

HAILSHAM FORWARD CIC

EXECUTIVE TEAM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 9.00AM ON 15 OCTOBER 2021 AT
JAMES WEST COMMUNITY CENTRE BRUNEL DRIVE, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Cllr Chris Jackets - Hellingly Parish Council: CJ
 Pam Robinson – Hailsham Festival: PR
 Mark Hallett - Hailsham Chamber of Commerce: MH
 Mickey Caira – Officer Support Hailsham Town Council: MC
 Paul Gibson – Hailsham News & Talk: PG
 Ben Pratt – Hailsham Farmers’ Market: BP
 Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins – Hailsham Town Council: GBC

Action:

1/21/1	<u>Apologies:</u>	
1/21/1.1	Clive Soper – Federation of Small Businesses: CS Nikita Clarke-Cox- Officer Support Hailsham Town Council: NCC Cllr Nigel Coltman – Wealden District Council: NSC Peter Willson – Hailsham FM: PW Phil Matthews – Representing Young People: PM Jan Townsend – Community Representative: JT Tony Biggin – Hailsham Festival: TB Steve Wennington – Hailsham Active: SW	
1/21/2	<u>Election of Chairman</u>	
1/21/2.1	Chris Jackets was proposed and elected as chairman	
1/21/3	<u>Website Update</u>	
1/21/3.1	MC confirmed that NCC had spent some time researching the Town & Shopping Guide providing details of any changes to the existing out-of-date list. This will be finalised soon and sent for an update with the host of the Guide.	
1/21/3.2	MC also confirmed that the website will be updated soon and asked that all partners provide details of their respective organisation, including contact details, that can be included on the website.	All to provide MC with their organisations details to be put on the website asap.

1/21/4	<u>Shop Local</u>	
1/21/4.1	<p>BP raised the issue of the lack of visitors in the town centre that was affecting local businesses, he also highlighted the fact that some women do not feel safe in the town at night because of the presence of young people, who are perceived as threatening.</p> <p>The was a full and open debate on these tow issues and the following items were put forward:</p> <p><u>Young people:</u></p> <p>More provision of organised youth activities in and around the town to create diversionary activities. These would be in addition to the services already undertaken in Hailsham and Hellingly, by Hailsham Youth Service.</p> <p>Young person café/bar that is focussed on young people.</p> <p>Youth outreach work to focus on young people hanging around the town centre creating a negative image.</p> <p>Provision of dedicated spaces for young people such as teen shelters to help divert young people from the town centre. Such as to the parks or Cattel Market site once redeveloped.</p> <p><u>Lack of Visitors:</u></p> <p>Consider specific guides for the town centre such as the Christmas guide produced for Eastbounre in 2020.</p> <p>Shopping window display competitions.</p> <p>Maintain the high number of independent businesses in the town centre.</p>	
1/21/5	<u>Hailsham Chamber of Commerce BID</u>	
1/21/5.1	MH stated that prior to Covid and following the creation of the BID in Eastbourne, Hailsham Chamber were encouraged to look at a BID for Hailsham, with the assistance of Wealden District Council.	
1/21/5.2	It is now time to move this on and the next steps are to secure start-up funding and to start to	

	<p>discuss the proposal with the local business affected. The Chamber has pledged £1,000 and the Town Council has just confirmed a further pledge of £1,000. Wealden have stated they will match fund, this has yet to be finalised.</p>	
1/21/5.3	<p>Keith Ridley, who was involved in the start-up of the Eastbounre bid will be employed to go around and talk to local businesses in a bid to get their support. It will require a majority vote of all businesses in the defined area as they will have to pay a 1.5% levy on their business rates. This will provide a £240,000 annual budget for activities that will help bring customers to the defined area and deal with other issues such as the negative effect of young people in the town centre.</p>	
1/21/5.4	<p>The main proposals for the use of the annual funding include:</p> <p>Custom built Wi-Fi system linked to a digital business directory. Like the system in Brighton</p> <p>Town Centre, matched funding for the renovation of shop fronts.</p> <p>Street Wardens to be employed, to help people feel safe in the town.</p> <p>Lightning Fibre installed in Diplocks Ind Estate as the exiting service is very poor.</p> <p>Extending youth services, making use of the redevelopment of the Cattle Market Site to provide an additional youth service centre, that is away from the main part of the town centre.</p>	
1/21/5.5	<p>Wealden District Council will obtain grant funding to help pay for the set-up and will manage the vote of the businesses where a majority must agree in order for the BID to be created.</p>	
1/21/5.6	<p>PR asked about the proposed redevelopment of the Cattle Market Site. There have been conversations with Wealden about the potential relocation of the Farmers' Market form the current site.</p>	

1/21/5.7	<p>CJ asked what has happened to the Aspires project, GBC confirmed that Wealden have had to change their plans as the original scheme does not work financially. He stated that Cllr Standley and Trevor Scott from WDC had presented new proposals to the Town Council in last night's Town Council Meeting. There are three new options.</p> <p>Option 1. Use WDC land only and Bowling Club to remain on site.</p> <p>Option 2. Use WDC land only with Bowling Club off-site.</p> <p>Option 3. Additional land use including Vicarage Field East and West car parks and Bowling Club off-site.</p>	
1/21/5.8	<p>GBC also stated that HTC will need to have a meeting of the trustees in the next two weeks to discuss the proposals as they affect land owned by the trust (car parks, highlighted in option3)</p>	
1/21/6	<u>Hailsham Chamber of Commerce Update</u>	
1/21/6.1	<p>MH stated that meeting of the Chamber Members had been taking place via Zoom, they have now reverted to in-person meeting every month at the new community hall in Hellingly. MH acknowledged that this is a good venue and thanked CJ and Hellingly PC.</p>	
1/21/7	<u>Farmers' Market Update</u>	
1/21/7.1	<p>BP stated that the market had to close in lockdown¹ but as classified as essential retail was able to open after the initial lockdown. Crafters were excluded but have been able to trade after the last series of restrictions were lifted.</p>	
1/21/7.2	<p>There has been a slow increase in both customers and traders as the public view buying local produce as a safer option as the Farmers' Market is deemed an outdoor supermarket. The last market had more traders than the Christmas market and footfall and turnover is good now.</p>	
1/21/7.3	<p>BP commented that the recent October market saw a steady level of trade throughout the</p>	

<p>1/21/7.4</p> <p>1/21/7.5</p>	<p>morning rather than the traditional early rush and poor business in the later morning. There was some concern about the viability of the market pre Covid, but things have improved with a wider range of famers' market goods, including an increase in crafters.</p> <p>The redevelopment of the site was questioned, and BP confirmed that he has now had contact with the developers. He is aware that local residents are objecting to the initial plans.</p> <p>BP highlighted the effect of the Royal Charter on the redevelopment and stated that the developers will need to build a new livestock market first before the existing site can be vacated for housing. This will mean that it will take some time before the Farmers' Market need to secure a new location in the town centre. Vicarage Filed may provide such a site as part of the Aspires Project. This again is some way off now.</p>	
<p>1/21/8</p>	<p><u>Hailsham Live & News Update</u></p>	
<p>1/21/8.1</p>	<p><u>Hailsham Live:</u></p> <p>MC confirmed that the Council have approved their events plan for 20200 and therefore the grant funding is available for Hailsham Live in 2022.</p> <p>PG stated that the event this year was very successful despite the poor weather in the morning. The town centre was very busy.</p> <p>The plan for 2022 will be to link the event to the Platinum Jubilee as the Town Council is not organising an event around this national celebration. It will be a two-day event, which will help spread the risk of poor weather. The event will require sponsorship to help pay for it and PG will be negotiating a small fee imposed by WDC for the 2021 event.</p> <p><u>Hailsham News:</u></p> <p>PG stated that he has now produced Hailsham News in printed form, producing 7,000 free copies for local distribution. At the October Street Market and in very poor weather</p>	

	550copies were given out. All 7,000 copies have been distributed and the future production runs will increase to 10,000 per month. The publication will provide a bigger voice for the local community and voluntary groups and reach Hailsham, Hellingly, Polegate and surrounding villages.	
1/21/9	Hailsham Active Update	
1/21/9.1	SW provided a written update as he was unable to attend the meeting. Achievements in the past year:	
1/21/9.2	Completion of the path around Western Road Recreation Ground.	
1/21/9.3	Received award in 2020 from WDC in respect of the achievements, particularly the exercise classes. This gave an opportunity to present the full range of options of Hailsham Active to the WDC Chairman Pam Doodes.	
1/21/9.4	Achieved funding from Sport England and Active Sussex for more exercise classes.	
1/21/9.5	On-going negotiations with WDC to put in a new 50 years lease at Maurice Thornton Playing Fields, which will help create a sports club/CIC for Hailsham United and improve facilities for the area.	
1/21/9.6	Working with Hailsham Town FC on a project to bring improved facilities including toilets.	
1/21/9.7	Working with the Town Council to provide lighting around the new footpath, this is close to being agreed	
1/21/9.8	Working with ESCC to create a new path (18a) between Diplocks Housing Estate and Diplocks Industrial Estate. These works should be completed by the end of October.	
1/21/9.9	Trying to work with WDC on the proposed new Sports Hub. This could provide more sports facilities for the area.	
1/21/9.10	Working with the Town Council and local charity	

	to organise a Hailsham Fun Run in 2022.	
1/21/9.11	Sponsorship has been achieved from Lightning Fibre of £200 per month matched by Annette Boswell from grant allocations.	
1/21/9.12	Successful grant award from Fields in Trust in partnership with the Town Council, for £12,000 of improvements to the accessibility of Western Road Rec.	
1/21/10	<u>Hailsham Festival Update</u>	
1/21/10.1	PR stated that an event was put on for 2021 despite only starting to organise the event in June when Covid restrictions were being lifted.	
1/21/10.2	There was on one big event and three workshops that had to be cancelled. There was a scaled down version of the String Musical put on as part of the Festival.	
1/21/10.3	Work starts in November to plan the event for 2022 and PR put out a request for new committee members to help. MC suggested that this could be publicised in Hailsham News. PG confirmed that this would be done.	PG to promote this in Hailsham News
1/21/10.4	A full String Musical will be planned for 2022, but as yet a venue has not been found, it may have to be in Eastbourne.	
1/21/10.5	There will be several Hailsham Festival Extra events taking place now and next year.	
1/21/10.6	The Festival will have a wide cultural range, including; arts, music, dance, literature, theatre and cinema.	
1/21/10.7	PR stated that the Nostalgia Day went well.	
1/21/11	<u>Hailsham FM Update</u>	
	Not available	
1/12/12	<u>Any Other Business</u>	
	MC confirmed that there will another meeting	

	before Christmas and will look to fix dates for both the Executive and Stakeholders for 2022 in the coming weeks. He will also produce the accounts for the past year that will be available to agree at the next meeting.	MC to sort out meeting dates and accounts for the next meeting.