



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 27th March 2024 at 7.00pm.

HTC/23/
04/227

Public Question Time

A member of the public asked why the Hailsham Town Council precept had risen by 23%. This was the largest increase for any town council in Wealden.

A member of the public raised the state of the paths and drainage at the Western Road Recreation Ground.

228 **Present:** Councillors: A Blake-Goggins, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, K-M Blundell-Smith D. Chapman, J. Crittenden, N Hayes, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, S Potts, A M Ricketts and G White.

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

229 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs M Webber (Responsible Finance Officer), Mrs K Giddings, Mr D Saxby and Mr T Hall.

230 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors A Clarke, F Clarke, K Nicholls and D Rusu.

231 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Laxton declared an interest in agenda item 5 as she is a member of Hailsham Active.

Confirmation of Minutes

232.1 Councillor Potts said that minute 210 (East Sussex County Council Update) did not sufficiently convey the strength of feeling that councillors had about the number of potholes in the town.

232.2 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 24th January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

233 **Hailsham Active**

The Director of Hailsham Active, Hugh Thomas spoke about its work. He said that there was a drastic shortage of open space and even with the sports hub there was still a shortfall in facilities. He spoke the five-year plan they had developed, and where they would like to work with Hailsham Town Council.

234 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman updated the meeting on mayoral duties he had undertaken since the last meeting. In particular, he highlighted the Wealden Parish Conference he had attended with the Town Clerk.

He also said that the Post Office manager was due to retire shortly.

235 **East Sussex County Council Update**

Councillors Fox and Murphy had provided written reports and were in attendance to update and answer members' questions.

Committee Recommendations to Council

236.1 **Assets Management Committee 7th February 2024 – Battle Road and Station Road Allotments**

The Assets Management Committee had recommended the allocation of £7,100 from CIL funding for the gates, combination locks and vehicle gate at Battle Road and Station Road allotments.

236.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate £7,100 from CIL funding for the gates, combination locks and vehicle gate at Battle Road and Station Road allotments.

237.1 **Assets Management Committee 20th March 2024 – Noticeboards**

The Assets Management Committee had recommended that £8,874 be taken from CIL funding for the purchase of four new noticeboards.

237.2 **RESOLVED** that £8,874 be taken from CIL funding for the purchase of four new noticeboards.

238.1 **Assets Management Committee 20th March 2024 – Quinnell Drive**

The Assets Management Committee had recommended that a further £5,000 be taken from CIL funding for a new team swing and the groundworks to the area.

238.2 **RESOLVED** that a further £5,000 be taken from CIL funding for a new team swing and the groundworks to the Quinnell Drive play area.

239.1 **Assets Management Committee 20th March 2024 – Western Road Outdoor Gym**

The Assets Management Committee had recommended that a further £15,500 from CIL funding for the additional work to the Western Road outdoor gym.

239.2 **RESOLVED** that a further £15,500 from CIL funding for the additional work to the Western Road outdoor gym.

240.1 **Assets Management Committee 20th March 2024 – Stroma Gardens**

The Assets Management Committee had recommended that £16,481 be taken from CIL funding for play equipment at Stroma Gardens, to be supplied by Proludic.

240.2 **RESOLVED** that £16,481 be taken from CIL funding for play equipment at Stroma

Gardens, to be supplied by Proludic.

241.1 Assets Management Committee 20th March 2024 – Town Council Offices-Electrical Work

The Assets Management Committee had recommended an allocation of £20,000 contingency fund for extra costs in relation to the electrical works at the Town Council offices, to be taken from CIL funding.

241.2 **RESOLVED** to allocate £20,000 contingency fund for extra costs in relation to the electrical works at the Town Council offices, to be taken from CIL funding.

Annual Town Meeting

242.1 The Town Clerk had produced a report outlining the timetable and format for the Annual Town Meeting on Wednesday 8th May.

Councillor Laxton requested a table/stand for the Neighbourhood Plan Committee at the Annual Town Meeting.

242.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the timetable and format for the Annual Town Meeting.

Governance Review

243.1 Copies of the final report of the Governance Review Working Group had been circulated with the agenda.

Councillor Blundell-Smith thanked all those who had participated in the Governance Review. The Working Group had looked at the Council's Standing Orders, its committee structure and committees' terms of reference.

Councillor Mitchell thanked Councillor Blundell-Smith and Councillor A Blake-Coggins for chairing the Working Group.

He said that the youth service structure should remain under the auspice of the Assets Management Committee, with the provision of its services to be sit with the Communities Committee. This was agreed.

243.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the Working Group's recommendations, as amended, in respect of the Council's committee structure and terms of reference; and that amendments to the Council's Standing Orders stand adjourned until the next meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

244.1 The Neighbourhood Plan Committee at its meeting on 25th March had recommended increasing its membership to seven. Therefore, nominations were sought for four members. The following were nominated and seconded, and votes were taken.

Councillor P Holbrook 10 votes
Councillor B Holbrook 8 votes
Councillor A Blake-Coggins 11 votes
Councillor Crittenden 8 votes
Councillor Mitchell 8 votes

Councillor B Holbrook withdrew her nomination.

- 244.2 **RESOLVED** that Councillors A Blake-Coggins, Crittenden, P Holbrook and Mitchell be members of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee for the remainder of the 2023/24 year.

Feasibility Study – Brunel Drive

- 245.1 East Sussex County Council produced a feasibility study to address the issues of parking on Brunel Drive. The report was received from on 7th February.

The report recommended:

That a scheme that introduces additional parking restrictions through a Traffic Regulation Order could, possibly, be considered but the effectiveness of these measures would rely on enforcement, Drivers would be more inclined to ignore the parking restrictions once it is known that enforcement is unlikely. It is not guaranteed that support to this measure would be received from East Sussex County Council or Sussex Police.

Additionally, a scheme that improves signing/lighting to the car park entrance would be a good candidate for community match funding.

A scheme that introduces additional parking provision or traffic calming features would not be suitable for consideration.

A budget of £45,000 was recommended for the schemes.

Applications for joint funding are considered by the Lead Member at decisions-making meetings scheduled for June and December. ESCC have advised that they would ideally need confirmation that HTC would like the scheme added to the agenda by 7 May 2024 at the latest. This would allow sufficient time to type the report and get it approved by managers.

There would be a requirement to have consulted with local residents as part of any application.

- 245.2 **RESOLVED** to not proceed with the match funding scheme and to refer this matter back to the Assets Management Committee for alternative solutions.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

CHAIRMAN