

HAILSHAM FORWARD

Stakeholder Group Annual General Meeting

NOTES OF THE AGM HELD AT 10.00AM ON 29TH JULY 2016 AT
THE DIPLOCKS HALL, THE DIPLOCKS, HAILSHAM

Attendees:

Jan Townsend: Community Representative
Suzanne Collins: Hellingly Parish Council
Cllr Roy Galley: Wealden District Councillor
Cllr Bill Bentley: East Sussex County Council
Steve Wennington: Hailsham Active
Cllr Nick Collinson: Wealden District Councillor
Richard Grocock: Environment Hailsham
Mickey Caira: Hailsham Town Council
Michelle Gray: Wealden District Council
Cllr Chriss Triandafyllou: Hailsham Town Council
Cllr Nigel Coltman: Hailsham Town Councillor
Derek Carter: CH2M
Rev David Farey: Vicar of Hellingly and Upper Dicker

Also in attendance Nigel McKeeman

1. Election of Chairman:

Councillor Collinson proposed Councillor Coltman, seconded by Councillor Bentley, the meeting agreed to elect Councillor Coltman for the ensuing year as Chairman of the Stakeholder Group

2. Introductions and Apologies:

Cllr Nigel Coltman thanked everyone for attending and invited all those present to introduce themselves to the meeting.

Apologies were received from:

Michelle Hagger: Hailsham Town Council
Chaquita Moore: DWP
John Harrison: Hailsham Town Council
Nigel Hannam: Wealden District Council
Alice Matthews: Sussex Community Development Association
Cllr Barby Dashwood-Morris: Hellingly Parish Councillor
Nus Ghani: Member of Parliament
Ben Pratt: Hailsham Farmers' Market
Dermot Clarke: DWP
Phil Matthews: Hailsham Community College

Irit Meyer: representing St Marys Walk
Jeremy Shepherd: representing St Marys Walk
Cllr Amanda O'Rawe: Hailsham Town Councillor
Ralph Olesen: The Link Hailsham
Terry Hall: Hailsham Town Council
Trina Mayson: The Now! Charity Group Ltd
Carolyn Fogg: Tomorrows People

3. Notes of meeting held on 29th April 2016:

The notes of the meeting held on 29th April 2016 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Matters Arising:

Hailsham Card:

Councillor Coltman demonstrated the Hailsham Card he purchased and asked for an update on the scheme. Mickey Caira confirmed that more local businesses were signing up to the scheme from independent retailers to beauty parlours, but highlighted the need to do more promotion of the scheme to local residents. Councillor Collinson stated that the cards are being used in Chapter 12, including cards from Eastbourne.

The list of businesses signed up to the scheme include: Hot Dogs Grooming, Ms Match, Renaissance Originals, Chapter 12, Beautiful Print and Design, Freedom Leisure, Knockhatch, Frame Works, Definitions Hair & Beauty, Fish Around, Stitch & Sew, Olivia B, John's Fish & Chips, Callenders Restaurant, Bebble's Langos, Now Charity Group, 1066 Falconry, Cold Fusion, Isabelle's Beauty, Antiques and Allsorts, Experience Travel, Pizza Bella, The Beauty Retreat & Sussex Beauty Therapy.

Hailsham Active:

Councillor Bentley commented that Hailsham Active was to give a presentation to this meeting and this was not on the agenda. Mickey Caira apologised for the omission and Councillor Coltman agreed to the presentation under any other business.

Pop-Up-Shop:

Councillor Collinson stated that the Chamber of Commerce have not been able to secure a shop premises for the pop-up shop and negotiations were taking place to secure a suitable rent for a premises.

Shop Fronts:

Councillor Coltman confirmed that a letter from the Mayor of Hailsham had been sent out in May to encourage all businesses to maintain their shop frontages in good order.

Street Market:

Mickey Caira confirmed that the Street Market is now operating every Saturday and three more regular traders have been signed up in the past month.

5. Review of the Plan for Hailsham:

Councillor Coltman highlighted the amount of investment currently taking place in Hailsham Town Centre. The highway improvement works, a £2.6m scheme, is now underway. Both the Quintin's and Vicarage Filed shopping centres are being refurbished along with the interior of Waitrose. This is good news for the town.

It was recognised that the road works were disruptive and one or two local traders are very negative about the works, it was agreed that the message is that the town is open for business. Councillor Collinson confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce have arranged for signs to be installed in and around the town with the message that the town is open for business.

Hailsham Lottery:

Councillor Collinson proposed that this is changed in the Plan from delivery by Hailsham Forward to working with another organisation to implement; such as Hailsham Active. This was agreed

Sports and Youth Facilities:

Steve Wennington proposed that this should be expanded to include health and wellbeing of local residents. This was agreed

Pop-Up-Shop:

Councillor Collinson proposed that as the Chamber of Commerce are taking this project forward that this is removed from the list. This was agreed

High Street Infrastructure Improvements:

Councillor Bentley proposed that as these works are underway that this point is changed to; 1) Improvements to public transport infrastructure 2) movement and access around Hailsham and Hellingly. Details of the MASHH schemes can be found on the ESCC Website. This was agreed

Safety and Security:

Rev David Farey proposed that this includes the establishment of street pastors for the town to help deal with the issues leading to some of incidents that have happened in the town in the recent past. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next Executive Team meeting to review. Rev David Farey offered to send details to Mickey Caira in time for the next meeting.

6. Update on the Work of the Executive Team:

Councillor Bentley highlighted the work of the Executive Team as detailed in the written report, including shop fronts, Town & Shopping Guide, Street Market, Events, Hailsham Card and The Hailsham Area Action Plan.

He provided some background on the new project to review potential improvements to Hailsham Industrial Parks. He stated that there had been a lack of investment in Hailsham and that the small size of units and poor environment was detrimental to the parks. There is also an issue with parking on the Diplocks Industrial estate; with changes to the operation of the Wicks car parks and a limit of three hours being put into place many cars are now being forced to park on the road on both the estate and adjacent residential area. He highlighted the positive meeting that had taken place with the lead member and officer from ESCC that is the start to putting together proposals for improvements to the industrial parks.

Rev David Farey asked if a park and ride scheme has been considered for Hailsham. Councillor Coltman advised the meeting that he was working with other south Wealden towns to see if a partnership can be established to help with parking enforcement within the area as the police will only deal with cars causing an obstruction on the highway.

Steve Wennington highlighted the potential additional benefits that getting more local people to cycle and walk can have by reducing the amount of cars on the road and the amount of car parking spaces required in the town centre.

Councillor Bentley stated that the Hailsham Area Action Plan (HAAP) is considering the future use of the South Road Car Park as a transport hub for Hailsham to include taxi, bus and cycling. Alternative car parking would need to be found to replace this existing car park.

7. Financial Statement:

Mickey Caira introduced the financial statement highlighting the income and expenditure of the Hailsham Forward project for the year.

8. Confirmation of the membership of the Executive Team:

Mickey Caira stated that the Stakeholder Group is responsible for confirming the membership of the Executive Team. It was agreed to approve the proposed list of Executive Team members, as attached to the agenda papers.

Hailsham Chamber of Commerce Rep – Trina Mayson
Federation of Small Businesses Rep – Clive Soper
Youth Rep- Phil Matthews
Community Rep – Jan Townsend
Hailsham Town Council Rep – Councillor Chriss Triandafyllou
Hailsham Town Council Rep – Councillor Gavin Blake-Coggins
Hellingly Parish Council Rep – Councillor Barby Dashwood-Morris
East Sussex County Council Rep – Councillor Bill Bentley
Wealden District Council Rep – Councillor Nick Collinson
Supported by – Mickey Caira
Supported by – Michelle Hagger
Co-Opted Rep – Councillor Nigel Coltman

This leaves one vacant position on the Executive Team from the private/voluntary sector. The Executive Team will pursue this and nominate a member to the Stakeholder Group as appropriate.

9. Update on the MASHH Project:

Derek Carter from CH2M the company delivering the town centre improvement works and behalf of East Sussex County Council provided an update on the works.

The contract is two weeks in and progressing well. The curbing works on the first section is currently being undertaken and the footways works on this section will commence in the following week.

The scheme is being delivered in five sections:

- North end of the High Street
- Centre of the High Street
- South end of the High Street
- George Street
- One way system for Vicarage Lane/Vicarage Road

The first four sections will be completed by 25th November, which will coincide with Hailsham's Christmas Lights Switch on Event. The works will stop on 25th November regardless of any delays in the works to allow the businesses to have the least disruption over the busy Christmas period.

The final section, the one way system will be undertaken in early 2017.

The new street lighting columns have been put into place and will be fully working later in the works. Some advance works will take place for the other two High Street sections to deal with the foul sewer. Recycling of the existing tarmac will be undertaken by MST, to form part of the sub-base of the new highway.

Chris Richards the liaison officer for the works is building good relationships with the town centre businesses. There will be weekly updates on the website, a press release this week and monthly statements. The first statement will focus on the benefits of the scheme, the second on the recycling part of the works and the third on the heritage and conservations aspects.

Rev David Farey suggested using Hailsham FM to provide regular information on the scheme.

Councillor Coltman suggested using Hailsham Town Council's Newsletter "Our Hailsham" to provide information; the next issue will be in October. Derek Carter to discuss the newsletter with Mickey Caira.

Councillor Bentley confirmed that ESCC and the contractors will do what they can to support local businesses during the disruption of the works. He suggested that if local businesses wanted to provide a promotion during the

works ESCC could help promote this. He also proposed that CH2M/ESCC are represented on the Stakeholder Group during the works, this was agreed. Derek Carter will speak to ESCC to confirm representation.

Steve Wennington asked how the town centre businesses find out about the opportunity to promote their offers. Councillor Bentley confirmed that he will send a link to Steve Wennington.

Councillor Collinson confirmed that Wealden are looking at a business rate reduction during the works.

10. Any Other Business:

Councillor Triandafyllou reminded the meeting that there is the second event market taking place on Vicarage Field on Saturday that includes 16 Italian market stalls, Hailsham FM and around 16 regular Street Market traders.

Rev David Farey stated that Hailsham FM is being broadcast on-line at the moment and is working towards FM broadcast from April 2017 at the Old Court House. Hailsham FM is working hard to get members and supporters that will assist with achieving the April start for FM broadcast.

Rev David Farey also highlighted the work of the Hailsham Food bank that is supporting families in Hailsham and Hellingly, it is hoped to expand the service to include debt counselling.

Steve Wennington confirmed that a long term ambition of Hailsham Active is the establishment of a sports park.

He highlighted the issues in the development of sports and other facilities for the town. There will be continued competition on the infrastructure funding from developers and the provision of sports facilities will not be a priority. With the current shortfall in provision of sports and leisure in Hailsham it will be much harder to get to achieve a reasonable level with a growing population. The health of the local population has suffered as a result of a lack of facilities and this will have an on-going increased cost of care for the local population.

He confirmed that Hailsham Town Council have agreed to fund some ground improvement works to Maurice Thornton and Beaconsfield that will help make the football pitches more playable during wet weather.

He stated that the way forward to develop more facilities was to establish a three way partnership with the local councils, volunteers and local businesses providing some funding. Working with local councils will help share the risks of providing and funding facilities and take the fear factor away from the councils. Hailsham Active is currently working on setting the organisation up as a charity.

Councillor Coltman asked Nigel McKeeman to address the meeting. Nigel congratulated Hailsham Forward for the work they are doing in and around Hailsham. He hopes that other towns will do the same thing in the future.

He provided details of The Little Arts Festival on Rushlake Green taking place from 19th to 28th August. The Festival is a community Festival with local groups and artists providing a very mixed programme. He confirmed that there are tickets available for some of the events and asked that the meeting help promote the Festival.

Councillor Bentley advised the meeting that recent road improvement works in Rushlake Green included recycling of the existing tarmac services by MST the same contractor that will carry out some recycling of tarmac in Hailsham town centre as part of the improvement works.

The Chairman thanked everyone who attended.

The next meeting will take place in three months time the end of October, date to be confirmed.