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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 5th October 2026 at 6.00 pm.

CC/26/6/85 **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)

S. Murphy was in attendance in respect of Hailsham Festival and M. Powell was in attendance in respect of Hailsham Springle Festival.

86 **Committee members present**

Councillors: C. Bryant, D. Chapman, A. Ricketts, A. Blake Coggins (substituting for G. Blake Coggins), K. Nicholls, C. Mitchell (substituting for B. Carpenter)

Other members present

T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival), B. Sandalls (Hailsham Bonfire Society), N. Mullery (Hailsham FM), B. Pratt (Hailsham Farmers' Market)

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings, B. Gates-Williams and K. Whiley (RFO)

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

Councillor G. Blake Coggins and B. Carpenter

C. Musk (Hailsham Bonfire and 2nd Hailsham Scouts), J. Golding (Hailsham Forward), R. Warwick (Hailsham Chamber of Commerce),

88 **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.

C. Mitchell declared a personal interest in the Stand Proud event and Community Run
K. Nicholls declared a personal interest in the Community Run

89 **Confirmation of Minutes**

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

Proposer A Ricketts, Seconder D. Chapman

90 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 8th August 2026**

There was no update

91 **Finance Report**

Members noted the finance report

C. Mitchell asked K. Whiley for a breakdown of the Stand Proud and Community Run figures, as he advised the figures he had in the Community Run report and Stand Proud report differ to the ones listed in the finance report. K. Whiley advised she would email them to him.

92 **Budget Report**

Members discussed and agreed the budget report

RESOLVED to recommend to the Finance and Governance Committee to accept the budget proposals

93 **Men Who Talk**

An update had been received from the Group:

- There has been a significant amount of development within the CIC over the past few weeks.
- We have now completed our transition from Men Who Talk Wealden CIC to The Wealden Community Project CIC, allowing us to considerably widen the support we can offer across the local community.
- We now have dedicated provision developing across several areas, including:

- Our established men's peer-support group.
- A dedicated women's peer-support group, which we hope to launch within the next few weeks. We are currently training four female volunteers to support this.
- Dedicated support and programme development for young people aged 16–18.
- Weekly one-to-one peer-support sessions, currently supporting approximately eight people on a regular basis.
- A new Sunday programme for adults aged 18+, delivered in partnership with Hailsham Boxing Club, using structured physical activity, non-contact boxing and personal-development work to support mental health, resilience and provide a safe and controlled outlet for difficult emotions.
- A new 14-week programme for 16–18-year-olds, planned to begin in January, helping young people better understand themselves, recognise and communicate emotions, build confidence and resilience, develop healthy relationships and prepare for the transition into adult life.

Across our different strands of support, we are currently engaging with and supporting approximately 53 people, and this number continues to grow.

All of this continues to be delivered predominantly through volunteers and at no cost to the people accessing our services.

One of our biggest challenges at present is maintaining the financial sustainability of the project as demand continues to increase. Venue costs, insurance, training, safeguarding requirements, DBS checks, resources, printing, equipment and general operational costs all have to be met

regardless of the fact that our services remain free at the point of access.

At present, we are largely managing through small donations, voluntary contributions and significant personal commitment from those involved in running the organisation. We have submitted applications to a number of funding opportunities and grant programmes, although unfortunately we have not yet been successful in securing substantial external funding.

Despite this, the project continues to grow incredibly quickly, and the response from the local community has demonstrated that there is clearly a strong need for accessible, community-based peer support within Hailsham and the wider Wealden area.

We would be very pleased to provide a fuller update at the next meeting and discuss how the project is developing.

94 **Hailsham Springle Event**

M. Powell from Wealden District Council, updated the Committee on her ideas for a Springle Festival.

Due to the time constraints on agreeing a budget, she asked whether the Committee would consider allocating some funding for a 2028 event?

Members agreed this would not be practical, as a new Council may be in place after May 2027 and the Committee could not agree a budget that far in advance.

M. Powell and T. Biggin agreed they would have discussions to investigate ideas of how Wealden Council could help the Hailsham Festival, instead of organising a Springle Festival for Hailsham.

C. Bryant arrived at 6.15 pm

M. Powell left at 6.15 pm

95 **Costed Report**

Members discussed the various requests in the report

C. Mitchell advised that the extra funds requested for the Community Run are to provide a contingency for hiring toilets, as the public toilets were not open on the day of the 2026 Run and this impacted the race. Extra funding is also needed to allow for the new Martyn's Law and additional road closure costs. He advised that this is a major event, with the only other event in Hailsham as large being the Bonfire event.

Members discussed the £5000 requested for the Springle event and agreed to decline this request.

It was agreed to remove this figure from the report

RESOLVED to recommend to Council to approve the amended Costed Report for 2027 events, at a total of £34,275.00

Proposer D. Chapman, seconder C. Mitchell

All members voted in favour

96 **Friday Street Markets**

Members noted that the markets had been very successful and will resume at the end of March 2027.

97 **Hailsham Forward**

There was no update

98 **Hailsham Chamber of Commerce**

The Business Awards had recently taken place and C. Bryant advised that he had attended the event, which had gone very well.

99 **Youth Service**

Members noted that the nursery that is currently running from The Station has been given Ofsted approval.

100 **Sussex Day**

Members noted an email had been received from Bognor Regis Town Council in relation to the lighting of the Beacons to celebrate.

2027 marks 1550 years since Sussex was founded and there is a plan for the lighting of all beacons in Sussex on Wed 16th June at 9.00 pm

This will be discussed in more detail at the November Communities meeting.

101 **Christmas Switch on event**

The Committee discussed who would be switching on the Christmas lights.

A Ricketts advised that the actor, Jonathan Lindsey, from the Pirates of the Caribbean films, would be available to switch on the lights in his pirate costume.

Members were in favour of accepting Jonathan Lindsey's offer to switch on the lights. K. Giddings advised she would contact him.

It was agreed that for future events, 10% of takings from the food stalls would be requested from each trader.

102 **Community Forum**

There was no update

103 **Hailsham Bonfire Society**

Members noted everything is now ready for this year's Bonfire event.

104 **2nd Hailsham Scouts**

There was no update

105 **Girlguiding Heathfield and Hailsham District**

There was no update

106 **Hailsham Lions**

There was no update

Cllr A. Blake Coggins arrived at 6.45 pm

107 **Hailsham Festival**

T. Biggin reported the following for the Festival :

- There were 40 events
- 200 performers, artists, presenters
- Over 2700 participants
- 17 Venues
- 20 local business sponsors
- 2.5K followers on soc media
- 12000 brochures delivered by hand to households and a further 4000 in shops and businesses
- 2000 handed out in Tesco

Thousands of flyers advertising the event had been handed out.

He advised the event had been extremely successful. He thanked the Town Council and the Bonfire Society for all their help. He further reported that unfortunately the Festival had to cancel one of their Saturday events because they could not afford the fees put in place by Wealden Council for the use of Vicarage Field.

T. Biggin is hoping to work with M. Powell, the Senior Economic Development & Culture Officer at Wealden, to look at further ideas for the Festival.

108 **Hailsham Farmers' Market**

B. Pratt reported the market is going well and the next market will be held on Saturday.

109 **Hailsham FM**

N. Mullery advised they are busy with the run up to the Bonfire event and then Remembrance Sunday

110 **Hailsham Parish Church**

D. Sinden reported that the Church has a new Associate Vicar. They have several new people joining their Sunday service and the Church is now open on a Wednesday. She advised that they also direct people that visit on a Wednesday, to the Town Council Heritage Museum.

111 **Hailsham Community Run**

C. Mitchell advised that the registration for the Run has now opened, and they are already 10 % booked.

The Run is on 16th May 2027

112 **Stand Proud Event**

The 2027 event will be held at the same venue, on 28th June 2027

113 **Remembrance Sunday**

D. Chapman advised that everything is in place for the event on 8th November.

114 **Hailsham Railway Club**

A Ricketts reported that the Railway Club continues to be a success. The Hailsham Lions recently covered the fee for their Christmas party in December.

The two year anniversary of the Railway Club is approaching.

115 **Twinning Association**

C. Bryant advised he had just returned from a visit to Gournay en Bray. He advised that the trip had been very successful and Gournay Council had been extremely welcoming. They were keen to forge further relationships. He explained that the Council of Remshalden in Germany, who were already twinned with Gournay en Bray, were keen to form relationships with Hailsham.

He produced the newly signed Charter for the Committee to view.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.00 pm

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 2nd November 2026 Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities