



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the extraordinary meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm.

HTC/23/
04x/210 **Present:** Councillors: A Blake-Coggins, G. Blake-Coggins, C. Bryant, D. Chapman, A Clarke, F Clarke, P.S. Holbrook, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, K. Nicholls, S. Potts, A M Ricketts, and G White.

211 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mr D. Saxby, Mr A. Joyes and Mr J. Cottingham.

212 **Public Question Time**

No members of the public were in attendance.

213 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors Hayes and B Holbrook.

214 **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

215 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are temporarily excluded during the discussion on agenda item 5 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).

The Chairman reiterated the extremely confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Hailsham Youth Service

216 The Youth Service Manager, Mr Joyes said that there were two issues relating to the Hailsham Youth Service, the situation at 1 Market Square and the purchase of the church and Manse.

1 Market Street

217.1 Mr Joyes reported that the facility at 1 Market Square was currently unsafe and unusable. This was because of rain damage and negligence by the tenants, Clarion Housing.

Repeated attempts, including a solicitor's letter to get Clarion to rectify the situation had proved unsuccessful.

217.2 **RESOLVED** to instruct a surveyor and a solicitor to act on the Town Council's behalf with regard to Clarion Housing's lease for 1 Market Square.

218.1 Church and Manse

Mr Joyes said that the offer to purchase the church and manse had been accepted. Since then, a number of problems with the building had been highlighted, including significant issues with the church roof.

Some members expressed concern about the funding of the project.

218.2 **RESOLVED** to proceed with the previously agreed resolution to purchase the church and manse and renegotiate the price with the vendor in light of the remedial work needed, particularly to the church roof; and to delegate the negotiations to the Town Clerk. The remedial work to the church roof would have to be advertised on the Government Gateway.

Proposed by Councillor A Blake-Coggins and seconded by Councillor G Blake-Coggins.

The resolution was carried by 9 votes to 3 against, with 1 abstention.

219.3 Councillors Chapman, Laxton and Mitchell asked that their votes against were recorded. Councillor Nicholls asked that her abstention from voting be recorded.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN