

HAILSHAM FORWARD CIC

EXECUTIVE TEAM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 9.00AM ON 5 APRIL 2019 AT
HAILSHAM TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, MARKET STREET, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou – Hailsham Town Council: CT
 Christian Letschka - Officer Support Hailsham Town Council: CL
 Cllr Chris Jackets - Hellingly Parish Council: CJ
 Jan Townsend – Community Representative: JT
 Mickey Caira – Officer Support Hailsham Town Council: MC
 Ben Pratt – Hailsham Farmers’ Market: BP
 Peter Willson – Hailsham Chamber of Commerce: PW
 Cllr Gavin Blake-Coggins – Hailsham Town Council: GBC
 Steve Wennington – Hailsham Active: SW
 Cllr Nigel Coltman – Co-opted Member: NSC

Action:

4/19/1	<u>Apologies:</u>	
4/19/1.1	Clive Soper – Federation of Small Businesses: CS Neil Povey – Hailsham FM: NP Phil Matthews – Representing Young People: PM Cllr Nick Collinson – Wealden District Council NAC Paul Gibson – Hailsham News & Talk: PG	
4/19/2	<u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2019:</u>	
4/19/2.1	The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.	
4/19/3	<u>Matters Arising from these minutes</u>	
4/19/3.1	<u>Minute: 3/19/3.1 Pop-Up Shop:</u> PW to invite the new tenant of the former Pop-Up Shop to a future meeting.	PW to arrange for the new lessee to attend a future meeting.
4/19/3.2	<u>Minute: 3/19/7.9 Wealden Local Plan- Health & Wellbeing:</u> This item is on the agenda as agreed and SW provided background information.	

4/19/4	Wealden Local Plan – Health & Wellbeing	
4/19/4.1	<p>SW highlighted the issues and background to the severe lack of sports/leisure facilities in and around Hailsham. WDC have not been keen to support the development of these facilities and are not legally required to do so. WDC can demonstrate that over the whole of the district the facilities are adequate, but there is a significant shortfall in the Hailsham area. SW questioned who will do something about the lack of facilities. He has been working for the last 8 to 9 years to try and get things done including getting WDC to commit to do more. He has only been able to get a vague response from Cllr Standley at WDC; despite four months of pushing for a meeting. Asking assistance from the MP to get a meeting has not really assisted the situation. Previously Cllr Standley has stated to SW, that if Hailsham wants change then it must be strong in demanding this.</p>	
4/19/4.2	<p>SW highlighted two major issues with the lack of facilities one was money the other any legal requirement to provide such facilities. He stated that the Hailsham leisure centre had lost its sports hall to a ten-pin bowling alley as this provided a better financial return; at a cost to the local sports community. He also mentioned the loss of an established senior football pitch on the former Hellingly Hospital site that the planners had agreed to be left as a wild area and allotments. Should there be a demand to bring part of this back for junior football? GBC asked if there was access to this former football pitch? SW confirmed that there is access.</p>	
4/19/4.3	<p>NSC commented that in the future a combined Hailsham & Hellingly council may have more say in the future of local facilities.</p>	
4/19/4.4	<p>The current WDC Local Plan does recognise the deficiencies but does not provide any specific details in the Plan of how they are going to be rectified! There is currently the equivalent to 13 football pitches shortfall in formal outdoor recreational space in Hailsham and any future development should allow for a minimum of 6 acres of formal recreational</p>	

	<p>space; a standard set by national charity Fields In Trust.</p>	
<p>4/19/4.5</p>	<p>The old WDC Local Plan did make provision for a sports park on the west side of the A22, but this has been removed from the current plan. NSC commented that the old plan period was longer than the current plan which runs to 2028</p>	
<p>4/19/4.6</p>	<p>SW stated that the FA have identified Hailsham as a potential site to help fund artificial pitches and improved changing facilities. This is as a result of the inadequate provision as highlighted above. The Maurice Thornton area has been put forward but there needs to be full consideration on how any new facility would operate in isolation. SW highlighted the difficulty of running and maintaining a site and the better option may be for it to be sited within an existing school to ensure the long-term management and investment in the facility. He also stated that a facility would need floodlighting and a renewals fund to replace in a ten-year period.</p> <p>CJ stated that there needs to be plans to establish new recreational areas and this is a priority over existing areas. SW highlighted again the removal of the sports park from the current local Plan. He also highlighted the effect of possible recreational sites being “lost” as a result of these sites being allocated for housing; making the owners less likely to sell of the land cheaper for recreational use. This has already happened in the local area.</p> <p>SW also highlighted another issue with residential developments in the local area. A plan to build homes south of Park Road originally had an allocation for 2.5 hectares of recreational space, but WDC planners have allowed this space to be used for development in exchange for a cash contribution towards a new sports park, that has now been taken out of the Local Plan?</p> <p>SW commented that there was no real commitment from WDC or the Town Council in securing improved and new recreational areas.</p>	

	<p>There is therefore a real need for the local community to fight for these facilities as no one else will do it.</p> <p>PW stated that Hailsham and Hellingly must fight for this and asked how do we go about it. He also asked where the space in Hailsham is to create more recreational space. SW suggested that land between the Boship and Broad Farm Hellingly could be used, where part of the 40-acre site could be used for a new sports park and part of the site for residential development. This site is not currently in the Local Plan and therefore the land for the sports park could be “gifted” as part of the agreement for the rest of the land being used for residential development. The main issue with this suggestion is that it is not in the Local Plan and could it be delivered? If it was in the Local Plan, then the landowner would probably not gift any land for a sports park. SW reminded the meeting that a sports park would require a partner to make it work such as a school and this would need to be resolved as part of any plan to establish a sports park.</p> <p>Funding for the sports park was discussed and section 106 contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy could be used if available. It was recognised that there is an issue of the funding of all the infrastructure required to meet the demands of the proposed developments in and around Hailsham. Questions were asked about the lack of road improvements coming out of the MASHH project. NSC highlighted the difficulties in getting East Sussex Highways to make progress on these schemes and he confirmed that he has challenged them about this issue.</p> <p>SW asked if there was any information on the Proposed cycle route in London Road/Hawkes Road at a cost of £500,000. It appeared that this would be difficult to implement, and could the money be better spent on other cycle route improvements.</p> <p>GBC suggested there is a need for a new ice rink. SW suggested that investment in local safe places where people could exercise</p>	
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	<p>including new or improved cycle/walking paths may be a better investment. He reminded the meeting that people need a safe outdoor space within ten minutes of their homes to exercise.</p> <p>NSC stated that there needs to be a change of attitude in the town and suggested that officers and chairmen from Hailsham and Hellingly councils, together with SW should meet with WDC portfolio holder for the Local Plan to take this forward. The meeting agreed with this proposal.</p>	
4/19/5	<u>Any Other Business:</u>	
4/19/5.1	None	
4/19/6	<u>Date of Next Meetings:</u>	
4/19/6.1	<p>Future Dates for 2019:</p> <p>10th May</p> <p>7th June</p> <p>5th July</p> <p>9th August</p> <p>6th September</p> <p>4th October</p> <p>8th November</p> <p>6th December</p>	