Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on

Thursday 13th July 2017

Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

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| **Mayor** | \* Cllr M Carter |
| **Deputy Mayor** | \*Cllr D Round |
| **Councillors** | \*Abeysundara Arrick, Barton, \*Blades, \*Bradley, \*Dear, Dover, \*Edwards, Ford, Hall, \*Hewett, \*King, \*Odell \*Peel, \*Piper Rodgers\* |

\* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O’Sullivan. Also present County Councillor Richard Hampson and Bea Phillpots of the Haslemere Herald.

Before the meeting prayers were said by Rev Ruth Dillon of Beacon Hill United Reformed Church.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Arrick, Barton, Ford, Hall, Dover and Rodgers.

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Edwards disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in Item 19 – High St toilets – as WBC portfolio holder.

Cllrs Odell and Round declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Items 8 – Hunter Centre and 15 – Neighbourhood Plan working party.

1. **DISPENSATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that she had granted a dispensation to Cllr Dear in respect of the making of the precept.

1. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

1. **REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES**

County Councillor Hampson reported that he had attended a SCC visioning session and that the County Council was committed to getting what Surrey deserves. The key theme is of hope. He also reported that he, with the Mayor and Cllr Abeysundara, had prevented the closure of Lower St by SSE during the summer. The work will need to go ahead but with a sensible plan in place.

Cllr Hampson asked for Councillors to nominate any safety improvement works up to £5k. He also has £6k personal allowance to support initiatives, of which £2k already committed. Further project ideas welcomed.

Cllr Edwards raised the subject of serious cuts to recycling credits given by SCC to borough councils. If SCC keep the credits, WBC will have to pass the costs to Council Tax payers so there is no actual saving made. It was agreed that people need to understand how public money is used now that higher tiers of government are capped.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED**: – that the minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2017 and any recommendations therein be adopted.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

1. **COMMUNICATION FROM TOWN MAYOR**

Cllr Carter directed Members to his previously circulated report. Cllr Hewett noted how busy the Mayor had been in attending events. Cllr Edwards congratulated the Mayor on the success of his Civic Ceremony.

Cllrs Odell and Round left the room.

Cllr King stated that, further to the Mayor’s report on the Hunter, all potential funding sources need to be found.

Cllrs Odell and Round re-entered the meeting.

Funding of the Shottermill air crash 75th anniversary memorial and fly past on 24th September was discussed. Cllr Piper suggested that a small grant should be applied for however there is no organisation with a bank account to make the application.

It was suggested that Council underwrite the event up to £2k. The Clerk suggested that an Extraordinary Council meeting should be called so that a formal Council decision can be made. Cllr Abeysundara clarified that Council would only be asked to underwrite the event and that it was hoped it could be funded from other sources. Council agreed that the event was a good idea and asked that an ECM be called before the next Amenities meeting so that a costed plan can be considered. It was suggested that Cllr Hampson might fund some of the event from his personal allowance, Clerk to write formally to him.

The Mayor noted that the Community Fund is not a bottomless pit and that other funding sources need to be considered. Cllr Odell offered to manage the Health and Safety side of the event under Haslemere Events banner until such time as formal council decision is made. There was some discussion over whether it should be a HTC or Haslemere Events event – to be clarified at ECM.

1. **CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk stated that she had some reports to make under Exempt session. She also reported that the officers’ weekly report would from now on report by exception only (as agreed with the Mayor). Cllr Piper requested that public notices from the Herald are circulated with the report.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED**: That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 2&3 and any variances in the Council’s accounts are approved.

1. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED**: That the minutes of the following meetings and any recommendations therein be adopted.

* Planning & Highways Committee 25th May and 22nd June
* Amenities Committee 15th June
* Finance and Audit Committee 19th June

1. **FINANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED**: That the F&A Terms of Reference at Appendix 4 to the Agenda are adopted.

1. **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED**: that the following amendments are made:

Cllr Barton is added to Planning and Highways and Finance committees

Cllr Dear is added to Planning, Amenities and Finance and Audit committees

Cllr Ford is added to Planning and Grants committees.

It was also noted that Cllr King wishes to retire from Finance and Audit committee.

1. **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Piper reported that Haslewey has been working hard to secure a Post Office counter, which is looking very hopeful, and thanked all at Haslewey for their hard work. Cllr Bradley reported that they are trying to crowd fund the £15k still required to set it up. Cllr Piper has suggested that they apply to the Council for a small grant. Cllr King suggested that WBC are also approached for funding.

Cllr Blades reported that the SSALC training event she attended last week was really useful. She would recommend to other councillors. Town Clerk is arranging an in-house training / update session for those people not able to attend the one Cllr Blades reported and she urges all Councillors to attend.

1. **WORKING PARTY UPDATES**

Cllrs Odell and Round left the room.

Cllr Piper gave some background and asked councillors to consider the previously circulated report in which suggested response to WBC was made. There are no comments on specific sites on which there will be further consultation in early autumn. She reported that Cllr Odell has stood down from considering the Local Plan but is still involved in the Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED**: that the comments in the report circulated with the Agenda are agreed and should be sent to Waverley.

1. **REPORTS FROM TWIN-HATTED MEMBERS**

None.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**

WBC’s request for suggestions for environmental improvements in the following 2 areas were considered.

1. Chasemoor, Portsmouth Road, (scheme WA/2017/1044 (comprising of 9 units).

No scheme identified.

1. 5-21 Weyhill (scheme WA/2017/0920 (comprising of 45 units).

Cllr Abeysundara suggested seating on Weyhill. Cllr Odell questioned whether the clearance of brambles around Fosters Bridge was more urgent. Cllr Abeysundara stated that these were on the list given to the SCC veg gang so were being done anyway.

Council agreed that Cllr Abeysundara’s proposal should be costed and sent to WBC. Cllr Dear noted that appropriate agreements from landowners would need to be obtained.

1. **EXCLUSION Of THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Cllr Edwards left the room.

1. **HIGH ST TOILET – POTENTIAL HTC MANAGEMENT**

The Mayor reported that the Council’s online petition had received more than 800 signatures. He drew Council’s attention to Appendix 6 of the Agenda and the proposals contained within. Council agreed that the idea of taking over the public toilets had residents’ support and should be pursued in principle. Certain questions over cost of rates, consumables etc are still to be properly presented in a proposal. The question of whether the toilets should remain open 24 hours was considered. It was agreed that even a temporary closure of the toilets should be avoided.

**RESOLVED**:

1. That in principle HTC agrees to takes over the running of the Haslemere Town Centre car park toilets from WBC as soon as the lease can be agreed. In the meantime HTC should take on a licence to operate the facilities.
2. That HTC pays the majority of the remaining running costs for 2017-2018 from a £5000 earmarked reserve which is no longer needed. Any additional costs to be financed from the Community Fund. For future financial years this item will have its own budget line.
3. That a working party consisting of Cllrs Round, Abeysundara, Carter, Dear and Town Clerk is set up with delegated authority to negotiate the licence and lease.
4. That tenders are sought for basic refurbishment. The cost of refurbishment to be budgeted and precepted for in 2018-2019. This cost is not likely to exceed £15k. Alternatively the refurbishment work could be done upfront from Council reserves – to be paid back over 3 or 5 years from precept.
5. A formal costed proposal to go to Council in August’s Extraordinary Council Meeting.

Cllr Edwards re-entered the room.

1. **REPLACEMENT OF ROUNDABOUT IN TODDLER PLAY AREA**

Cllr Round gave background on the roundabout in line with the previously circulated report to Council. He informed Council that the cost of repairing the roundabout was likely to be closer to £2k as some additional costs had been identified by the supplier. He stated that there was no budget for the £6-10k quotes to replace and suggested that the equipment is repaired, not replaced at the moment, with budget from the play equipment replacement budget. An increase in the playground replacement budget 2018-2019 is required. This approach was also recommended by Cllr Piper.

Cllr Abeysundara noted that the roundabout had broken before and should now be replaced.

It was agreed that the equipment needs to be safe and fit for purpose. Cllr Odell asked if the repaired equipment would come with a guarantee. Cllr Dear offered to speak with the supplier to get a technical understanding of what is required and check with regards to the guarantee.

**RESOLVED**:

That the roundabout in the toddler play area is repaired so long as a 12 month guarantee can be obtained. Funds for roundabout replacement to be precepted in 2018-2019 budget.

1. **ACCIDENT ON LION GREEN PLAYGROUND – LEGAL ACTION**

The Town Clerk updated Council on the legal action being taken against it after a child was allegedly injured falling off a piece of equipment at Lion Green playground. Council was sorry to hear of the accident and hopes that the child has recovered well. The matter is in the hands of the Council’s insurer and the Town Clerk is authorised to provide all reasonable requests for documentation and information to bring this matter to a conclusion.

1. **PHOTOCOPIER LEASE RENEWAL**

Council considered the report from the Clerk and was pleased to agree the recommendation to award the photocopier contract to a local firm.

**RESOLVED**: That UK Office Systems Ltd are awarded the 5 year contract on the basis of the costings shown in the paper previously circulated to Council.

1. **STAFFING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Cllr Carter reminded Council that Staffing Committee has delegated authority to act in all staffing matters. The minutes are for information only. No comments were received.

Meeting finished 8.40pm

Signed……………………………………..

Chairman of Meeting

Date………………………………………..