Bryant, N. Hayes, P. Holbrook, B. Holbrook (substituting for A. Blake Coggins), M. Laxton (Chair), C. Mitchell

Other Councillors Present: Councillor A. Ricketts

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings

## 20 **Apologies For Absence:**

None were received

## 21 **Declarations of Interest**

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

## 22 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was noted that Councillor A. Ricketts was wrongly stated as the proposer for Vice Chair. Councillor A. Blake Coggins was the proposer

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 (AMC/23/1/1-17) as printed and circulated, may be amended and taken as read and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman

## 23 **Water Quality**

Members discussed the concerns raised regarding E.coli in the water, and considered whether different standards of water quality are expected in a pond as opposed to where the public are allowed to bathe.

Members agreed to test the water quality of the Common Pond and Country Park Lake.

Members noted that if there is not enough in the "Professional Fees" funds to pay for the test, then a request for funding will need to go to Council to take the fees from CIL.

23.1

**RESOLVED** to:

- i) Commission a water quality test for the Common Pond and Country Park Lake
- ii) Put up "no swimming or bathing" signs at the Country Park Lake and Common Pond

Councillor N. Clever and Dr Hall left the meeting at 7.45 pm

24

### **Clothes optional charity events**

Members noted there had been an altercation at the Common Pond recently between some local residents and a number of members of the public at the recent "clothes optional" event, which had culminated at the Common Pond.

J. Harrison reported that he had not been notified of the "nudist" event which was due to take place on Council land.

P. Gibson left the meeting at 7.55 pm

25

### **Events on Western Road Recreation Ground**

K. Giddings reported that the Town Council has been approached recently by various associations to hold summer event on Western Road Recreation Ground. She suggested that 3 dates could be set aside for events in the Summer, which could be agreed as a policy for dates for summer events. The dates suggested were the last Sunday in June, last Sunday in July and last Sunday in August.

As the Recreation Ground is used by the Cricket Club for league matches in the summer on a Saturday, only Sundays were proposed.

Much discussion ensued and members agreed that from 2025 onwards the last Saturdays in June, July and August will also be set aside, as well as the Sundays.

It was agreed that permission will still need to be given by the Assets Committee for each individual event request.

Members suggested a £500 deposit could be taken from the organisers before the event, in case of damage to the ground.

25.1

**RESOLVED** to:

- i) Set aside the last Sunday in June, July and August for events, with the Saturday also from 2025
- ii) Each request for an event will be decided on an individual basis by the Assets Committee
- iii) A £500 deposit may be taken, to be decided at the time of the request for the event

26

### **Carpenters Way**

Councillor Laxton updated members on the work that is due to take place on the land at Carpenters Way. She advised she had met with residents on site, alongside and the Works Manager, R. Gillett. Members noted that the work to be carried out has been

agreed and that the residents are in favour of the changes that are being made to the site.

27 **Common Pond**

Members noted that the clearing of the culvert and the drainage have been completed at the Common Pond.

It was agreed to consider the quotations for the tree work on the islands and overlaying the pathways around the pond, at the next meeting in July

28 **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.

29 **Post Office**

Members noted there is a vacancy at the Post Office and requested the Town Clerk begin the interview process for the vacant post as soon as possible.

29.1 **RESOLVED** to begin interviewing candidates for the new position in the Post Office, as soon as possible

30 **2 North Street**

The Town Clerk updated members on the current situation on the lease at 2 North Street, and much discussion ensued.

Members were advised that Hailsham FM are moving to a new premises

Members voted on the motion of renewing the lease with a 2 year break clause:

3 members voted in favour - Councillors P. Holbrook, B. Holbrook and K. Blundell

3 members voted against - Councillors M. Laxton, C. Mitchell and C. Bryant

Councillor N. Hayes abstained from voting

Councillor M. Laxton used the Chair's Casting Vote and voted against the motion

Members voted on the second motion to terminate the lease:

3 members voted in favour – Councillors M. Laxton, C. Mitchell and C. Bryant

3 members voted against – Councillors P. Holbrook, B. Holbrook and K. Blundell

Councillor N. Hayes abstained from voting

Councillor M. Laxton used the Chair's Casting Vote and voted in favour of the motion to terminate the lease

30.1 **RESOLVED** to terminate the lease at 2 North Street

31

### **Scout Group – Grovelands Barn**

J. Harrison advised that the 2nd Hailsham Scouts have approached Hailsham Town Council with a view to having a new facility built on Council owned land.

This would be a single storey hut suitable for Scouting Activities and other community uses. The original consideration was to use land adjacent to Grovelands Barn, based on a previous request and resolution made in 2017.

The Scout group intend to apply for funding from the Youth Investment Fund to build the hut.

After a site meeting to discuss the proposal, it was agreed that a preferred site for the new hut would be at the Maurice Thornton Playing Field, between the Sports Pavilion and Playground. This is due to there being access to utilities, main drainage and also easier vehicular access to this site.

Members noted that the proposal would need to be agreed by Wealden Council

It was agreed that a condition must be placed in the lease stating that the Scout Hut must be available to be booked by the community

31.1 **RESOLVED** to agree permission in principle to the 2nd Hailsham Scouts request to sub let part of Maurice Thornton Playing Field

Councillor C. Bryant abstained from voting as he used to be a member of the Scout Group

32

### **Adult Gym**

Members noted that the adult gym on Western Road Recreation Ground is in need of complete replacement. As it is not viable to replace the equipment piece by piece the whole gym area will need to be replaced

It will be necessary, due to the cost of the work required, to advertise any new contract on the Government Procurement gateway.

Members noted the quotations for the work and were in support of carrying out a complete replacement of the Outdoor Gym, noting that the gym is very popular and well used.

32.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to allocate up to £30,000 from CIL, for the new adult gym equipment at Western Road Recreation Ground

33

### **Firstfields Ambulance Station Site**

Members were advised that the Firstfields Station site has now been put up for sale by East Sussex County Council and SeacAmbs.

K. Blundell advised that the Liberal Democrat Party are requesting the site is allocated as an "Asset of Community Value".

33.1 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that the Town Council applies to Wealden District Council to request the Firstfields Site is listed as an "Asset of Community Value"

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00 pm

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