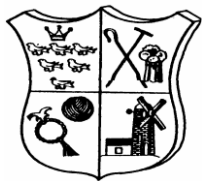


# HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the **Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Hailsham Town Council Offices**, Market Street, Hailsham on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.00 pm.

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## **Public Forum**

D. Corbett from Hailsham Town Football Club addressed the Committee, updating on the damage that had occurred at the Football Club, after the recent fire at Western Road Recreation Ground.

She asked if the Town Council could provide some financial support for the new metal fencing required to replace the old fencing.

D. Corbett confirmed the stand at the Football Club is safe as a structure and the Club will be putting new seating in. The goals were also damaged in the fire and a local business has offered to pay for new nets.

It was agreed the Town Council will help with some re-planting of bushes here.

P. Turner from the Football Club updated members on the situation with Burfield School, and advised he would attend the January Council meeting with further updates.

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## **Committee members present**

Councillors: A. Clarke (Chair), A Blake Coggins, C. Bryant, B. Carpenter, D. Chapman, M. Laxton (Vice Chair), C. Mitchell, G. White

Other Councillors in attendance: Councillor A. Ricketts

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison (Town Clerk), K. Giddings (Planning and Communities Officer), T. Lee (Operations Manager), R. Gillett (Works Manager), M. Webber (RFO)

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## **Apologies For Absence:**

P. Holbrook

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## **Declarations of Interest**

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

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## **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 may be amended, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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## **Update**

- C. Mitchell advised that he is now on the Union Corner Hall Committee and he recently attended his first meeting
- The reinstating of the Hailsham Town sign in London Road is in hand
- At the last Full Council meeting it was agreed to fund £15,000 from CIL to Hailsham United Junior Football Club, towards the cost of their disabled ramp

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### **Budget**

Members noted the budget.

The figures for the Church and the Manse were unavailable and M. Laxton asked for these figures to be available for the meeting in December.

It was suggested by M. Laxton that the Town Council could contribute £7,000 towards the cost of the new metal fencing for Hailsham Town Football Club, from CIL. It was agreed this could be discussed at the next Assets Committee meeting in December.

Members discussed the grass cutting budget.

It was proposed to give funds directly to Hailsham United Junior Football Club, allocated from the grass cutting budget, so the Club can organise the grass cutting here themselves. Members agreed that the condition on this funding would be that these funds are used for grass cutting only.

The Committee noted that the decision on the granting of this funding would have to be made by the Finance Committee.

94.1

**RESOLVED** to recommend to the Finance Committee to allocate funds from the grass cutting budget to Hailsham United Junior Football Club, to be put toward the Club's grass cutting. The amount to be allocated to be agreed by the Finance Committee

G. White abstained from voting

Members discussed the maintenance budget.

T. Lee advised he has been undertaking surveys of Town Council buildings and proposed the Council will need to put aside £80,000 a year, into a maintenance fund, for the next 3 years, to pay for the maintenance required.

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**RESOLVED** that:

The Finance Committee consider the funding of £80,000 a year into a maintenance budget, with the following proposals from the Assets Committee:

Year 2025 - take the £80,000 from CIL

Year 2026 and 2027 - the £80,000 funding to be allocated by the Finance Committee

Year 2028 - to be fully funded by the precept

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### **RESERVES/CIL**

Members noted the report

M. Laxton thanked M. Webber for all her hard work. M. Webber left at 7.40pm

96 **Procurement Panel**

C. Mitchell, B. Carpenter and D. Chapman all volunteered to be on the Procurement Panel

97 **Western Road Recreation Ground**

The Committee discussed the recent bonfire event and agreed to support next year's event, on 18<sup>th</sup> October, to take place on Western Road Recreation Ground.

The Committee discussed the idea of a permanent structure on the Recreation Ground, to place the bonfire on. The Bonfire Society will obtain quotations for the Committee to consider.

B. Sandalls from the Bonfire Society advised he will speak to the Works Manager about locations for the structure.

Members noted the cost for a beacon basket is also being looked into. It was further noted the Bonfire Society would be requesting for some help with funding for this.

Members were reminded that the Assets Committee has already agreed in principle to support a permanent structure for the bonfire and to also purchase a beacon basket, to be situated on Western Road Recreation Ground.

The agreement was subject to location plans and quotations.

C. Bryant and D. Chapman did not vote on the matter

98 **The Station**

A. Ricketts and A. Blake Coggins advised they have been speaking to the Youth Services Manager, A. Joyes, about organising an over 55's Social Club (similar to the Young at Heart Club at Hellingly).

Funding is not being requested, just permission to use The Station, one morning a week.

The Committee were in support of this idea. It was noted that A. Joyes and J. Cottingham are also supportive of the idea.

99 **Street Art**

Members noted this project has already been discussed at the Communities Committee meetings and the Assets Committee were being asked to look at locations for the street art. Members were advised that the idea of the project is to try and encourage graffiti away from the Town and at specific agreed locations.

Members suggested Western Road Recreation Ground, Maurice Thornton skatepark and the James West Centre, as possible locations.

It was further suggested to involve the Youth Services Manager, if possible, in this project

It was agreed that a written plan is needed with all the details, for further consideration, to bring back to the February Assets meeting

D. Chapman asked for any suggestions of locations to be sent to him.

D. Corbett, B. Sandalls and P. Turner left the meeting at 7.55 pm

100 **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.

101 **Hailsham Cemetery**

Members noted and agreed the report

101.1 **RESOLVED** that the grounds maintenance contract at the Cemetery is cancelled at the end of the financial year and work will then be carried out "in house"

102 **Maurice Thornton Site**

Members were advised there is £362,000 available from Section 106 funds, for use at the Maurice Thornton site, although the Town Council has been advised by Wealden Council that this funding can only be used for drainage. J. Harrison advised he is looking into this.

It was agreed a plan will be put together for the overall site and sent to Wealden Council, asking if the Town Council can use these Section 106 funds for the skatepark project and vehicle cross over.

It was agreed to organise a meeting to discuss the overall plan for the site with M. Laxton, A. Clarke, B. Carpenter and Hailsham United Junior Football Club. This will be brought back to a future meeting.

Members discussed the meeting of the local sports clubs which had been arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025, to be held at the Maurice Thornton Pavilion. A. Clarke and M. Laxton advised they will attend this meeting.

103 **Maurice Thornton Lease**

J. Harrison advised he is still waiting on a response from Wealden Council in relation to the Lease.

104 **Ersham Road Triangle**

J. Harrison reported that the land exchange with East Sussex County Council is due to take place early next year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm