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

**MINUTES**
of the meeting of the Strategy Committee,
held at the James West Community Centre, Brunel Drive, Hailsham
On Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

StC/24/05/24 **Public Forum**
None presented

25 **Present**: Cllrs; C. Bryant, D. Chapman, P. Holbrook (Chair), M. Laxton, C. Mitchell, and A-M Ricketts (Deputy-Chair).

26 **Officers Present:** J. Harrison (Town Clerk) and E. Hastings (Corporate Services Manager)

27 **Apologies For Absence:** received and accepted from Cllrs G. Blake-Coggins, A. Clarke and K. Nicholls

28 **Declarations of Interest:**
None given

29 **Confirmation of Minutes**
**RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategy Committee held on Monday the 30th September 2024 as a correct record and that they are signed by the Chairman.

30 **Progress against the Town Council's Strategic Plan**
The committee received and noted the report on progress against the plan and J. Harrison highlighted areas of the report by exception, as follows:

30.1 Hailsham Market – still has issues with number of stalls, although the financial viability of markets seems to be an issue locally. Noted that Herstmonceux market has recently stopped functioning despite having a wide variety of food and craft stalls. Seaford and East Dean markets are still functioning well. The Communities Committee had discussed the viability of changing the site and locating the market solely on HTC premises to avoid the current restrictions.

30.2 Maurice Thornton Playing Field – J. Harrison has spoken to a director at WD on this matter, who had asked that HTC's lawyers are referred to theirs to progress. This has been done and HTC awaits a response.

30.3 Adult Gym - has been completed and is being well used

30.4 James West Community Centre – adoption of land at Brunel Drive. HTC has resolved to adopt the land and has now advised the developers that they are ready to do so. This is now in the hands of them and the Planning Authority to reach an agreement. HTC reminds the developers of this situation on a regular basis.

30.5 Ersham Road Triangle – MASHH meeting scheduled for the end of 2024 had been cancelled, with a new meeting not having been scheduled. Contact with ESCC has been made to facilitate the exchange of the land. Confirmed that HTC will not be responsible for the parking provided on the site.

30.6 The 'old' Youth Café at 1 Market Square – the HTC Assets Management Committee had

DRAFT

not yet reached a decision on what to do with the vacant premise. The newly appointed Facilities and Operations manager was currently very busy with other facets of the workload including tenders. This will be on the agenda for the committee on the 12th February. The possibility of securing a loan to renovate the building and turn it into dwellings was to be considered.

30.7 Youth Service

The Committee noted that the Friday Night Project remains a very popular and a successful aspect of the Youth Services provision.

There is still a need to put a service level agreement in place between HTC and Hailsham Youth Service re the use of the building. This will be on the agenda for the next Assets Management Committee meeting.

The new notice boards have been subject to vandalism and graffiti in recent weeks. Suggestion that Councillors could get involved in the removal of graffiti, however specialist materials are required to avoid damaging the glass.

30.8 Post office – HTC has been successful in obtaining the banking hub contract following an assessment. The hub will be located in the Post office temporarily for six months. The council had previously motioned to 'express an interest' and it was felt that as the council had resolved to approach, thus inferred that the council wished to take on the franchise.

Cllrs Mitchell and Laxton formally thanked the Post Office Manager (Ms S. Stephens) and Town Clerk (J. Harrison) for their achievement in securing the Banking Hub contract through the often difficult assessment process and meeting.

30.9 Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Laxton advised that formal consultation is starting on 1st February, with several consultation events arranged.

Devolution Proposals will potentially have a large effect on Neighbourhood Planning, but advice from the consultants was to progress as normal. The issue of whether WDC do not or cannot deliver a local plan had already been addressed via the Neighbourhood Plan committee and the same advice had been given by the consultant.

30.10 Communications Development – new photographs had recently been commissioned, and it was questioned as to when they would start being used. It was noted that is was useful to have an update of the ongoing communications activities.

31 **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.

32 **Progress against the Town Council's Strategic Plan (Confidential Items)**

Cllr Laxton updated the committee. A meeting had been held on Monday 20th January – outcomes had been agreed including SLA's to be drawn up in areas of shared service. The joint committee was continuing to work with the consultants on other aspects. Again, the project needed to be mindful of the potential effect of devolution. Parish and Town Councils need to be ready to adapt to any changes emerging.

33 **Maintenance Plan**

The committee reiterated that the revised maintenance plan proper would be commissioned in the new financial year via the contract to hire a surveyor to assess the

HTC main buildings and asset.

34 **Strategic Plan**

The Town Clerk noted that there is a lot more work to do on translating the ideas received from committees into a template as suggested by the consultants from the Visioning Day, with 'SMART' targets and costings, which is then to be taken back to the various committees.

34.1 The Communities Committee would discuss the council's ongoing support for and association with Hailsham Forward at their next meeting on 3rd February. The council's key question was how much resource it was prepared to release for Hailsham Forward.

34.2 The Neighbourhood Plan committee had also come up with some priorities to be implemented related to connectivity. The Post office and Banking Hub also needs to be added to the plan and updated. Also some aspects of the old plan were no longer relevant or had been superseded, such as for example the creation of a Cycling Café on the Cuckoo Trail.

35 **Holocaust Memorial Day**

At 8.00pm the committee held two minutes silence to mark Holocaust Memorial Day as requested by the Chairman & Mayor, Cllr Paul Holbrook.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.03pm

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT