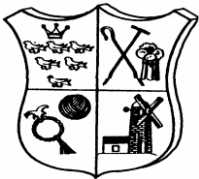




HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



CC/25/7/188

REPORT (Minutes) of the Communities Committee relating to the organisation of festivities and events held at the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Town Council Offices, Hailsham, on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 6.00 pm.

Public Forum

To deal with any questions or brief representations from members of the public relevant to the remit of the committee, in accordance with Standing Order 1. and Hailsham Town Council policy. (15 Minutes)

None were present

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Committee members present

Councillors: C. Bryant, M. Laxton (substituting for D. Chapman), A. Ricketts (Chair). A. Blake Coggins (substituting for A. Clarke), K. Nicholls

Other members present

J. Golding (Hailsham Forward), C. Musk (Hailsham Bonfire and 2nd Hailsham Scouts), B. Sandalls (Hailsham Bonfire Society), B. Pratt (Hailsham Farmers' Market), D. Sinden (Hailsham Parish Church), C. Soper (Chamber of Commerce)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings

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Apologies For Absence:

Councillors A. Clarke, D. Chapman

T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival)

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Declarations of Interest

C. Bryant declared a personal interest in the agenda item for the Bonfire Society, as he is a member of the Bonfire Society.

Councillor K. Nicholls and M. Laxton declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Hailsham Run, as they are involved in organising the event

M. Laxton also declared a personal interest in the Stand Proud 3 event as she is involved in the organisation of the event

Confirmation of Minutes

C. Bryant asked for changes to the following paragraph:

“In relation to the trial markets, C. Bryant asked the Committee to consider “what makes a good market?” and how to determine a successful market”

C. Bryant advised that this request had not come directly from himself, but from the Strategy Committee, through C. Bryant.

It was agreed to change the paragraph to :

“In relation to the trial markets, C. Bryant stated that the Communities Committee were being asked by the Strategy Committee to consider “what makes a good market?” and how to determine a successful market”

To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Committee held on Monday 2nd February 2026 be amended, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 2nd February 2026

K. Giddings thanked B. Sandalls for his help in moving the Hive out of the Council Yard and to Grovelands Barn, where it is now being stored.

Finance Report

The Committee noted the Finance Report for the Communities Committee.

Members queried the charge of VAT within money allocated for event sponsorship, as the organisation receiving the sponsorship funds must pay VAT within the amount they are given

A query was also raised in relation to the overspend of Remembrance Sunday events, as the overspend was larger than the amount that is actually allocated for the event.

K. Giddings advised she would contact the RFO for some clarity on these matters and report back.

Friday Trial Markets**Update on the Trials**

K. Giddings updated the Committee on the traders booked for the trial market dates :

Lions **(all trials booked)**

Mini mouthfuls **(she is going to see how the first one goes and if good will book for all dates)**

Tropic skincare **(booked in for all, apart from 8th May)**

Falafel van **(booked for all trials)**

Debbies Crafty creations **(booked for all trials)**

La Maison de Valerie - **(booked for all trials)**

Seaside Community Hub **(booked for all trials)**

Fossils and gemstones **(booked for all trials)**

LAW Designs **(booked for all trials)**

RSPB **(booked for all apart from 24th April)**

P&S Personalised and Sassy **(booked for all trials apart from 20th March)**

Forever Living Company – **Booked for all dates apart from 20th March)**

K. Giddings advised the following advertising is in place for the trial markets :

Article in the March edition of Hailsham News (which goes out to every household in the town – around 11,000+ homes), including directions to Blackman’s Yard from the town centre

- Press releases submitted to local media/press outlets including Sussex World (Hailsham Herald, Eastbourne Herald, Sussex Express)
- News items listed on the Hailsham Town Council website
- Posts on the Town Council’s social media pages, as well as specific communities/groups such as ‘Events and Fayres for Stallholders’, ‘What’s on and Events in Sussex’ and ‘Stallholders and Businesses in Sussex – events and Tips’
- Article in the Town Council newsletter (January edition of ‘Our Hailsham’)
- Posters on community noticeboards around the town
- Articles in Ashdown Sussex Radio’s ‘The Guide’ (online events directory)
- Shouts in Vicarage Field by the Town Crier, directing people to Blackmans Yard (9am and 11am on all five trial market days)
- Additional banners to promote the market (located in Vicarage Field, Market Square, high Street (x2) and outside the Western Road Rec/Station Youth Centre

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To consider what makes a successful market?

K. Giddings advised that K. Nicholls has requested data presented in chart form, and that at the end of the trials a chart would be produced showing the data for the markets.

Members agreed the following points make a successful market:

- Stall retention at the end of the trials
- 9 or 10 of the 14 pitches booked for all markets, including the last market
- A high footfall at all of the trial markets
- Positive feedback from the traders
- Selling goods that people want

K. Giddings advised she would be speaking to all the traders at the markets, to get feedback.

K. Nicholls considered that having traders at the Council markets that directly compete with High Street shops could be a concern.

J. Golding asked if the shops had been contacted about attending the trial markets. Councillor A. Ricketts confirmed that she has spoken to the High Street shops in relation to the markets.

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Strategic Plan

The Committee discussed the Strategic Plan in relation to the Communities Committee.

The following changes were made to the Strategic Plan:

- In addition to the paragraph "continue to liaise with the owners of Vicarage Field to allow the street markets to run" it was agreed to add "this to be reviewed after the Friday Trial markets have taken place"
- It was agreed to remove "involve community business focused organisations and individuals via the Hailsham Forward partnership" and to replace with "To support community businesses through the Communities Committee and engagement with Hailsham Forward"

K. Nicholls asked if numbering could be placed on the Strategic Plan. K. Giddings advised she would pass this request to the Town Clerk

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Hailsham Forward and Hailsham Chamber of Commerce

Members were advised that the Council had met with both Hailsham Forward and Hailsham

Chamber of Commerce and this had been a very positive meeting.

At this meeting the groups asked if the Town Council could speak to Wealden District Council about the vinyl wrapping the Chamber wish to place on empty shops. They were experiencing some issues with WDC in relation to the problem of planning permission being required for each separate vinyl wrapping.

K. Giddings advised she had emailed the Conservation Officer at Wealden District Council who had agreed that it should be possible for Wealden Council to agree one blanket planning permission for the vinyl wrapping, rather than the Chamber having to obtain permission for each separate vinyl. K. Giddings advised she would forward J. Golding the email in relation to this.

C. Soper updated members on the Chamber of Commerce. He advised that the Chamber have been in discussions with Tony Lee in relation to renting 1 Market Square.

Following on from the meeting of Hailsham Forward and the Chamber of Commerce, at an Extraordinary meeting of Full Council, on 18th February, it was agreed to award £600 grant funding to Hailsham Business Awards.

The Chamber will be launching the "Hailsham Business Awards" in September and these awards are open to any business in the Hailsham area. This will be split into 10 categories and these will be announced from 1st April.

The awards will be judged by external third parties.

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Youth Service

A Joyes had provided an update for the Committee:

- A fund raiser quiz morning had been arranged with the Railway Club and the young people had raised £120, this will go towards the PGL activity centre event in April
- The Centre is very busy at present; with the highest amount of young people in one afternoon and evening - 70 in total.
- The Youth Service has carried a lot of community engagement with the Police

A Joyes advised he will prepare his quarterly report for the May meeting

M. Laxton requested A. Joyes produce information on the use of the Manse, showing the revenue streams of the Manse, in his next report for the May Communities meeting. K. Giddings advised she would contact A. Joyes about this.

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Sussex Day

K. Giddings reported that letters will be sent to all local shops this month, advising them of the event as well as the road closure on the day.

All shops will be invited to participate in the event. The Council will also be organising a prize for the Best Dressed Sussex Day Window Display. She advised that Callanders Restaurant had offered to provide a voucher for the winning shop.

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Prom in the Park

This event will be held on Sunday 7th June, at Western Road Recreation Ground

Fundraising will be organised on the day for St Wilfrid's Hospice. M. Laxton asked for volunteers to help with bucket collections on the day.

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Community Forum

There was no update

- 204 **Hailsham Bonfire Society**
- C. Bryant asked whether the Bonfire Society could have the use of the Council's gazebos for their Flaming Fun Day event? B. Sandalls advised he would contact K. Giddings on this matter with further details.
- 205 **2nd Hailsham Scouts**
- C. Musk reported that the scouts are going to camp in Chatham Docks and will be staying on the ship there.
- Other than that, the scouts are undertaking the usual activities.
- 206 **Girlguiding Heathfield and Hailsham District**
- There was no further update.
- 207 **Hailsham Lions**
- G. Constable advised that a Fire walk will be organised for 28th March. The event will also have a number of traders attending.
- 208 **Hailsham Festival**
- There was no further update.
- 209 **Hailsham Farmers' Market**
- B. Pratt advised that the next market is on 14th March
- Although the markets in January and February were predictively quiet, he advised that the takings for these months were surprisingly good.
- G. Constable left the meeting at 7.00 pm
- 210 **Hailsham FM**
- There was no further update.
- 211 **Hailsham Parish Church**
- D. Sinden reported that the Church will be opened on Friday 6th, 20th and 27th March, between 10.30 am and 12.30 pm.
- On 29th March the Church will be holding a "Come and See" event, designed for new visitors and "Come and Sing", which will be held later in the evening.
- They will be advertising activities on Facebook for all ages over Easter
- 212 **Hailsham Community Run**
- K. Nicholls stated that Hailsham United are now looking for marshals for the event. The Bonfire Society are manning the road closure on the day.
- 213 **Remembrance Sunday**
- The Remembrance Sunday Committee will be reappointed in May at the Full Council meeting

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Stand Proud 3

M. Laxton reported that everything is in place and organised for the event.

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Hailsham Railway Club

The Railway Club are considering extending their hours and are currently looking into whether they can allocate a session for people with dementia and for their carers to attend

A Ricketts considered that there is a lack of support for people with dementia so the Railway Club would like to assist with support

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Twinning Association

Members noted that a quiz will be held at the Chales Hunt Centre this coming Saturday.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.05 pm

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 11th May 2026 Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities