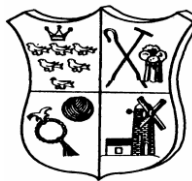


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the **Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices**, Market Street, Hailsham on Wednesday 14th August 2024 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/24/4/36 Public Forum

P. Hobden was present at the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, M. Laxton chaired the meeting

37 Committee members present

Councillors: A Blake Coggins, C. Bryant, D. Chapman, P. Holbrook, M. Laxton (Chair), C. Mitchell, G. White

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison, K. Giddings, R. Gillett

38 Apologies For Absence:

Councillor A. Clarke

39 Declarations of Interest

C. Bryant and D. Chapman both declared personal interests in the agenda item for Western Road Recreation Ground as they are members of the Bonfire Society

P. Holbrook declared a personal interest on the agenda item for the Cricket Club signage as he is a Wealden Councillor and he did not vote on the matter

A Blake Coggins and P. Holbrook both declared a personal interest in the agenda item for the church building as they are Directors of the CIC and both also declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Maurice Thornton Lease, as they are both aware of negotiations that have taken place with Wealden District Council

40 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Members noted that minute 26 under “update” should read £40,000 rather than £40,00

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 17th July 2024 may be amended, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

41 Update

- J, Harrison advised he had still not received a response from the YMCA
- The signs asking the public not to feed the wildfowl at the Common Pond had been ordered and were due to be placed in the Pond

42 **Hailsham Country Park**

Members discussed a request by a member of the public to allow two rods per season ticket, rather than the current one rod only.

Members were in favour of this request, just for the season ticket only, the one day and weekly tickets to remain the same.

RESOLVED to allow fishing with up to two rods per fishing season ticket

43 **Hailsham Cricket Club Signage**

The Committee discussed the advertising signage placed on the Cricket Pavilion. It was agreed that the signs on the site were in breach of planning permission. The Committee agreed to ask the Cricket Club to take down the current signs at the end of the cricket season.

It was further agreed that any future signs to go up will need planning permission if they are larger than 0.6 metre squared (the standard estate agent board sign), as in line with the Council's policy for advertising on Western Road Recreation Ground.

The Cricket Club will also need the Council's permission for any future signs

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Town Clerk writes to the Cricket Club advising that any advertising signs over 0.6 metre squared are in breach of planning permission and that the signs must be taken down at the end of the cricket season.
- ii) Planning permission must be sought for signs over any 0.6 metre squared, and all signs must be agreed by the Town Council

44 **Sports Club Meeting**

M. Laxton updated members on the recent meeting that had taken place between the Council and the local sports clubs. She advised that those in attendance were:

M. Laxton, A. Clarke, G. Blake Coggins and K. Giddings had met with S. Wennington (Hailsham Active) , M. Pelling and J. Bartlet (Hailsham United Football Club), I. Fairweather (Hailsham Town Football Club), M. Fox (Welcroft Football Club) and K Bates (Hockey Club), H. Chapman (Hailsham Cricket Club)

M. Laxton reported that the meeting had been very positive and she considered that this meeting had helped the local clubs to begin to communicate directly with each other. It was agreed at the meeting that the local clubs need to start sharing information and this can be done through Hailsham Active, who can organise this.

The following points were raised at the meeting:

- More land and facilities are needed for sports
- Information should be shared between the sports clubs through Hailsham Active
- It was noted that negotiations are in place with Wealden Council in relation to the Lease for Maurice Thornton Recreation Ground
- It was noted that if a club wishes play an organised game on Council land they must book this with the Council and pay pitch fees
- It was noted that 300 children use the Maurice Thornton facilities and Hailsham

United Football Club have been speaking to the Youth Service about linking to the Youth Centre

- Issues with Hailsham Town Football Club being unable to train on Western Road Recreation Ground due to the expansion of the Cricket Square were raised. (It was noted that the Cricket Square has now been expanded to allow for a new ladies team)
- It was advised at the meeting that the Town Council will be taking on a new sports facility at Land at Station Road, in the future
- Hailsham United Football Club raised concerns they were being charged for the use of the pitches at Maurice Thornton, whether they are playing a game or training
- The Hockey Club confirmed they will be gaining a new pitch shortly at the Hailsham Community College grounds – concerns were raised at the ongoing care of this pitch as it will be hired out by the College
- I. Fairweather expressed concern that there is nowhere for the football clubs to train locally. He advised he will speak to his team about Hailsham Town Football Club working around Hailsham United Football Club in relation to training on the recreation ground
- Hailsham United Football Club asked if they could use their saved drainage funds to pay for their pitch fees?
- S. Wennington advised he will liaise with G. Blake Coggins regarding seeking planning permission for the floodlights at the Community College. As planning permission was not initially sought the floodlights have to be turned off at 7.00 pm

A second meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2025 at 7.00 pm at Maurice Thornton Pavilion

45

Western Road Recreation Ground

D. Chapman proposed a permanent surface is placed on Western Road Recreation Ground, for the Bonfire event. He advised that the surface will be level with the ground and not raised.

Members discussed the proposals and agreed that this must be in consultation with the Cricket Club and Football Club and the proposals must not interfere with either Club.

It was noted that the permanent surface will require permission from the Fields In Trust and the Bonfire Society will need to get sponsors to pay for the structure.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of using some CIL funds to help with funding, as well as using CIL funding to possibly place a flag pole and a beacon basket on the site.

The Committee agreed they were very much in favour of placing a beacon basket on the site, as Hailsham does not have one.

D. Chapman advised that he will look into plans and costings for a permanent structure as well as a beacon basket and report back to the Committee at a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) to give permission in principle for a permanent surface at Western Road Recreation Ground, for the Bonfire event, to hold the bonfire, subject to further details and plans of the surface
- ii) The Cricket Club and Football Club must be consulted on the plans and location of the surface

46 **Strategic Plan**

Members agreed to organise a small Sub Group to discuss the Assets Committee's Strategic Plan.

The Sub Group will be Mary Laxton, Colin Mitchell, Chris Bryant, Richard Gillett and Tony Lee (the newly appointed Operations Manager)

They will report to the Assets Committee.

47 **Changing Places Toilet**

Members noted that the pipes are in place. J. Harrison reported that they are now waiting on South East Water to begin the work.

48 **Confidential Business**

Resolved that due to the special and confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, and possible disclosure of personal or legal information not in the public interest at the present time, the following items of business be transacted following the temporary exclusion of members of the Public and Press, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E.

49 **Wentworth Wood**

Members were advised that over recent months, children have been creating a bike track with ramps, berms, and pits on the paths through Wentworth Wood, which have destroyed some of the wildflowers.

R. Gillett has advised that when this was first brought to his attention, there were a few small lumps of soil to the sides of a couple of the paths, but recently the number and the height of the ramps have increased.

He advised this is now starting to get out of hand and in some areas, the full width of the path is being used, which is now causing a hazard for those walking in the area.

It was agreed to level the area for the time being and remove the hazards to make it safe. If the problem continues it was agreed to look into other options of how to protect the woodland.

The cost for the work to level the area to come from maintenance budget.

Members further discussed a "Pump Track" that could be installed in the area. It was agreed to put this in the Strategic Plan.

50 **Hailsham Cemetery**

Members were advised that a donation had been given to the Council for the recent filming by Sky, at the Cemetery. It was noted that after costs, £4,000 was left in the funds. Councillors Anne Blake Coggins and Barbara Holbrook had advised they will be looking into a project for these funds and will come back to the Committee with ideas. It was agreed that no extra trees or benches were required at the site.

Members discussed the work required to finish the Cemetery Pathway. It was noted that work commenced back in 2021 with funds being allocated from reserves and maintenance

plan budget but due to the budget constraints in 2024-2025, it was not included in the budget.

There are two stages left to complete the work on the pathways and entrance to the cemetery and the total cost of completing the cemetery pathways and the entrance will be £40,000.

Members were in favour of carrying out the work.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to request £40,000 from CIL funding for the works to the remainder of the pathways at the Cemetery

51 **Battle Road**

Members were asked to consider replacing the hedge at the Battle Road Play Area with railings.

It was noted that planning permission is required to remove the hedge.

The Committee were in favour of this proposal.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council for up to £10,000 from CIL funding to replace the current hedge with railings

52 **Common Pond Pathway**

Members considered a quotation to fully complete the pathway at the Common Pond.

The Committee were in favour of undertaking the work.

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council for up to £9,000 from CIL funding for the completion of the pathway at the Common Pond

53 **Common Pond**

A quotation had been received from Hubble Aquacare to remove as many fish as they can from the Pond, in a day, and re-home the fish.

The cost to remove as many fish as possible is £1,300

P. Hobden advised he can meet the contractor on site to help them organise the work.

RESOLVED to agree to the quotation of £1,300. Funds to be taken from the maintenance budget

54 **Church Building**

Members noted that the Working Group has met and the CIC Government Document has been written. It was noted that the management of the building will fall under the Assets Committee.

C. Mitchell advised that the Town Council must be clear on how the building will be managed and what the Council's responsibilities are.

Members discussed the Service Level Agreement. The Working Group will be looking into

this agreement and it was agreed that C. Mitchell would assist with this by suggesting some Heads of Terms for the Group to consider.

P. Hobden left the meeting at 8.25 pm

55

Maurice Thornton

The Committee discussed the ongoing discussions with Wealden Council regarding the Lease and it was agreed for J. Harrison to informally contact Wealden Council for a further update.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities