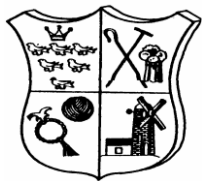


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Summerheath Hall, Summerheath Road, Hailsham on Wednesday 16th April 2025 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/24/4/
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Public Forum

Mr P. Turner spoke about the poor state of grass cutting in the Council's playing areas.

Mr S. Wennington said that a plan of action was needed for sports clubs and that sports grounds committee was needed.

A representative of Hailsham United Football Club said that a reply had not been received from the Council to an email she sent.

Mr T. Lee agreed to meet Mr Turner, Mr Wennington and Mr Bartlett from Hailsham Town Football Club to discuss their concerns.

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Committee members present

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

Officers in attendance: J. Harrison (Town Clerk), T. Lee (Operations Manager) and D. Saxby.

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Apologies For Absence:

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Carpenter and A. Clarke.

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Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bryant and Chapman declared personal interests as they are members of Hailsham Bonfire Society.

Councillor Holbrook declared an interest as his grandson plays football on the Maurice Thornton Playing Field.

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Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Update

- Mr Lee said that the cemetery improvements were moving forward and the renovation to the toilets were nearly complete. The waiting room was waiting for the delivery of a new door.
- The tarmacing of the cemetery paths was about to start
- The Town Clerk advised that the funfair was not taking place.
- Bus shelters – There was a 8-week lead in time.
- 1. Market Square – The YMCA had rejected the offer to move into 1 Market Square. It was agreed to bring the offer to the Hailsham Foodbank to the next Assets Management Committee meeting
- Inglenook Rewiring – Mr Lee reported that planning permission had now been granted. He was hopeful that the offices would be reoccupied by the end of May.
- HMI Club Roof – Work was well underway. A legal agreement on paying back the loan was to be drawn up.
- Assets Review – Mr Lee said that condition reports were being drawn up and would be made available. An Assets Report was also being drawn up. Councillor Mitchell suggested that an interim report on buildings be made available for the May meeting.
- Grass Cutting – There was concern over the state of the grass cutting and on the contract. Councillor Mitchell was to have a separate meeting with Mr Lee about grass cutting.

Food Bank Community Growing Project

151.1 A request had been received from Hailsham, Uckfield and Crowborough Foodbanks for access to Hailsham Town Council land to plant and supply free vegetables to passing members of the public.

151.2 **RESOLVED** that the scheme was not feasible and, therefore, cannot be supported.

Hailsham Bonfire Society

152.1 Hailsham Bonfire Society had requested that the accumulated rubbish in and around Grovelands Barn be tidied up as they were having difficulty accessing the Barn and storing their equipment.

152.2 **RESOLVED** that the Operations Manager inspects the site and arranges for it to be cleared by the end of May.

152.3 Councillors Bryant, Chapman and White requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

Community Infrastructure Levy

Councillor Laxton suggested transferring money into a high interest account.

RESOLVED to note the reserves in CIL.

Vicarage Field Toilets

154.1 Councillor White had produced a written report on the condition of the public toilets in Vicarage Field.

Discussion took place about the amount of vandalism and graffiti that was taking place in and on the toilet pods.

The Town Clerk said that he had been discussing with the local PCSO the possibility of applying for Public Space Protection Order status in the town centre.

Councillor Mitchell said that the Council should formally write to the Sussex Fire and Rescue Service about needlessly breaking the locks when they were called to an incident.

Councillor Laxton said that all incidents of vandalism to the toilets should be reported to the Police.

Concern was expressed that Wealden District Council was not fulfilling its commitment to cleaning the toilets and thought should be given to withholding payment.

Mr Lee said that Hailsham Town Council and Wealden District Council should work together to combat vandalism.

He said that the units were not practical and had asked for quotes for two new bespoke doors.

He had contacted a security company to discuss patrols in the area.

154.2 **RESOLVED** to

- a. Recommend consideration of a Public Space Protection Order for the town centre and for the Town Council to investigate further
- b. Write to Wealden District Council about the cleaning contract not being fulfilled.
- c. Write to East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service about breaking the toilet doors, and
- d. Report to the Police all incidents of vandalism.

Memorial Bench policy

155.1 Officers had reviewed the Memorial Bench and Memorial Tree Policy. Members of the Assets Management Committee were asked to ratify it.

Councillor Bryant suggested adding under the section dealing with charges adding a sentence stating that Hailsham Town Council does not make a profit from benches. It was agreed to add the following wording to the policy:

“All charges are a contribution towards cost.”

It was also agreed to add the following wording to the policy:

“Broken benches will be removed.”

- 155.2 **RESOLVED** to agree the policy on memorial benches and memorial trees as amended.

Maurice Thornton Playing Field

- 156.1 Mr S. Wennington of Hailsham Active addressed the Committee. He said that Hailsham Active was prepared to meet the costs of installing an access gate to the Maurice Thornton Playing Field but would require Hailsham Town Council to make the application to East Sussex County Council.

- 156.2 **RESOLVED** to make the application for an access gate to the Maurice Thornton Playing Field to East Sussex County Council as soon as possible.

Hailsham Country Park

- 157.1 Hailsham Active had requested that permission be given for Hellingly Junior Football Club to use Hailsham Country Park for training sessions during the football season. Representatives of Hellingly Football Club confirmed that those using the facility would be under 9.

- 157.2 **RESOLVED** that permission be granted for Hellingly Junior Football Club under 9s to use Hailsham Country Park for training purposes.

- 157.3 Councillor Mitchell requested that his abstention from voting be noted,

158 **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.

Western Road Recreation Ground

- 159.1 Hailsham Bonfire Society had requested financial help for the cost of the construction, manufacture and installation of a celebration beacon at Western Road Recreation Ground. A quotation had been received for £4,900.

The representative of Hailsham Bonfire Society attending the meeting said he was unable to say at this stage how much the Society could contribute towards this cost but would come back to the Committee with a figure.

Councillor Mitchell proposed that CIL money be used for the project, including £8,019.12 for the base.

159.2 **RESOLVED** to recommend that up to the whole amount for the base and the beacon (£12,919.12) be funded from CIL money and that Hailsham Bonfire Society contributes what it is able to.

159.3 Councillors Bryant and Chapman requested that their abstentions from voting be recorded.

160 **Councillor D. Chapman**

Councillor Chapman left the meeting at 9.05pm.

Post Office

161.1 A quotation of £2,750 had been received to supply, deliver, install and commission a microprocessor controlled safe-link system from the Post Office counter to a locked cabinet in the secure part of the Post Office. This is known as the cash tube system.

161.2 **RESOLVED** to pay £2,750 from the Post Office Community Interest Company account for the installation of a cash tube system in the Post Office.

Streetlights

162.1 Councillor Mitchell spoke in respect of his report to the Committee following the decision at the last meeting to change its streetlighting repair and maintenance contractor. Not only would changing contractor produce significant savings costs and maintenance but would have benefits in managerial and control reporting and planning.

162.3 **RESOLVED** to note Councillor Mitchell's report circulated with the agenda.

Skatepark

163.1 This agenda item had been discussed at the last Council meeting where it resolved to return it to the Assets Management Committee to receive further information.

Rideout had quoted £31,000 to carry out the remedial work needed at the skatepark.

163.2 **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £31,000 from Rideout to carry out the necessary remedial work at the skatepark.

Anglesey Avenue Bus Shelter

164.1 An email had been received from Mrs N. Ghani MP asking if Hailsham Town Council would consider replacing the lights in one of its bus shelters in Anglesey Avenue. An indicative quote of £2,196 had been received to carry out the work.

Members noted that there was a streetlight only a few metres from the bus shelter.

164.2 **RESOLVED** not to replace the light in the bus shelter in Anglesey Avenue as there is a streetlight only a few metres from the shelter and, therefore, did not constitute value for money.

Country Park Lake

165.1 A request had been received on behalf of Southdown and Hydneye Community Angling Club (SHCAC) to lease the Hailsham Country Park and in return keep it tidy and manage the fishing lake, including issuing tickets.

Concern was expressed about how this would affect the two community organisations who had free fishing rights at the lake.

165.2 **RESOLVED** that subject to SHCAC maintaining the existing agreement with the existing community groups and offering them honorary membership, to accept the offer to take on the management of the Hailsham Country Park lake.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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