



HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of Hailsham Town Council held at the Hailsham Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.00pm.

HTC/24/
03/165 **Present:** Councillors: A. Blake-Coggins, G. Blake-Coggins, K-M. Blundell-Smith, C. Bryant, B. Carpenter, D. Chapman, A. Clarke, N. Hayes, M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, D Rusu and G. White.

166 **Officers in Attendance**

Mr J. Harrison (Town Clerk), Mrs E. Hastings, Mr T. Lee, Mrs K. Giddings, Mr D. Saxby, Mr T. Hall and Mrs L. Homewood.

Also in attendance were County Councillors G. Fox and S. Murphy.

The Town Clerk stated that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman were not in attendance therefore councillors had to elect a chairman for the meeting.

Councillor A. Clarke was nominated and chaired the meeting.

167 **Public Question Time**

Mr P. Gibson, editor of Hailsham News said that he would like Hailsham Town Council's support for a campaign the paper was running to get more police officers in Hailsham and suggested that a meeting be held with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mrs K. Bourne Chief Inspector Simon Yates and Mrs N. Ghani MP.

He also suggested a meeting with the Fire and Rescue Service to talk about the lack of nighttime cover.

A member of the public said he was disappointed that the letter sent to the Department for Education about Burfield Academy had not been individually signed by councillors, and that the minutes were inaccurate because they did not reflect the request to do so.

A member of the public spoke about the high level of the precept in Hailsham. In particular, he was unhappy that the Post Office was running at a loss and the high level of staffing in the Town Council. He said that in would be emailing the Town Clerk in the morning raising these points and would like a response.

168 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received and accepted from Councillors F. Clarke, Crittenden, B. Holbrook, P. Holbrook, Nicholls and Ricketts.

169 **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were declared by Councillors Carpenter, Laxton and Mitchell on the agenda item about the Hailsham Memorial Institute.

Councillors Bryant and Chapman declared an interest in the agenda item on event's grants.

Western Road Memorial Institute

170.1 The Chair explained that there had been a meeting of the Charities Committee directly before this meeting to discuss the request for financial help for repair to the HMI Club's roof.

The Committee had resolved to recommend to Council that a loan of up to £80,000 from CIL receipts be made to the HMI Club to fund the repairs to the roof.

170.2 **RESOLVED** that a loan of up to £80,000 from CIL receipts be made to the HMI Club to fund the repairs to the roof, to be paid back over the remainder of the Club's lease.

Confirmation of Minutes

171.1 It was proposed that the minutes of the last meeting be amended to show that a request for councillors to individually sign the letter to the Department for Education about Burfield Academy.

171.2 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of Hailsham Town Council held on 11th September 2024 as amended be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

173 **Chairman's Update**

The Chairman was not present and, therefore, no update was given.

East Sussex County Council Update

174.1 Councillors Fox and Murphy had provided written reports.

174.2 **RESOLVED** to note the East Sussex County Councillors' updates.

175 **Wealden District Council Update**

No update was given, but Councillor Bryant asked Wealden Councillors to oppose the proposal to build 80 houses in his ward.

Committee Recommendations to Council

176.1 **Assets Management Committee – 16th August 2024 – Union Corner Hall**

The Assets Management Committee had agreed, subject to ratification by Council, that Councillor Mitchell be appointed to the Union Corner Hall Committee.

176.2 **RESOLVED** that Councillor Mitchell be appointed to the Union Corner Hall Committee.

177.1 **Assets Management Committee -16th October 2024 – Maurice Thornton Pavilion**

The Assets Management Committee had resolved to recommend that an offer of £15,000 worth of CIL funding be made towards the cost of a ramp for people with disabilities at the Maurice Thornton Pavilion.

177.2 **RESOLVED** to offer £15,000 worth of CIL funding towards the cost of a ramp for people with disabilities at the Maurice Thornton Pavilion.

Costed Report for Events.

178.1 Members were asked to consider the costed report for events from the Communities Committee.

178.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the costed report for events, totalling £27,915.

Urban Grass Cutting

179.1 Members were asked to consider a request from East Sussex County Council in respect urban grass cutting. The options were as follows:

Option 1 – Standard: Two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to Hailsham Town Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

Option 2 – Extra cuts: Parish/Town Councils may fund an additional four cuts to be carried out by ESCC, totalling six cuts over the year. This would cost Hailsham Town Council a total of £16,142.33 for the year.

Option 3 – Self delivery: Parish/Town Councils take on responsibility to deliver all urban grass cutting in the area. ESCC would pay the Parish/Town Council the sum of £8,071.16 to cover the two cuts they would have been providing in other options

179.2 **RESOLVED** to proceed with option 3 and delegate the matter to the Town Clerk.

Ersham Park – Car Parking

180.1 Members were asked to consider the officer's report circulated with the agenda.

Representatives of David Barratt Wilson Homes met with the planning committee on 22nd October 2024 and the planning committee had asked for this request to be considered at full council.

As part of the initial Sales Suite, a temporary car park was constructed to allow selling whilst building. The car park is no longer required but is being used by members of the public for ease of access to the Cuckoo Trail and the open spaces within the development. In light of this, Hailsham Town Council was asked would it be willing to support an application to retain the small car park into perpetuity for the use by members of the public and local residents.

180.2 **RESOLVED** to adopt only with a commuted sum of £5,000 and an annual payment of £100 for ongoing maintenance and the removal of key fob access to the playground.

Committee Membership

181.1 Councillor Hayes had indicated that she wished to resign from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

181.2 **RESOLVED** to note that Councillor Hayes was withdrawing from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee and for the Committee to remain and seven members.

182 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded during the discussion on agenda items 12 and 13 as they concern; the beginning of legal proceedings and the terms of tenders for contracts of negotiations and engagement and terms of service (in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No.1E).

Post Office and Banking Hub Update

183.1 The Town Clerk updated the meeting the meeting on the latest staffing issues.

183.2 With respect to the banking hub, the Town Clerk reported that the banking hub was looking for a temporary location and was looking to set this up in the Hailsham Post Office. After that they would need a permanent home, and the Council had the opportunity to register an interest and to run it.

183.3 **RESOLVED** to register Hailsham Town Council's interest in taking on the franchise of the new banking hub and to delegate the matter to the Post Office Working Group.

Ersham Road Roundabout

184.1 Councillor White declared an interest as he is a member of MASHH.

Members were asked to consider options for parking design from East Sussex County Council Email received from Major Projects & Growth, Communities, Economy and Transport, ESCC, 26.09.2024: will be aware we have been working on proposals to instate residential off-street parking in the former Ersham Triangle Village Green space directly to the south of the planned new roundabout to off-set the on-street parking space on Ersham Road that would be lost. As presented to the Steering Group, our technical design team WSP have provided 4 design options, offering various configurations and numbers of parking spaces. The options also consider the issue of the existing electrical substation, which will require relocation in order to construct the proposed roundabout. In 3 of the 4 design options, the substation will stay within the green space, in the other, it will move across onto the verge south of the Diplocks Way arm. They took an and feedback. The attached document outlined each of the 4 options, along with the proposed benefits & disbenefits of each. At the end of the document, there was a table comparing all four schemes against one other, which may be useful as a high-level overview. The Town Council's feedback was sought on the design options, and if possible, the Council's preference of the four proposed options.

Councillor Mitchell proposed that option 4 be taken as it provided the most car parking spaces.

184.2 On a show of hands, this proposal was carried by 8 votes to 4. Councillors A. Blake-Coggins, G. Blake-Coggins, Blundell-Smith and White asked for their votes against to be recorded.

184.3 **RESOLVED** to make representations to East Sussex County Council is the Town Council's preferred option.

[Type here]

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Global/Minutes and Agendas/ DS/ Minutes 13.11.24

CHAIRMAN