



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.00pm.

HTC/23/
02/162 **Present:** Councillors: A Blake-Coggins, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, D. Chapman, A Clarke, F Clarke, J. Crittenden, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls, A M Ricketts, and G White.

Councillors S Murphy (East Sussex County Council) and N Cleaver (Wealden District Council) were also in attendance.

Officers in Attendance

163 Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr M Caira (Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager), Mrs K. Giddings, Mr D. Saxby and Mr T. Hall.

Public Question Time

164 A member of the public spoke in respect of the additional name on the War Memorial. He said it had been four years since it had been agreed to add Able Seaman French's name and additional stone and nothing yet had happened.

The Town Clerk said that the stonemason had assured him it would be in situ within a month.

Apologies for Absence

165 Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors Blundell, Hayes, Potts and Rusu.

Declarations of Interest

166 Councillors Laxton and Nicholls declared an interest in agenda item 10 as they were members of Hailsham Active.

Councillors Bryant and Chapman declared an interest as they are members of the Bonfire Society and, therefore, potential beneficiaries of a community grant.

Councillor White declared an interest in agenda item 13 as he is a Wealden District councillor.

Confirmation of Minutes

167 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 12th July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

168 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 31st July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

169 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman updated the meeting on events he had attended since the last meeting.

In particular, he spoke of the opening of the bridge at Eastwell Place as part of the Hailsham Festival.

He has also officially opened Belles Pottery Café and had arranged for the Youth Café to visit at Halloween.

170 **East Sussex County Council Update**

County Councillors Fox and Murphy had provided written reports, which had been circulated to members with the agenda.

Civility and Respect Pledge

171.1 The Town Clerk said that this was a NALC and SALC initiative; copies of the report were circulated with the agenda.

171.2 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham Town Council signs up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

Committee Membership

172.1 The Town Clerk spoke and referred members to the officer's report circulated with the agenda. Councillor Chapman had recently been elected and had indicated a desire to be a member of the Communities and Assets Committees.

Councillor G Blake-Coggins said that membership of all committees should remain at seven.

Councillor A Clarke proposed that the Communities Committee should be increased to eight members and that Councillor Chapman should be a member. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Ricketts.

The Town Clerk advised that this would be rescinding an earlier resolution and would, therefore, require a two thirds majority. On a show of hands, the proposal was carried by 12 votes to 2, thus exceeding the required two thirds majority.

172.2 **RESOLVED** that the Communities Committee be increased to eight members and that Councillor Chapman be a member of it.

172.3 Councillor Laxton proposed the Assets Committee should be increased to eight members and that Councillor Chapman should be a member. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Ricketts.

The Town Clerk advised that this would be rescinding an earlier resolution and would, therefore, require a two thirds majority. On a show of hands, the vote was tied at 7 votes in favour and 7 votes against. The proposal was not carried.

Councillor White had indicated that because of a conflict of interest as a Wealden District Councillor, he had resigned as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

172.4 **RESOLVED** that Councillor Chapman replace Councillor White as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

Adoption of Communications Strategy and Revised Media Relations and Social Media Protocols

173.1 The Town Clerk said that the Communications Officer had produced the report that had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor A Blake-Coggins proposed that the Communications Strategy and Revised Media Relations and Social Media Protocols should be part of the discussions in the Governance Working Group. The Town Clerk said that the GWG was charged with looking at the committee structure and Standing Orders. These protocols were not part of that.

173.2 **RESOLVED** to defer discussion on this agenda item until the Council meeting in November.

On a show of hand this resolution was carried by 7 votes to 6, with 1 abstention.

174 **Costed Report for Events**

RESOLVED to agree the costed plan for festivities and events for 2024 as in the report circulated with the agenda.

175 **Notice of Completion of Audit**

RESOLVED to note the completion of Audit report.

176 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda items 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 14, 15 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).

Committee Recommendations to Council

177.1 **Assets Management Committee – 19th July 2023 – CCTV**

The Assets Management Committee at its meeting on 19th July 2023 had received a presentation from Sussex Police with a proposal for Hailsham Town Council to take control of the town's CCTV.

The Committee resolved to recommend to Council to agree to the proposal by Sussex Police.

177.2 **RESOLVED** that Hailsham Town Council agrees to the proposal by Sussex Police to take control of the town's CCTV.

178.1 **Assets Management Committee – 19th July 2023 – Common Pond Pathways**

The Assets Management Committee at its meeting on 19th July 2023 had resolved to recommend to Council to agree the work to the Common Pond footpaths and to consider the three quotations at the next Town Council meeting in September.

Two quotations had been received as follows:

Thorne Civil Engineers £14,845.00 + VAT
Hailsham Roadways £13,699 + VAT

The Town Clerk confirmed that CIL money could be used for this project.

There was debate about new edgings to the pond.

178.2 **RESOLVED** to agree CIL funding and refer the decision on the awarding of the contract to the Assets Management Committee and to get clarification on the pond edging.

179.1 Assets Management Committee – 19th July 2023 – Battle Road Play Area

At the meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on 19th July 2023 it was agreed to recommend to Council to consider a quotation for a piece of play equipment to replace the hopscotch area, plus an inclusive bench. Costs to be taken from the Community Infrastructure Levy.

179.2 **RESOLVED** to ask Thornes to undertake the work at the Battle Road Play Area and add in up to an extra £2,000 for removal of debris and skip hire.

RESOLVED to engage Playdale to provide the equipment.

180.1 Assets Management Committee – 5th September 2023 – Sports Pitches & Facilities

At the Assets Management Committee's extraordinary meeting held on 5th September 2023, it was resolved to recommend to Council that it takes over responsibility for the sports facilities and pitches (and possibly a car parking area) at a new development at land west of Station Road.

180.1 **RESOLVED** to accept the offer to take over responsibility for sports facilities and pitches (and possibly a car parking area) at a new development at land west of Station Road, and to obtain expert advice.

Hailsham Health and Wellbeing Hub

181.1 Councillors A and G Blake-Coggins declared an interest in this agenda item.

181.2 At the Council meeting in September, it was resolved to defer Wealden District Council's request for Hailsham Town Council to write a letter in support of the bid to the Levelling Up Fund to help finance the Hailsham Health and Wellbeing Hub.

Councillor Laxton said she was unable to support this because of the plan to merge three doctors' surgeries.

Councillor A Clarke said that she was concerned that the proposal would possibly result in the loss of car parking spaces in the town.

181.3 Councillor Bryant proposed that Hailsham Town Council writes stating that it agrees

with the concept in principle. This proposal failed to get a seconder, so it was not put to the vote.

Public Toilet and Changing Places

182.1 The Town Clerk said that he and Councillor Laxton had met with representatives of Wealden District Council on site in Vicarage Field. The following was agreed:

A peppercorn rent of £1.00 per year would be payable to WDC.

That the site was large enough to house a Changing Places pod, a toilet for disabled people and a toilet for able-bodied people.

That planning permission would be required.

182.2 **RESOLVED** to proceed with the necessary arrangements for the provision of toilets and a Changing Places pod in Vicarage Field.

Suspension of Standing Order 1X

183.1 At 10.00pm, Councillor Bryant proposed the suspension of Standing Order 1X to allow for the meeting to continue.

183.2 **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Order 1X.

Blackman's Yard and Inglebrook Electrical Surveys

184.1 Members were referred to the officer's report circulated with the agenda.

184.2 **RESOLVED** to get a full electrical survey of the property and to progress through the Finance, Budget and Resources Committee and to obtain a full specification by an expert.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.10 pm.

CHAIRMAN