



Hailsham
TOWN COUNCIL

Hailsham Town Council

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HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE



CC/26/2/27

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 6th July 2026 at 6.00 pm.

Election of Chair

F. Clarke nominated A. Ricketts, Seconded by G. Blake Coggins

All voted in favour

A Ricketts was elected as Chair of the Committee

28

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

29

Election of Vice Chair

A Ricketts nominated D. Chapman, Seconded by G. Blake Coggins

All voted in favour

D. Chapman was elected as Vice Chair of the Committee

30

Committee members present

Councillors: G. Blake Coggins, C. Bryant, D. Chapman, B. Carpenter, F. Clarke, K. Nicholls, A. Ricketts

Other members present

J. Golding (Hailsham Forward), C. Musk (Hailsham Bonfire and 2nd Hailsham Scouts), B. Pratt

Officers in attendance: K. Giddings

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

G. Constable (Hailsham Lions), T. Biggin (Hailsham Festival), B. Sandalls (Hailsham Bonfire Society)

32 **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.

Councillor K. Nicholls declared a personal interest in the agenda item for Hailsham Run, as she is involved in organising the event

33 **Confirmation of Minutes**

To resolve that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Committee held on Monday 1st June 2026 be amended, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Proposer C. Bryant, Seconder D. Chapman

34 **To receive an update about progress of resolutions from the last meeting of the Communities Committee on 1st June 2026**

There was no update

35 **Finance Report**

Members noted and accepted the finance report

Proposer – K. Nicholls , Seconder A Ricketts

36 **Friday Street Markets**

K. Giddings updated the Committee on the Friday markets in Vicarage Field, due to start on 31st July.

The 3 Hailsham Street Markets on Vicarage Field, on 31st July, 28th August and 25th September are almost fully booked and the markets are receiving a lot of interest from traders

The markets will run from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm and will run in 2027 from March to September

37 **Hailsham Forward and Hailsham Chamber of Commerce**

J. Golding advised that they are making good progress with the vinyls. Various graphic companies have been asked to tender for the removable vinyls and once they have the estimates they can apply for funding with Wealden Council.

He further advised that Hailsham Forward are putting together a questionnaire to send to shopkeepers and businesses in Hailsham and are inviting suggestions for questions to go on the form.

The Committee proposed two questions to be added to the form:

What issues specific to Hailsham do you think affect businesses in the Town?

What changes would you like to see in the Town Centre?

The Committee were asked to send any further suggestions for questions to K. Giddings, who would pass to J. Golding.

R. Warwick advised that the Chamber are organising a competition which begins on 11th July until 26th July.

The Competition, "Hailsham Window Creatures Competition" is part of The Big One Hundred celebrations

He advised that the winner of the Hailsham Window Creatures Competition will be decided by a public vote and the Chamber will announce the winner on 26th July.

38 **Youth Service**

Members noted the quarterly report provided by the Youth Service.

K. Nicholls requested that more figures are produced for the individual sessions.

39 **Sussex Day**

K. Giddings advised that feedback from the event had been very good.

She reported to the Committee that the owner of Fish Around in the High Street had queried why nothing had been placed for the event down the bottom of the High Street and asked why the gazebos could not be placed down the entirety of the High Street ?

K. Giddings told the Committee she had explained to the owner of Fish Around that it was not possible to put stalls down the entirety of the High Street as the gazebos will block the shop entrances, which is why the stalls are located on Vicarage Field.

K. Giddings stated she would attempt for future events to bring some attractions to the bottom end of the High Street, if it is possible to do so.

40 **Prom in the Park**

K. Giddings read out an update from Councillor M. Laxton:

The Rain eventually stopped and on the day around 200 Families and Friends gathered on the Recreational Ground with their Picnics and Blankets

The children's entertainment was popular at one point Jonathan had a long Queue of children wanting a balloon model

Due to the breeze, Jonathan couldn't perform Punch and Judy Show-as his tent wouldn't have held up so he performed another magic shown to a captive audience

The Brass Band gave a tuneful performance and looked wonderful in their Uniform

*For a New Event it was well received and residents were complimentary about the event
Please would the Committee consider putting in the costed budget as an event in early June 2027*

Thanks to Richard and Steve for on site preparation of gazebos

The Spud-man was popular and did a good trade and made a bucket donation for the Hospice The Collection tubs were returned to St Wilfred Hospice the next day they will let us know the total raised .

Hailsham FM worked well filling in the gaps so a good time was had by all who attended.

41 **Community Forum**

There was no update

42 **Hailsham Bonfire Society/Flaming Fun Day**

The Flaming Fun Day event had been a great success with around 4,000 people attending and a total of 34 Stalls. There had been good feedback on the event.

The Scouts and Hailsham Lions had advised that they had a good day at the event.

D. Chapman advised that the effigy for this year's bonfire event was currently being constructed.

43 **2nd Hailsham Scouts**

C. Musk advised that 20 scouts were attending a competition, similar to an expedition, with 10 explorers also involved.

A big summer nine day camp is arranged with scouts from Hailsham, Sweden and Holland.

He further advised that the scouts were investigating applying for CLIF funding.

44 **Girlguiding Heathfield and Hailsham District**

There was no update.

45 **Hailsham Lions**

There was no update

46 **Hailsham Festival**

An update had been received from T. Biggins:

Hailsham Festival 2026 is looking very good indeed, especially the Street Celebration which will be held on September 5th as the opening event. There will be large dinosaurs, a gazelle, a samba band, Marco the Magician, about 30 stalls and if it rains we believe in the power of Hailsham Town Council to make it stop!

The festival as a whole includes over 40 events and the 20 page brochure should be available next week.

I'll be very grateful for anything committee members can do to bring people's attention to the festival - even after 20 years people still say 'Festival? What festival?'

47 **Hailsham Farmers' Market**

B. Pratt advised that the next Farmers' Market is the following Saturday, 11th June. The Farmers' Market now has two new traders.

48

Hailsham FM

There was no update

49

Hailsham Parish Church

D. Sinden reported that the Church is now open every other Wednesday.

They are welcoming to the Church many new residents who have come to Hailsham.

D. Sinden advised that a children's holiday club will be held at the Church at the end of August and further details can be found on their Facebook Page.

50

Hailsham Community Run

K. Nicholls advised that the postponed Community Run will be held this coming Sunday, 12th July. Most runners will be attending on this date; some have postponed to the following year.

K. Giddings read an update from Councillor M. Laxton:

The reschedule date is all set to go again after the catastrophic issues in May

4x4 Assist will be manning the Traffic Points of Rolling Road Closures and the High Street Closure

Elite Medical Services will be our Medical Support for the Event

Marshals assemble at 8am in The Crown Pub then their briefing takes place at 8.30 am .

Over 1.000 Runners will be attending and 119 individuals moved their places to next year's Run which takes place on Sunday 16th May 2027.

51

Remembrance Sunday

D. Chapman advised that the organisation was in place for the Remembrance Sunday event on Sunday 8th November.

He asked members of the Committee to get in touch with L. Snowdon of the Royal British Legion, if they wish to purchase a wreath. Payment must now be up front as a number of wreaths were not paid for in 2025.

52

Stand Proud 3

It was noted that the event, now in its third year, had gone well.

53

Hailsham Railway Club

A Ricketts stated that the Club had recently had a talk from the British Legion.

A BBQ is planned for the last Wednesday in July.

They are continuing to investigate the possibility of a Memory Club.

The Club is looking to gain extra funding and will be applying for grants.

54

Twinning Association

C. Bryant advised that it is the 25th Anniversary of the twinning with Gournay en Bray.

The Council is currently looking into purchasing a gift to give to the Gournay en Bray

Council and he asked for members to consider any ideas for a gift.

C. Bryant advised they are looking for something artistic, made in Hailsham, or something that represents Hailsham.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.42 pm

The next meeting will be held at 6.00 pm on Monday 3rd August 2026 Global/Minutes & Agendas/Communities