



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 31st July 2023 at 7.00pm.

HTC/23/
01/X150 **Present:** Councillors: A Blake-Coggins, G. Blake-Coggins, K-M Blundell, C. Bryant, D. Chapman, J Crittenden, N Hayes, B. Holbrook, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls, S, Potts, A M Ricketts, Rusu and G White.

151 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs K. Giddings and Mr D. Saxby.

152 **Public Question Time**

No members of the public were in attendance.

Councillor Laxton said that she had spoken to the Chairman recently and was pleased that he had apologised to her for comments he had made at the last meeting. It was important that all councillors complied with the Code of Conduct.

153 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors A Clarke, F Clarke and Rusu

154 **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

155 **Chairman's Update**

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

He said that had Knockhatch Adventure Park had given six vouchers for families to have a holiday.

Pass it On had sent a letter of thanks for the £100 grant.

Governance Working Group

156.1 At the Council meeting held on 12th July, it had been resolved to establish a Governance Working Group comprising seven members. Nominations were sought.

156.2 **RESOLVED** that the seven members to sit on the Governance Working Group would be Councillors A Blake-Coggins, Blundell, Bryant, A Clarke, P Holbrook, Mitchell and Ricketts. The meetings to alternate between evening and daytime.

157 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during the discussion on the next item on the agenda – Hailsham Health and Wellbeing Hub – as concerns: The beginning of legal proceedings and terms of tenders for contracts or negotiations (in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders Number 1E).

2 North Street

158.1 The Town Clerk said that at the meeting held on 12th July it was resolved to defer a decision on the future of the public toilets to this extraordinary meeting to allow for further discussions with the Lion's Bookshop with a view to achieving a tenancy agreement in 2 North Street.

A meeting had been held with representatives of the Lion's Bookshop last week where it was decided that they the premises were not suitable for their needs and they, therefore, would not be making an offer on the tenancy.

Debate ensued.

159.1 Councillor Blundell proposed that Council proceed to lease the toilet only and negotiate a two-year break clause in the lease. This was seconded by Councillor A Blake-Coggins.

On being put to the vote, this proposal was lost by 8 votes to 7.

159.2 The meeting then debated the motion that was deferred from the meeting held on 12th July 2023, as follows:

Council resolves to consider the motion proposed at the meeting of the Assets Committee on 28th June 2023 which was as follows:

We propose to renew the lease for the premises known as 2 North Street at the renewed rent of [redacted] including a two-year break clause.

This motion was lost by 8 votes to 7.

160 A recorded vote was requested.

Councillors A Blake-Coggins, G Blake-Coggins, Blundell, Crittenden, B Holbrook, P Holbrook and White voted in favour of the motion.

Councillors Bryant, Chapman, Hayes, Laxton, Mitchell, Nicholls, Potts and Ricketts voted against the motion.

161 Councillor Laxton thanked staff for their time on this matter.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.02 pm.

CHAIRMAN

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