



**Hailsham**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Hailsham Town Council**

Inglenook • Market Street • Hailsham • East Sussex • BN27 2AE

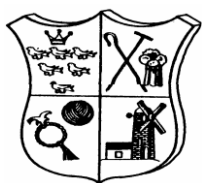
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Town Clerk: John Harrison

## **HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**



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 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2026 at 6.00 pm.

CC/26/4/55

### **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

56

### **Committee members present**

Councillors: C. Bryant, D. Chapman, A. Ricketts, G. White (substituting for G. Blake Coggins)

### **Other members present**

G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival), B. Sandalls (Hailsham Bonfire Society), J. Golding (Hailsham Forward), C. Musk (Hailsham Bonfire and 2<sup>nd</sup> Hailsham Scouts), C. Soper (Hailsham Chamber of Commerce), B. Pratt (Hailsham Farmers' Market), R. Warwick (Hailsham Chamber of Commerce),

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings and B. Gates-Williams

57

### **Apologies were noted and accepted for:**

Councillor G. Blake Coggins, K. Nicholls and B. Carpenter

58

### **Declarations of Interest**

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

59

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Committee held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 be amended, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposer D. Chapman, Seconder C. Bryant

60 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

There was no update

61 **Finance Report**

Members noted the finance report

It was noted there had been some overspend with Stand Proud and Prom in the Park events

62 **Men Who Talk**

The Committee was introduced to a new local group called Men Who Talk, from two representatives of the group. They advised that the aim of the group is to be a peer support group for men and young men, including teenagers, supporting with bereavement and isolation and building on friendships. They have now also set up a Wealden Community Project, supporting women and young girls in the same way. They work with various fitness groups in Hailsham to try to tackle personal problems and issues through fitness.

They are looking for volunteers and currently meet at Hailsham East Community Centre

63 **Hailsham Springle**

The Director of "18 Hours", the Company who organise the Springle events, addressed the Committee to discuss the Springle event in Hailsham, planned for April 2027.

She advised that 18 Hours work with Wealden Council, and the purpose of the event is to bring people into Hailsham. The Springle event is held in 5 Towns in Wealden. The organisers are asking each Town to help financially support the event.

It was noted that at the Springle event in April, there had been some issues reported in relation to people climbing on the War Memorial as well as the inflatables at the event catching the bunting in Town.

64 **Costed Report**

The report, which lists proposed funding for Town Council events and sponsorships for groups, was discussed at the meeting.

The Committee suggested some sponsorship changes to the report and agreed to look at the report again at the Communities Committee meeting in October. It was noted the report will then go to Full Council in November for consideration.

64.1 **RESOLVED** to update the Costed Report and defer the discussions on the report to the Communities Committee meeting in October.

Proposer C. Bryant, seconder A. Ricketts

All members voted in favour

65 **Friday Street Markets**

K. Giddings reported that the first Friday market had been held the previous week and proved to be very popular. 20 traders were on site and the feedback so far was good.

There are two further markets on 28<sup>th</sup> August and 25<sup>th</sup> September

66

### **Hailsham Forward**

Members noted Hailsham Forward are currently organising a questionnaire to send to local businesses

67

### **Hailsham Chamber of Commerce**

Members noted that Hailsham Chamber of Commerce is now a CIC company. The Chamber will shortly be moving to new premises.

The Business Awards will be held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. As the Awards are independently judged, participants do not have to be members of the Chamber of Commerce to enter.

68

### **Youth Service**

There was no update

69

### **Sussex Day**

The Committee discussed the date for the Sussex Day event in 2027. It was agreed to hold Sussex Day 2027 on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June

69.1

**RESOLVED** for Sussex Day 2027 to be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June

Proposed D. Chapman, Seconder A. Ricketts

All members voted in favour

70

### **Switch on event - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Members discussed the timings for the event. It was agreed the event will begin at 1.00 pm and finish at 7.00 pm

A road closure will be requested from 11.00 am to 9.00 pm, to allow for the put up and take down of the gazebos.

Members noted that The Rum Infusionist and Harold's Hog Roast are already booked in. T. Lee is speaking to the Friday market traders to start taking bookings from them, for the event.

Two bands are booked for the event- Sussex Stompers and Con Brio.

The Christmas lights will be switched on at 6.00 pm, Hailsham Academy and Primary School will be singing carols in the lead up to the switching on of the lights

K. Giddings suggested a small classic car display is also organised for the event, as this proved popular at the Sussex Day event

The Bonfire Society will man the road closure on the day.

71

### **Community Forum**

There was no update

72

### **Hailsham Bonfire Society**

Preparations are now in place for this year's Bonfire event.

73

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Hailsham Scouts**

Members noted the scouts were investigating applying for CLIF funding.

**Girlguiding Heathfield and Hailsham District**

Members noted the Girl Guide units have been enjoying a summer out and about, visiting their local campsite at Bull River and engaging in local activities.

Local girl guides have joined together with other girls across London and the South East Region as well as international guests for 8 days of activities.

All the sections were invited to an open day and raised money for Sussex Air Ambulance.

**Hailsham Lions**

G. Constable advised that the Lions had recently organised an afternoon tea event. The Lions bookshop is currently still open.

G. Constable reported that the Lions unfortunately cannot always help with the requests they receive for large amounts of funding. She further reported that they currently have some new volunteers in their Group.

**Hailsham Festival**

Members noted the festival begins in the Town on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September, until 20<sup>th</sup> September, with a big launch planned for the event on 5<sup>th</sup> September.

T. Biggin advised that 9,000 flyers have been distributed around the Town. A big street celebration has been organised for the 5<sup>th</sup> September. Over 65% of the events are free, with many costing under £5.

**Hailsham Farmers' Market**

B. Pratt advised that there is a new trader selling sweet treats at the Farmers' market this coming Friday.

**Hailsham FM**

A Ricketts advised she had recently broadcast with Hailsham FM to promote the Town, covering events in the Town, Hailsham Festival and the markets. She advised she will now be broadcasting monthly.

**Hailsham Parish Church**

There was no further update

**Hailsham Community Run**

K. Giddings read out an update from Councillors M. Laxton, K. Nicholls and C. Mitchell :

*"The Run will take place again next year on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2027 - next year will be the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hailsham Run*

*Despite the Run being Cancelled on 17th May and causing 4 days of relentless administrative work we rose to the Challenge and rescheduled to 12th July Our Resilience knew no bounds in rescheduling every element of the Run .*

*About 120 runners have deferred their place until 2027 and we lost participants on the day due to the heat but the event was again supported by the Community and Local Businesses who turned out to support runners and joggers the youngest being 6 Months old and the eldest over 80 years old*

*61 Marshall's lined the route to keep our Runners Safe*

4x4 Assist managed the Road Closures and dealt with impatient drivers in a calm manner. The Publicity for HTC's Grant went viral as did all the Press releases and Pictures so it was a High Profile Event covering East and West Sussex and Kent and next years date is set for May 16th 2027

We would like to request a figure of £7,000 towards the cost of next years event to support the running cost of putting on this fantastic Community Run  
It will be an extra special event as it's our 5th Year “

### **Stand Proud Event**

K. Giddings read out an update from Councillors M. Laxton and C. Mitchell :

*“Despite the uncertainty of the weather resulting in Showers and Sunshine on the day the event saw a constant stream of families and residents who celebrated diversity and inclusion in our community .*

*“Love who you Are” was our Mission Statement*

*At 5pm we had run out of seating again yet again ....*

*Providing a 3hr session of various children's entertainment is a key factor in the planning of this event to keep them engaged.*

*The Live Music choice this year was popular and presented a wide selection of talent and Songs*

*Rainbow Bingo is always popular*

*Neil Povy MC and DJ did an excellent job with shirt changes to suit the themes and ran a Guess the Tune 80s Style*

*Running 2 Stages and setting up and breaking down equipment is all part of the planning process and worked seamlessly for everyone*

*The 4 live acts proved very popular with the audience adding to the Ambience of the event singing and dancing was very welcoming*

*Sparkles on the Pond open the kitchen and very tasty food was consumed until 9pm*

*The whole event costs just over 4k to deliver via sponsorship and a HTC grant as ever costs are rising*

*The security firm was fabulous and the event had no issues from 6pm until late .*

*We would like for communities to support the event which is set for 26th June 2027 in the form of £2,125.00 to cover live musical acts and a variety of children entertainment plus the Hire of 2 Tents to provide shade for performing musical acts and children's activities.*

*Complimentary Comments through out the day makes the organisation and planning of this unique event very worth for our Community “*

The event will take place again next year at the White Hart Pub on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2027

### 81 **Remembrance Sunday**

D. Chapman advised that everything is in place for the event. Hailsham Bonfire Society will put the poppies up again around the Town and will be increasing the number of poppies this year.

### 82 **Hailsham Railway Club**

A Ricketts advised that the Club is being well attended and they had recently organised a BBQ.

Another pool match is arranged for 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### 83 **Twinning Association**

The Mayor will be visiting Gournay with the Twinning Association on the weekend of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2026 and the Association will be taking gifts to give to the Gournay en Bray Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.20 pm

**The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2026** Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities