

HAILSHAM FORWARD CIC

STAKEHOLDER GROUP

NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10.00AM
ON 25TH JANUARY 2019 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins: Hailsham Town Council
Christian Letschka: Hailsham Town Council
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Bob Bowdler: East Sussex County Council
Cllr Chris Jackets: Hellingly Parish Council
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Council
Ron Lloyd: Representing Town Farm Residents Association
Peter Bowles: Representing Town Farm Residents Association
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Jan Townsend: Community Representative
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active

Also present:

Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council

1. Introductions and Apologies

The Chairman invited all the attendees to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from:

Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Robert Boxer: Representing Willow Gardens Residents
Dermot Clarke: Department for Work & Pensions
Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Marina Briggins: Wealden District Council
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council
Jackie Akehurst: Department for Work and Pensions
Peter Willson: Hailsham & District Chamber of Commerce
Tracey Bond: Hellingly Parish Church
Nus Ghani: MP
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College
Clive Soper: Federation of Small Businesses
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Council

Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Council

2. Minutes of meeting held on 19 OCTOBER 2018

The notes of the meeting held on 19 OCTOBER 2018 were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising

John Harrison updated attendees about Hailsham Town Council's successful bid to secure the Post Office franchise. John Harrison confirmed that Hailsham Town Council has secured the bid and is now in the process of securing the lease for 10 High Street.

4. Update Report on the work of the Executive Committee

The group noted the report given on the work of the Executive Committee.

Hailsham Farmers' Market

Ben Pratt gave his update on the Farmers' Market. The Farmers' Market is struggling with the possibility of the viability of the market in question, both in terms of stall numbers and finances.

Footfall continues to be an issue at the Cattle Market site despite the efforts made to promote free on-site parking.

Continued support from local organisations such as Hailsham Town Council, Hailsham Forward and Wealden District Council has been fantastic, the Hailsham Farmers' Market are very grateful.

Cllr Bob Bowdler raised the question of merging the Hailsham Street Market and Hailsham Farmers market.

Discussion ensued between Christian Letschka, Ben Pratt and Bob Bowdler regarding the practicalities of this as both markets operate under different rules.

Cllr Bob Bowdler then raised the question of hosting both the Street Market and Farmers Market on Vicarage field. Christian Letschka confirmed that there is sufficient space for both markets. If the markets were to operate on Vicarage Field, further talks would have to take place regarding logistics, management and identity for both markets.

Events, Hailsham Card, Community Forum, Hailsham Industrial Parks, Empty Shops, New Projects

Christian Letschka gave a brief update of all the points highlighted in the Executive Committee report.

Christian Letschka spoke about the low number of empty shops in Hailsham's Town Centre.

Ralph Olesen said that he noticed that the Truffles building was up for sale and wondered if that meant Truffles was going. Discussions ensued amongst the attendees regarding the history of the building, until it was decided that it was likely the freehold of the building itself was up for sale and Truffles was likely to remain.

5. Community Infrastructure Levy Projects

Cllr Roy Galley gave a brief update on the Vicarage Field development proposals. He confirmed that the Cabinet will be having an unofficial briefing meeting next Wednesday at 10am and the project is currently in the very early stages.

Cllr Roy Galley also confirmed that the new Health Centre on Reef Way will be built this year.

6. Hailsham Active

Steve Wennington handed out information detailing how Hailsham is short of 26 acres of recreation space.

Steve Wennington has been active in talking to various agencies and developers to learn about how the infrastructure system works and how to push a healthy active agenda. Three things are needed for good health; space for exercise, ten-minute walk in a safe green space and community interaction to promote strong mental health. Steve Wennington is looking to get health promotion included into development planning as it currently is not a legal requirement and is often overlooked.

Projects

The Western Road Recreation Ground exercise programme is running very successfully each week. Average of 40 – 50 attendees per week.

Working with Hailsham Town Council, Western Road Recreation Ground is now under Fields in Trust protection.

Now working with Hailsham Town Council to create a hard-standing area for all year-round exercise and a lit hard surface path around the Western Road Recreation Ground.

Hailsham Active are looking to start a similar exercise programme at the Country Park with a mind to maybe offer lunchtime sessions for those working at the Diplocks Industrial Estate.

Hailsham Active are working with Sustrans and other cycle groups to look at developing a cycle route linking the Cuckoo Trail, Western Road Recreation Ground, Diplocks, Gleneagles and A22. Steve Wennington pointed out that Wealden District Council now have a building plan, which enforces developers to stick to proper building standards, so now is the time to make paths a priority.

The six-formers project is going well. Six-formers go into primary schools to assist with activity projects. 4 schools will have six-formers attending for one-hour lessons.

Hailsham Active is also pushing for the former ambulance station site to be turned into a six-form college. Hailsham Town Council will be inviting Wealden District Council and East Sussex County Council to a meeting to discuss and try and push this idea.

Cllr Bob Bowdler said that it is not just about funding. It is also about the lack of will to do it. Wealden District Council planning office do not seem to be interested in development.

Ron Lloyd raised the point that Wealden District Council are looking to build housing on the green verges in the Town Farm estate and this would further deplete the number of green spaces available in Hailsham.

Steve Wennington said that Hailsham Active is not interested in blame or demands, instead Hailsham Active is about trying and bring cost effective positive solutions to the local authorities to promote more thinking and action into developing health and wellbeing in Hailsham.

Steve Wennington pointed out that the FA are looking at Hailsham to develop a 3G pitch.

Cllr Bob Bowdler stated that this is what we want to do, however we need the will to do it in local authorities. There needs to be a champion for Hailsham.

Steve Wennington continued. Hailsham Active are working with the Food Bank to secure a lottery funding bid to pay for facilities so they can run outreach and exercise programmes in the poorer areas of Hailsham.

Ralph Olesen stated that the Patient Participation Group (PPG) fully support the bid and the outreach and exercise programmes that will come from the bid.

Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins asked how Hailsham Forward can help Hailsham Active?

Steve Wennington said that Hailsham Forward should work with Hailsham Town Council in lobbying Wealden District Council regarding Health and Wellbeing.

Discussion ensued about how this can be achieved. John Harrison raised the question of whether Health and Wellbeing was within the remit of Hailsham Forward. Roy Galley suggested inviting Cllr Ann Newton from Wealden District Planning to a Hailsham Forward meeting to discuss options regarding Health and Wellbeing.

Action: It was decided and agreed that Hailsham Forward would formally invite Cllr Ann Newton from Wealden District Council Planning Office to a

Hailsham Forward Executive meeting to discuss Health and Wellbeing options in Hailsham.

7. Future dates for meetings 2019: Friday 26th April 2019