



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 22nd November 2023 at 7.00pm.

HTC/23/03/185 **Present:** Councillors: A Blake-Coggins, G. Blake-Coggins, K-M. Blundell, C. Bryant, D. Chapman, A Clarke, J. Crittenden, N. Hayes, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls, S. Potts, A M Ricketts, D. Rusu and G White.

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

186 **Officers in Attendance**

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

187 **Public Question Time**

A member of the public spoke in respect of the land at Welbury Grange, in particular the adoption of the estate, grounds and play areas.

188 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillor F. Clarke.

189 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Laxton and Nicholls declared an interest in agenda item 6 as they were members of Hailsham Active.

Councillor White declared an interest in agenda item 6 as he is a Wealden District councillor.

Confirmation of Minutes

190.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 13th September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

190.2 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 6th November 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

191 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 6 as it concerns 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).

Wealden District Council Update

- 192.1 The Chairman introduced Wealden District Councillor Kelvin Williams and invited him to address the meeting.

Councillor Williams spoke in respect of the plan to provide a wellbeing hub in Hailsham along with leisure facilities including a community sports hub.

Councillor Williams said that the bid for money from the levelling-up fund had again been unsuccessful.

Wealden District Council had agreed to move forward with the proposal to provide a sports and community hub in Hailsham with CIL funding. This was subject to receiving planning permission. He asked for Hailsham Town for its support.

The Chairman declared an interest as he had seconded the motion at Wealden District Council.

- 192.2 **RESOLVED** to support Wealden District Council's proposal to provide a sports and community hub.

- 192.3 The vote was taken by a show of hands as follows:

For 10
Against 0
Abstentions 7

- 192.3 Councillor Laxton requested that her abstention from voting be recorded.

- 193 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman said he had been honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the Council at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. It had once again been a very impressive turnout.

He spoke in respect of negotiations he had been having with Michelham Priory, Knockhatch and the Heritage Centre about some exhibits.¹²

- 194 **East Sussex County Council Update**

County Councillors Fox and Murphy spoke in respect of issues relating to Hailsham.

Committee Recommendations to Council

- 195.1 **Assets Management Committee – 20th September 2023 – Bus Service Improvement Plan**

East Sussex County Council had approached Hailsham Town Council asking if it were willing to take on responsibility for the cleaning and maintenance of six bus shelters in the town, also would it be willing to make a financial contribution.

The Assets Management Committee had recommended that the Council should take on responsibility for the cleaning and maintenance of the bus shelters but not to

contribute to the initial cost of improving the bus shelters.

- 195.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the request from East Sussex County Council to take on responsibility for the cleaning and maintenance of, but to contribute to the initial cost of improving the following bus shelters in:

St Wilfrid's Church (South Road)
Horsebridge Mill (Upper Horsebridge Road)
Amberstone View (Hawkswood Road)
Hawkswood Drive (Hawkswood Road)
Hailsham Community College (Battle Road)
High Street

The funding to be taken from the current budget for bus shelters.

- 196.1 Assets Management Committee – 20th September 2023 – Quinnell Drive Play Area

The Assets Management Committee had recommended to allocate funding of £19,000 for the provision of the bark surface at Quinnell Drive Play Area from CIL receipts.

- 196.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate funding of £19,000 for the provision of the bark surface at Quinnell Drive Play Area from CIL receipts.

- 197.1 Assets Management Committee – 20th September 2023 – Common Pond Pathways

The Assets Management Committee had recommended that up to £5,000 be allocated for the timber edging only work to the Common Pond to be taken from CIL receipts.

- 197.2 **RESOLVED** that up to £5,000 be allocated for the timber edging only work to the Common Pond, to be taken from CIL receipts.

- 198.1 Assets Management Committee 25th October 2023 – Electrical Works

It was queried at the Council meeting on 13th September whether a full rewiring of the building was needed immediately. Further correspondence had confirmed that a new, properly designed electrical fire and data system was needed.

The Town Clerk said that contrary to earlier advice given by Wealden District Council, CIL money could be used to fund the electrical works.

- 198.2 **RESOLVED** that up to £60,000 be used for the necessary rewiring work to the Town Council offices and outside work stations, and that this is funded by CIL receipts.

- 199 **Hailsham Forward Membership**

RESOLVED that Councillor White becomes a member of Hailsham Forward.

Motion 187 – Post Office Banking Hub

- 200.1 The following motion was proposed by Councillor Blundell and seconded by Councillor A Blake-Coggins:

The Town Council undertakes to transform Hailsham Post Office into a banking hub

for the benefit of our town.

This should be researched, and a report prepared for the next suitable full council meeting.

- 200.2 **RESOLVED** that the Town Council undertakes to transform Hailsham Post Office into a banking hub for the benefit of our town.

This should be researched, and a report prepared for the next suitable full council meeting.

201 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda items 14-18 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).

202 **Committee Recommendations to Council**

Assets Management Committee 20th September 2023 – Grass Cutting

RESOLVED to take the option of six cuts per year and for the delegate this matter to the Town Clerk who is to report to the Assets Committee in January.

Staffing Review

203.1 **Motion 188**

The following motion was moved by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Laxton:

In order for this council to be an efficient and effective entity, as per the staffing review report and recommendations, we wish to move on to the next phase of the implementation of the staffing review. This is to re-engage with James Corrigan's consultancy to carry out 1 to 1 discussions with all staff – working towards implementation of the agreed staffing structure with effect from 1st April 2024. This implementation to include a 2-year pay protection for those staff affected.

Councillor G Blake-Coggins asked the mover and seconder if they would be prepared to withdraw their motion in favour of the Staffing Committee's recommendation that was to be debated next. Councillors Mitchell and Laxton declined to withdraw their motion.

- 203.2 On being put to the vote Motion 188 was defeated by 14 votes to 2 with 1 abstention.

Staffing Committee Recommendation

- 204.1 The Town Clerk advised that if the Staffing Committee's recommendation was to succeed, it would have to be carried by a two thirds majority.

- 204.2 Councillor G Blake-Coggins said that the Staffing Committee's recommendation, if carried at this meeting, would enable work to be done to implement it from 1st April

2024.

Councillor Blundell said she was unable to vote for the Staffing Committee's recommendation without seeing and studying the revised job descriptions for staff.

204.3 **RESOLVED** to accept the Staffing Committee's recommendation on the Staffing Review.

204.4 The above resolution was carried by 16 votes to 0 with 1 abstention, thus securing the two thirds majority needed.

Hailsham Youth Service

205.1 The Youth Services Manager, Mr A Joyes said that the offer on the church and manse had been accepted and asked for agreement to proceed to by both buildings.

205.2 **RESOLVED** to make the necessary arrangements to purchase the church and manse and to set up a Community Interest Company and a working group comprising Councillors A Blake-Coggins, Blundell, P Holbrook, Nicholls and Ricketts.

205.3 Councillor Mitchell requested that his abstention from voting be recorded.

206 **Councillor A Clarke**

Councillor A Clarke left the meeting at 9.47pm.

CCTV

207.1 The Town Clerk updated the meeting.

207.2 **RESOLVED** to delegate this matter to the Assets Committee.

208 **Suspension of Standing Order 1X**

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

RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 1X.

Persimmon Homes

209.1 The Town Clerk updated the meeting.

209.2 **RESOLVED** to delegate this matter to Town Clerk and to report back to Council; and to invite a representative of Persimmon Homes to a future Council meeting.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.14 pm.

