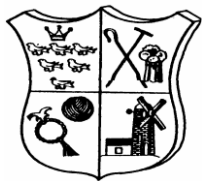


HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Hailsham Civic and Community Hall on Wednesday 11th June 2025 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/25/1

/1

Election of Committee Chair

The Town Clerk opened the meeting and said that the first agenda item was for Committee Chair and asked for nominations.

Councillor Laxton was nominated by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Ricketts.

Councillor Laxton was elected unanimously.

RESOLVED that Councillor Laxton be the Chair of the Assets Management Committee for the 2025/26 year.

Councillor Laxton took the Chair.

2

Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Councillor Carpenter was nominated by Councillor Bryant and seconded by himself.

Councillor White was nominated by Councillor Ricketts and was seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

On a show of hands, Councillor White was elected by 4 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED that Councillor White be the Vice-Chair of the Assets Management Committee for the 2025/26 year.

3

Public Forum

Mrs D, Corbett of the Hailsham Football Club updated the meeting on ongoing issues. The planning application for the 3G pitch had been returned to Wealden District Council.

Mr Wennington of Hailsham Active said that the Boxing Club had outgrown its current premises and had expressed an interest in using Grovelands Barn as its new base.

Dr T. Biggin of the Hailsham Festival had emailed about the need for more provision in Hailsham for arts and culture.

It was agreed to arrange a separate meeting with Dr Biggin.

4 **Committee Members Present**

Councillors: C. Bryant, B. Carpenter, M. Laxton (Chair)) C. Mitchell, A.M. Ricketts (substituting for A. Blake-Coggins) and G. White.

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

5 **Apologies For Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor A. Blake-Coggins.

6 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Bryant declared an interest in the agenda item for the Hailsham Football Club, as his sister plays for them.

Councillor Mitchell declared an interest as he is a Council representative in the Union Corner Hall Management Committee.

7 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 14th May 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8 **Update on Ongoing Projects**

Infrastructure Funding – On the agenda

Fleur de Lys – Mr Lee said that the work was almost complete and that staff would be moving back within the next 10 days.

Bonfire Society – Mr Lee said that the area round Grovelands Barn had been cleared.

One Market Square – The lease for the Foodbank taking over the premises was with solicitors.

Country Park Lake – The contract with the company had been signed.

Public Spaces Protection Order – The Town Clerk said that he had informed the Police that the Council would not be proceeding with the PSPO.

HMI Roof – Mr Lee reported that all the snagging issues to do with the roof had

now been resolved, including the guttering. The Town Clerk would follow up on the outstanding issue of the loan for the roof.

Streetlighting – The contract with the new streetlighting provider had begun on 1st June.

Cemetery Toilets – Councillor Mitchell asked what the true cost of the toilets in the cemetery was, including staff time and asked for this to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

Cuckoo Trail Noticeboard – The Town Clerk confirmed that Wealden District Council would be managing the board. It was noted that the noticeboard had already been vandalised.

The Beacon on Western Road – Mr Lee asked if thought had been given to the weight of the beacon and the potential problems with erecting and removing it from its sheath. Councillor Mitchell proposed that the Council finds out the weight of the proposed beacon and a method statement is produced and the matter is reconsidered at that stage.

9 **Infrastructure Funding**

The Town Clerk reported Wealden District Council had asked for town and parish councils to put forward a list for potential funding.

Ideas included:

Improvement to the land at Welbury Meadows, including the provision of a multisport court

The football club at Station Road

A22 connectivity project

The Station Youth Club

The Boxing Club

All lists had to be received by Wealden District Council by Friday 18th July.

10 **Hailsham Town Football Club**

The Town Clerk reported that the two trees that were on the field were to be removed.

11 **Hailsham Town Tennis Club**

The Town Clerk reported that the Tennis Club was planning to resurface and apply to Wealden District Council for funding. He was to clarify whether Hailsham Town Council had to give its approval.

Union Corner Hall

12.1 Councillor Mitchell spoke and pointed members to the report he had written that had been included with the agenda.

The Hall had gone from a surplus of £25,000 in 2020/21 to a loss of £2,000 last year, mainly due to a 61% increase in utility costs. The ongoing increase in utility costs means that the treasurer predicts that the Hall will be bankrupt in three years.

The Committee currently receive £1,000 per annum towards expenses from Hailsham Town Council; this figure has not increased since 1982.

The Committee has looked at ways of saving costs, including not having a cleaner.

There is a need to build a toilet/changing spaces. The estimate for this is approximately £17,500.

12.2 **RESOLVED** to recommend to Council to increase the sum of £10,000 from Ripley's money by a further £10,000 maximum in order to that work can be progress in a timely fashion to meet the required school holiday start date. This would have no overall budget implication beyond the use of CIL money.

12.3 Councillor Mitchell declared an interest and abstained from voting.

12.4 **RESOLVED** to increase the £1,000 paid by Hailsham Town Council to £6,000 per annum to reflect the lack of index linkage from 1982, in the financial year 2026/27. It was agreed to investigate whether this project was eligible for WDC's Infrastructure funding scheme.

12.5 Councillor Mitchell declared an interest and abstained from voting.

Strategic Plan

13.1 The Chair said that the item on the Maurice Thornton Playing Field showed funding by Hailsham Active when it should be Mr Wennington's own company. She asked for this to be changed. The Town Clerk said that he would list it as "funded by external sources".

She also said that target dates needed to be added.

Councillor Mitchell said that something needed to go to the Strategy Committee, but he saw the document as the starting point.

13.2 **RESOLVED** to submit the document to Council through the Strategy Committee

14 **Contracts Register**

RESOLVED to keep the contracts register updated and amended as necessary.

Appointment of Cemetery Wardens

15.1 Councillor White reported that Councillor B. Holbrook had indicated that she no longer wanted to be a Cemetery Warden. Councillor Ricketts said that she would like to take the role on.

15.2

RESOLVED that Councillor Ricketts would be a Cemetery Warden for 2025/26 and that the Town Clerk would contact Councillor A. Blake-Coggins to ascertain if she wished to continue the role.

Sports Groups Meetings

16.1

Councillor Bryant suggested meetings with senior officers and members of the Assets Management Committee.

16.2

RESOLVED to have a meeting twice a year between Mr T. Lee and Councillors Carpenter and White commencing at 7.00pm.

Committee Work Programme

17.1

The Chair thanked the Town Clerk for his work on this agenda item which timetabled the programme of committee work and suggested extending this to other committees.

Councillor Mitchell said the programme was a good starting point but was a little thin. It was unable to predict what would happen to Assets Management Committee matters.

17.2

RESOLVED to note the Committee Work Programme document as it stood.

Hailsham Free Church

18.1

Mr Lee updated the Committee on the progress of the plastering work at the Free Church.

18.2

RESOLVED to start the process again but to proceed with the plastering work to the Free Church.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm