HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL
ASSETS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT (Minutes) of the Assets Management Committee held in the Fleur de Lys Meeting Room, Inglenook, Market Street, Hailsham on Wednesday 10th June 2026 at 7.00 pm.

AMC/26/001.1 **Election of Chair and Deputy Chair**

Chair

There was one nomination of the post of Chair in the name of Councillor D. Chapman. He was proposed by Councillor Laxton and seconded by Councillor Carpenter.

Councillor D. Chapman was elected Chair of the Assets Management Committee for 2026/27.

The vote was unanimous.

001.2 Deputy Chair

There was one nomination for the post of Deputy Chair in the name of Councillor B. Carpenter. He was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Laxton.

Councillor B. Carpenter was elected Deputy Chair of the Assets Management Committee for 2026/27.

The vote was unanimous.

002 **Public Forum**

A member of Hailsham United Football Club updated the meeting on issues relating to the football club. The work on the pitch as complete although there was till work to do on the changing rooms. They had applied for the temporary path to stay in situ for a further year.

Mr P. Turner spoke about ongoing issues at the Western Road Recreation Ground.

A member of the public spoke in respect of the agenda item on Muslim burials. The Chair told him that he could speak when the agenda item was reached.

003 **Committee Members Present**

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

004 **<u>Officers in attendance:</u>**

J. Harrison (Town Clerk), T. Lee (Operations and Facilities Manager), D. Saxby.

005 **Apologies For Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor M. Caira.

006 **<u>Declarations of Interest</u>**

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Councillor Laxton declared an interest in agenda item as she knows the member of the public who had made the request.

007 **<u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u>**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Assets Management Committee held on Wednesday 8th April 2026, as amended be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The vote in favour of this resolution was unanimous.

008 **<u>Update on Current Projects and Resolutions</u>**

Mr Lee reported the following:

Resolutions from 08.04.2026

1. Funfair to go ahead between 17th and 24th August, Shayler's showtime had agreed to the increase in deposit to £2k and the use of festival mats to prevent damage.
2. Climbing Wall, Clif funding application in progress
3. Western Road subcommittee is now known as Sports Facilities subcommittee.
4. Streetlights, Sample checks were made and a report went to full council, letter to ESCC is still to be penned, tender being drafted
5. Container placement on Maurice Thornton approved.

O&F Updates

1. 1 Market Square, property leased and new tenants now in place.
2. Foodbank, estimated to leave at the end of July.
3. The Station works structural engineers final report has been completed, final costings from DP Goodwin have been submitted (agenda item)
4. Union corner application progressing, additional quotes were requested and further information was requested. Work scheduled to start 20th July
5. Condition report works for year 2 underway.

6. CAFM/compliance management programme ongoing
7. Market trials completed and report went to communities on June 1st, new monthly markets to take place going forward, now under assets.
8. Post Office works ongoing, door automation and doormat to complete.
9. War Memorial repairs, we have contacted a stone mason who has visited, stone mason has now said he cannot do the work, so we are working with another one.
10. Vicarage field toilets, one closed, quotes were very expensive so making repairs
11. Pet cemetery paths have been completed.
12. Beacon had been installed.
13. Ersham Road Bus stop has been repaired
14. Bollards have been repaired. One in High street and one outside inglenook
15. Crest Nicholson contact has been made regarding Station Road football pitches.
16. To contact HUFC regarding the cleaning of the new toilets once opened.
17. HMI repayment agreement has been chased with Hart Reade.
18. New user-friendly lights fitted at JWCC as well as re painting the hall.
19. Land valuation surveys completed.

009 **Finance Report**

Copies of the latest Finance Report had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED to note the Committee's current income and expenditure against budget.

The vote in favour of this resolution was unanimous.

Councillor Carpenter asked about the status of the water bill for the Western Road Recreation Ground. Councillor Mitchell said that the bill for £46,000 had been withdrawn.

010 **Community Vegetable Growing**

The Town Clerk said that an email had been received asking if the Council would donate some land for a Community Vegetable Growing scheme.

Councillor Bryant suggested offering the ex-playground land at Blacksmith Copse.

RESOLVED to offer Blacksmith Copse for the Community Vegetable growing scheme; the land to be made good at their expense.

The vote in favour was unanimous.

011 **Operation Slingshot**

Mr R. Middleton from an animal protection organisation addressed the Committee about the increase in youths using high-powered catapults and ball bearings to attack wildlife, mainly, but not exclusively, at the Common Pond. One of the suggestions he made to combat this was for Hailsham Town Council to apply for a Public Spaces Protection Order around the Common Pond.

Councillor Mitchell asked about enforcement. Mr Middleton said that parental involvement was essential.

RESOLVED that the Council gives official support to a Public Spaces Protection order around the Common Pond. The Pond Warden would respond to an email received from a member of the public about this problem.

The vote in favour of this resolution was unanimous

012 **Ersham Road Chapel**

Mr T. Lee said that as part of the programme of upgrading the cemetery he proposed providing some additional maintenance: the pews were unstable, the carpet needed replacing, and the interior would benefit from redecoration. This would enhance the new lighting and heating that had already been installed.

RESOLVED to recommend to Council that it repaints, recarpets and removes the pews in the cemetery chapel and replaces them with a new carpet and good quality chairs. The Committee was unsure at this stage where funding would come from, unless from a ring-fenced underspend from the last financial year. The existing pews could be sold if there was any interest.

The vote in favour was unanimous.

013 **Ersham Roundabout**

Balfour Beatty had written asking if Hailsham Town Council wished to take responsibility for the litter bins, bike parking facilities and two benches, along with the maintenance of a bus shelter when work on the roundabout starts..

RESOLVED to take responsibility for the bike parking facilities, the two benches and one of the litter bins, but not the bus shelter. However, to request that the bus shelter be relocated to Horsebridge.

All councillors voted in favour, apart from Councillor Carpenter who abstained.

014 **Muslim Burials**

A member of the public had approached the Council with a view to having a Muslim burial section in Hailsham Cemetery.

He addressed the meeting. He requested a separate Muslim burial because the number of Muslims living in the area was increasing. There would be no boundaries or sign for it so the cemetery would look the same as it does now. It would not ne exclusive to Muslims and if the communal area became full then it can move towards the Muslim area until the cemetery became full.

RESOLVED to agree the request for a separate Muslim burial section in principle and to delegate the matter to officers.

The vote in favour was unanimous.

015 **Sports Sub-Committee**

Councillor Chapman updated the Committee on the latest matters arising from the Sports Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED that the Sub-Committee liaise with Mr Turner about the drainage work needed at the Western Road Recreation Ground with an eye on the budget setting process in 2027/28. A costed plan would be needed.

The vote in favour was unanimous.

016 **Confidential Business**

RESOLVED that the press and public are excluded during the discussion on the next items on the agenda (12 to 15) as they concern: the terms of tenders for contracts or negotiations or matters that are otherwise not in the public interest (In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders No. 1E).

The vote in favour of this resolution was unanimous.

017 **Tree Report**

Committee members were asked to consider the officer’s report circulated with the agenda.

There was a problem with Ash Dieback on some of the Council’s trees, which could be a potential safety issue with these trees. They would have to be cut back or removed. The Council’s tree surgeon had quoted £16,500 for this work.

RESOLVED that the £16,500 needed for the work be taken from the existing tree budget and officers should come back to the Committee if more funding was needed for other tree work later in the year.

All councillors voted in favour apart from Councillor Bryant who voted against.

018 **City Washer**

Wealden District Council had rejected Hailsham Town Council's application for CLIF funding for the graffiti removal vehicle. Therefore, officers had requested that up to £55,000 be made available to purchase one.

RESOLVED to recommend to Council that up to £55,000 be made available from CIL money to purchase a graffiti removal vehicle; and to delegate the matter to officers to obtain the best price.

The vote in favour was unanimous.

019 **A22 Connectivity Project**

RESOLVED to defer this item until the next meeting, but in meantime to get a surveyor to look at the work needed on the tunnel and to explore the community hub proposal identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The vote in favour was unanimous.

020 **James West Consultation**

Councillor Carpenter withdrew from the meeting for this agenda item.

Six potential uses had been identified for the land around the James West Centre. They were:

A cycle pump track, surrounded by trees
A rewilding nature project
A 3G pitch, sunken down and surrounded by an embankment and fencing
A fenced in dog agility park with seating
New, improved and potentially relocated play equipment
Additional car parking

In addition, there was the option of keeping it as it is.

RESOLVED to bring this item back to the next meeting of the Assets Management Committee, but in the meantime, get approximate costings for the six options.

The vote in favour was unanimous of those present. Councillor Carpenter was absent and did not vote.

Councillor Carpenter rejoined the meeting.

021 **Youth Club Works**

The Committee noted that final quote had been received.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.36pm