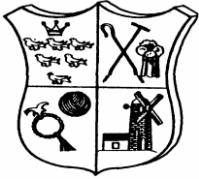


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



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 8th January 2024 at 6.00 pm.

CC/23/6/127

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)

None were present

128

Committee members present

Councillors: D. Chapman, A. Clarke (Chair), F. Clarke, C. Bryant, A. Ricketts (Vice Chair)

Other Councillors present: P. Holbrook

Other members present

B. Pratt (Hailsham Farmers' Market), P. Gibson (Hailsham News), N Mullery (Hailsham FM), D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish Church)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings, K. Butcher, M. Caira

129

Apologies For Absence:

Councillors K. Blundell-Smith, K. Nicholls, N. Hayes

T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival), G. Constable (Hailsham Lions)

130

Declarations of Interest

C. Bryant and D. Chapman both declared personal interests in the item discussing the Bonfire Society as they are members of the Bonfire Society.

131

Confirmation of Minutes

To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Committee held on Monday 4 December 2023 (Ref 23/5/104-126) printed and circulated, may be taken as read, and confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

132

To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 4th December 2023

K. Giddings advised that Councillor S. Murphy is organising a Ukraine Support Group Service at the War Memorial on Saturday 24th February

Further details on this can be obtained from Councillor Murphy

133 **Hailsham Hero Award**

It was agreed Hailsham FM would take on the Hailsham Hero Award, with some assistance from Hailsham News

Hailsham FM will liaise with P. Holbrook and the Chamber of Commerce will also be involved

Planning for this will begin in the next couple of weeks

134 **Street Markets update**

There will be no markets in the month of January

135 **Hailsham Forward**

A meeting took place in December to discuss the Hailsham BID, Local Plan and Sports Hub.

136 **Christmas Light Switch On 2024**

Members agreed to hold the 2024 Light Switch on, on Friday 29th November

It was agreed to have market stalls at the event, as in the 2023 event and to contact Wealden Council to see if they will allow stalls to be placed under canopies on Vicarage Field, to allow more room for the event

137 **Christmas Market**

Members agreed to hold the 2024 market on Saturday 14th December

Members discussed the recent Christmas market, which had been moved indoors to the Civic Centre, due to heavy winds and rain on the day, as it was not possible to hold the event outside. The feedback from traders had been extremely positive and the footfall had been consistent throughout the day, considering the venue had to be changed at the last minute.

Many traders had confirmed they would like the event held indoors in the future, although some traders stated they would still rather trade outside if possible.

Unfortunately the parade could not go ahead due to the bad weather and although the Best Dressed Elf and Best Dressed Dog competitions still went ahead at the Cattle Market, there were no entries.

Members discussed the benefits of holding the event indoors and considered that the event could be bigger and better if held both indoors and outdoors. It was agreed to look into holding the 2024 Christmas market in both the High Street and also indoors in the Civic Centre.

D. Sinden advised that the footfall for the free Wealden Brass concert in the Church had been the biggest ever, so this was not affected by holding the Christmas market indoors.

Hailsham Speedway and Vadars Radars will be contacted about attending the Christmas events in 2024

138 **Community Forum**

K. Butcher advised that the “What Can I Join” meeting will be held on 27th January at Hailsham Parish Church, at 10.00 am to 1.00 pm

139 **Bonfire Society**

D. Chapman advised that the Bonfire Societies AGM will be held at the end of January.

Some changes are taking place in the Society and a second Committee has been created to organise the Bonfire Society Fun Day at the end of June.

140 **Lions**

There was no further update

141 **Hailsham Festival**

There was no update

142 **Hailsham Farmers’ Market**

B. Pratt advised that there had unfortunately been two months of bad trading at the Farmers’ Market. He reported he still has not found anyone to take the market stalls down.

It was suggested that the Farmers Market could join the High Street traders to try and improve their trade. The Farmers’ Market could still leave at midday to return to their farms.

This will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

143 **Hailsham FM**

N. Mullery advised that all is going well with Hailsham FM events.

144 **Hailsham Parish Church**

D. Sinden reported a very successful and busy Christmas at the Church, the three Christingle services were extremely well attended.

The Wealden Brass Christmas concert for 2024 will coincide with the Christmas market on 14th December and another Gingerbread evening will be planned for 2024, possibly the day before the Christmas light switch on, on Thursday 28th November

145

Remembrance Sunday

The meetings to organise the Remembrance Sunday event will begin again in June

146

10 K Run

There was no further update

147

Stand Proud Event

There was no further update

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.55 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 5th February 2024 Global/Minutes
& Agendas/Communities