

HAILSHAM FORWARD CIC

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

NOTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM
ON 20TH APRIL 2018 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins: Hailsham Town Council
Dermot Clarke: Department for Work & Pensions
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Council
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Council
Rev David Farey: Hellingly Parish Church
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Council
Cllr Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Chris Jackets: Hellingly Parish Council
Christian Letschka: Hailsham Town Council
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Jan Townsend: Community Representative
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Peter Willson: Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce

Also present:

Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Nigel Coltman was elected as chairman for this meeting, but stated that as he has been chairman of the group for two years, he did not wish to continue as chairman for the whole year.

2. Introductions and Apologies

Cllr Chris Jackets advised that he had been appointed as the representative for Hellingly Parish Council in place of Barby Dashwood-Morris

Apologies were received from:

Jackie Akehurst: Department for Work and Pensions
Marina Briggshaw: Wealden District Council
Mickey Cairn: Hailsham Town Council
Nus Ghani MP
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council

Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Trina Mayson: The Now! Charity Group Ltd
Clive Soper: Federation of Small Businesses

3. Minutes of meeting held on 26 January 2018

The notes of the meeting held on 26 January 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising

Steve Wennington updated the group on recent Hailsham Active activities:

- The first two 'Active Spaces' sessions had been successful, with 20 people attending the first on the Saturday morning at Western Road Recreation ground. It was hoped that in the future sessions could be arranged for other recreation grounds.
- Plans have been commissioned by Hailsham Active for the Western Road Rec and Maurice Thornton Playing Field exercise tracks,
- School activities including a 'daily mile' has been initiated at the Phoenix Academy.
- Hailsham Active was now in discussion with Bede's School and WDC regarding the potential for Sports Park for Hailsham.
- It was noted that Town Council officers had recently met with a company looking into the feasibility of installing batteries on HTC owned land which would provide an income stream, that may contribute to the overall maintenance of the exercise tracks.

Rev David Farey noted that he had been talking to Hailsham Community College regarding their ongoing consultation on their new 'all-through' school proposal and it was hoped that the layout and facilities of the school would provide for sports.

The group discussed whether original S106 payments from developers had been for a Sixth Form College and therefore whether there was any potential for those monies to be paid back if unused. The group noted that it felt that the old ambulance station was the perfect location for the sixth form college, which the town definitely needed, and to not have this put in place was a bad decision for the town.

It was agreed therefore that the group should write to Cllr Bob Standley (WDC) to advise them how they felt about this.

5. Formation of Community Interest Company

It was noted that Hailsham Forward had now become a Community Interest Company.

Cllr Collinson stated that the Executive team would now need to have discussions about how the stakeholder group is ran and whether it continues to have value and should continue. However, it was noted that the Stakeholder group may well form part of the constitution of the CIC.

The group agreed that there should be no overlap or duplication but that it was necessary to maintain engagement with local organisations. **It was agreed that any additional ideas from individuals in the group on how to achieve engagement with local businesses and organisations should be forwarded to Mickey Caira.**

6. Review of the Plan for Hailsham

The group broadly agreed that the objectives and aims within the plan were still relevant.

However it was agreed that as the Street Market was being discussed later on in the meeting, alterations might be required as an outcome of that.

The group agreed that the title of the plan should be amended to “Hailsham and Hellingly” to ensure Hellingly parish is included.

The group agreed that the Executive group should be asked to further review the scope and breadth of the plan in more detail.

7. Hailsham Street Market, consideration of the transfer of the responsibility of the market to Hailsham Town Council.

It was noted that Hailsham Town Council had resolved at its meeting on 28 March to adopt the running and administration of the Street Market itself, assuming HF was in agreement. It is therefore suggested that HF should revert to its ‘original’ remit of stimulating business in the town, as running a market was not its raison d’etre.

It was also pointed out that;

As HF had become a CIC it would now be necessary to set up payroll and pension arrangements for the staff involved in setting up the market.

That WDC having recently become the owners of the Vicarage Field site, had expressed a preference for licencing the market to HTC rather than HF.

The question of how this might affect the finances of HF was raised as there was an income from the market, although it was pointed out that the cost of HTC staff was recharged and paid for by HF.

Peter Willson noted that the CoC had been successfully running the Pop-Up Shop in the town for a year and it was hoped that some market traders might wish to become more permanent traders by taking on a shop. However, it was advised that most of the traders were established as market traders who tended to trade at different venues throughout the week.

The group agreed that the Street market should be run by Hailsham Town Council and it would be necessary for the HF Executive group to ensure it follows its original remit of stimulating business.

8. Financial Statement

The group agreed and noted the financial statement.

Cllr Collinson enquired whether the Executive group of the CIC would now be seeking to appoint an external accountant to monitor its finances?

9. Update Report on the work of the Executive Committee

The group noted the report given on the work of the Executive Committee and also noted the following:

The loyalty card and shopping guide continue to grow in popularity with the retailers expressing satisfaction with the scheme. It was agreed that the Chamber of Commerce have a significant role to play in pushing the project forwards.

It is confirmed that the Hailsham Food Festival will be held during Hailsham Festival fortnight. Ben Pratt advised the group that the farmer's market had recently discussed the festival and hoped that Hailsham could be promoted as a place to buy food as well as for eating out and that this could be incorporated into the festival.

10. Confirmation of the membership of the Executive Team:

The group confirmed and noted the membership of the executive team with the following amendments:

Cllr Chris Jackets replacing Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris as Hellingly PC representative

Peter Willson replacing Petrina Mason as Hailsham and District CoC representative.

Current Membership confirmed as:

Director and Chairman – Cllr Nick Collinson – Wealden District Council
and owner of Chapter 12 Wine Bar
Director and Treasurer – Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou – Hailsham Town
Council
Director – Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins – Hailsham Town Council
Director – Jan Townsend – Community Representative
Secretary and Member – Mickey Caira – Deputy Town Clerk &
Business Enterprise Manager
Member – Peter Willson - Chairman of Hailsham and District Chamber
of Commerce
Member – Clive Soper – Federation of Small Businesses
Member – Cllr Chris Jackets – Hellingly Parish Council
Member – Phil Matthews – Principal Hailsham Community College
Member – Steve Parmar Greaves- Director Parmar Staffing
Member – Steve Wennington – Hailsham Active
Member – Christian Letschka – Business Enterprise Assistant
Co-opted Member – Cllr Nigel Coltman – Hailsham Town Council

Cllr Nick Collinson advised that Item one of the next Executive Team agenda should be to review what its constitution and terms of reference are. It is vital that it retains a balance and good range of skills, abilities and diversity and therefore it should be open to anyone who can contribute positively.

The group agreed that anyone who wishes to become a member should email Mickey Caira

11. Any Other Business

Peter Willson advised the group on a point of information: He was a founder of Hailsham FM and advised that the radio station was due to go live on 26th May as it has met Ofcom's requirements.

It would be operating from the 2 North Street building (in the Asda car park) on frequency 95.5. The studio will be manned during the day (ran by Neil Povey) with financial support gained from advertising

The station would be looking for future support in maintaining a very lively service and anyone interested in advertising on the station is urged to make contact.

The group agreed that a letter should be sent from HF congratulating the Radio Station.

Rev David Farey advised the group that Hailsham Food Bank is going from strength to strength, with enormous increases in the numbers of people reached. The food bank was having to move from its current warehousing and was looking for another site. If any members had ideas they were asked to contact the food bank directly.

Peter Willson advised the group that sadly, the East Sussex Music Service was currently under threat of closure due to cuts by ESCC and would be making a decision on 30 April.

12. Future dates for meetings 2018: 20 July 2018, 19 October 2018.

(Peter Willson advised that he would not be able to attend on 20 July and therefore offered apologies)