



**HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL**  
**STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of the Strategy Committee,  
held at the Fleur-De-Lys Council Chamber, Market Street, Hailsham  
On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

- StC/23/3/1 **Public Forum**  
2 None presented
- 13 **Present:** Cllrs; G. Blake-Coggins, K-M Blundell, C. Bryant, P. Holbrook (Chair), M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls and A-M Ricketts.
- 14 **Officers Present:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk)
- 15 **Apologies For Absence:** received and accepted from Cllr A. Clarke
- 16 **Declarations of Interest:**  
None given
- 17 **Confirmation of Minutes**  
**RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Committee held on the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.
- 18 **Progress Against the Town Council's Strategic Plan**  
The committee considered the report by exception.
- 18.1 John Harrison highlighted and the committee discussed the following:  
  
The Deputy Town Clerk and Business Enterprise Manager, Mickey Cairn, has observed that there was currently a greater commitment for sections of the community to be working together, which has progressively been getting stronger since the covid lockdowns. This was evidenced through increased attendance at community forums and through joint working initiatives.
- 18.2 Cllr Holbrook advised that he had recently agreed to work with the Youth Service on a pottery project. It was agreed that the funding of this through the Mayor's Allowance would need to be on a Hailsham Town Council meeting agenda.
- 18.3 Zero Tolerance on Dilapidated Buildings;  
Cllr Laxton expressed concern over the condition of the YMCA/Clarion building at One Market Square (above the HTC Youth Café). The committee noted that work had been ongoing with the Chamber of Commerce to address this issue more widely in the town.
- 18.4 Street Market; a lot of work had been put into maintaining the street markets and it is always discussed at Communities Committee meeting. However, there is still a feeling that WDC are restricting trade at the market.
- 18.5 Maruice Thornton Playing Field; there has been difficulties with potentially sub-letting part of the field to the Scouts group and therefore the Assets Management Committee had resolved to look into other ways of pursuing the scouts hut location issue.
- 18.6 Western Road Recreation ground lighting scheme; this has been a lot of work to implement but was now fully complete and all funding had been received.

- 18.7 Changing Spaces; a pre-application meeting with a Planning Officer has been requested
- 18.8 2 North Street (Cortlandt Stable Block and Public Toilets); the situation with the building has become quite complex. The landlord has been served notice, but HTC had not received confirmation of this. The Works Team have visited the building to assess dilapidations work required according to the landlord's scheme. An independently commissioned survey had revealed that the landlord's scheme was not unreasonable. HTC will continue to pay rent on the building until December.
- 18.9 Western Road Recreation Ground; Hailsham Town FC had attended the recent meeting of the Assets Management Committee and advised that the originally agreed CIL match funding for improvements to the Beaconsfield ground facilities may not now be sufficient, as the agreement had been made some years ago. The club would return to a future meeting when it has more definitive cost information. It now planned to have a changing places toilet facility installed in the ground which would be accessible to the public.
- 18.10 Common Pond Maintenance; The town council has already agreed quotes for the pathways. The Fish issue is still to be addressed. The Environment Agency has given the council a list of suitable contractors, with those most local having been contacted.
- 18.11 Welbury Farm Land; this issue is still outstanding between the developer and WDC, with HTC regularly pursuing and ensuring we are kept in the loop.
- 18.12 Ersham Road Village Green; this issue is still ongoing as ESCC Highways were not yet in a position to take ownership of the land.
- 18.13 Youth Service; Demand for the Youth Service in Hellingly was going very well. The other main growth area has been the work undertaken in collaboration with HCC.
- 18.14 Expanding the Youth Service; other options for an increased and improved space for the service were being looked at, including the First Fields site or the Free Church which is currently up for sale along with the adjoining manse at a listed price of £825. A proposal to the council will be a future agenda.
- 18.15 Staffing Review; There was some concern over the apparent loss of momentum on the project.
- 18.16 Cllr Holbrook advised that he was hoping to resurrect the "Hailsham Heroes" award scheme via the Communities Committee.
- 18.18 Update on Communications Activity; there will be a proposal on the next Assets management Committee agenda for additional noticeboards including digital options.
- 18.19 Post Office Banking Hub; the committee discussed various options regarding banking in Hailsham and the possibility of enhancing Banking services in the Post office. The suggestion of visiting the Banking Hub in Shoreham was made.
- 18.20 Neighbourhood Plan; a remote meeting had been held with WDC, during which it was advised that the new Local Plan should be out for consultation before the end of the calendar year.

19 **Confidential Business**

**RESOLVED** that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on the next item of the agenda as they concern employment issues and the terms of tenders and proposals and counter proposals in negotiation for contracts, or are otherwise confidential information. to go into confidential business.

- 20            **Progress against the Town Council's Strategic (Confidential Items)**  
The Committee noted ongoing issues highlighted regarding ongoing projects on this part of the strategic plan. The next meeting has been arranged for 10<sup>th</sup> November to further discuss the project.
- 21            **Maintenance Plan**  
The committee received and noted an update on progress against the Maintenance Plan. It was noted that although the plan that we have is detailed for external work, we have nothing more detailed for our larger buildings, with no provision for cyclical or regular maintenance. This was largely down to resource issues. A solution would be to
- 21.1        The committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Assets Management Committee to commission a suitable external company to undertake a comprehensive survey of the council's assets portfolio with a view to producing a preventative maintenance schedule.
- The committee noted that CIL could not be used for this so it would have to be scheduled into next financial year's budget. and draw up a maintenance plan for each building.
- 21.2        The committee also discussed the ongoing maintenance of Playgrounds. Cllr Ricketts felt that the fact that the Stroma Gardens playground had been designed for use by younger children had caused an issue for local residents with older children, and that this could therefore be addressed at a future Assets Management Committee.
- 22            **Update of the Council's Strategic Plan**
- The committee discussed the potential organisation of a 'Visioning Day' to re-write or renew the council's Strategic Plan, facilitated by the consultant undertaking the current staffing review. They had advised that this would best on a Saturday with all staff and councillors attending if possible.
- It was suggested that a few other companies could be approached as the current consultant has been unavailable for meetings regarding the Staffing review recently.
- 23            There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.21pm

CHAIRMAN