



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 19th November 2020. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.

Mayor	*Cllr J Robini
Deputy Mayor	*Cllr S Dear
Councillors	*Arrick, *Barton, *Cole, *Davidson, *Dullaway, *Ellis, *Hewett, *Isherwood, *Keen, *Lloyd, *Matthes, *Nicholson *Odell, *Round, *Weldon, Whitby

* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork.

97/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: That the apologies received from Cllr Whitby who has a work commitment is accepted. Cllr Barton will be joining the meeting late due to a family commitment.

98/20 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Odell declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 as a President of the Haslemere Museum.
Cllr Round declared a pecuniary interest as spouse of above.

99/20 DISPENSATIONS

All Councillors who pay Council Tax and live within the Council's Boundary have been granted dispensations by the Clerk in budget setting.

100/20 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None present.

101/20 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

None present.

102/20 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Cllr Round reported a spelling error on point 86/20. Cllr Round also stated that he had not suggested installing solar panels on the Town Hall as the minutes suggested. *[A later playing of the recording of the meeting showed that Cllr Round had indeed made the suggestion].*

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 24th Septemberrd 2020 are approved upon the correction of a spelling error on point 86/20.

103/20 MAYORS UPDATE

The Mayor gave his update highlighting the following:

- Remembrance Sunday was streamed live and received over 4000 views, will consider live streaming for future events.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting is being held for the Neighbourhood Plan on Monday 30th November before it goes to Waverley to begin the process of ratification.
- The Town Office will remain closed until at least the 2nd December except for vital arranged appointments. The Town Clerk has ensured that Covid regulations are being applied.

- We are waiting for Government rules following the promised change to our present lockdown on 2nd December. In the meantime we are looking ahead to alleviate the hardship of these challenging times, including taking over the George Denyer Pavilion to use for support for residents.

104/20 **CLERKS UPDATE**

The Clerk's Report had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. The External Audit has now been signed off with no comments.

105/20 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 6 and 7 and any variances in the Council's accounts, including reported overspends and virements are approved.

106/20 **BUDGET 2020-2021**

Cllr Dullaway reported that the initial budget working party had been held. He gave an overview of the first draft budget and asked Councillors to note that the main increases were due to Council taking on land and new staff member. Whilst awards of £10,000 to Haslemere Hall and Haslewey were agreed at last Council, the Museum has asked for the same amount. Council to consider whether to make that award. Also to consider whether these are recurring grants or one off payments for this year, which may affect how they are budgeted for.

Cllr Odell and Cllr Round left the meeting.

Cllr Barton joined the meeting

Cllr Robini stated that as the Museum has suffered substantial losses due to the Covid crisis and proposes that a one-off grant should be given to the Museum. Cllr Dear queried the reserves that the Museum holds and would like to have further information on the museum's financial accounts. Cllr Keen stated her support for the award and understands that much of the Museum's reserves are ringfenced.

RESOLVED: That the £10,000 for the Museum is added to 2021-22 budget.

Cllr Odell and Cllr Round re-joined the meeting.

The Clerk advised the Council that Haslemere Youth Hub had also made an application for £5000.

RESOLVED: That the £5,000 for the Youth Hub is added to 2021-22 budget.

There was some discussion on how the precept would be set – either no increase or a small increase in precept with shortfall made up from Council reserves appeared to be favoured. Cllr Dullaway noted the points made by councillors and will hold another working party meeting before bringing the final draft budget to January's Full Council.

There was some discussion on solar panels, however Cllr Dullaway stated that an amount was in the budget, discussion on supplier etc was not relevant to the working party. No decision on supplier was therefore made.

107/20 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of those meetings and any recommendations therein, not already made under delegated authority, be adopted:

- Planning & Highways Committee –8th October & 5th November
- Amenities 15th October
- Grants 9th November

Cllr Isherwood commented that both himself and Cllr Davidson are to meet the developers of the site at 'Andrews of Hindhead' prior to the project going out to public consultation but that no further presentation from the developer was needed at this stage.

108/20 **CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY**

Members of the working party recently attended an on-line conference hosted by The Centre for Sustainable Energy, this brought about a number of initiatives that HTC could be involved with to promote youth engagement within the Town.

There has been a slow take up for the Green Grants funds, possibly down to the current crisis, it is hopeful this increases in the future.

The Sustainable Business Initiative in Haslemere are now looking to start their programme in January, again this has been delayed due to the recent crisis. They are looking at forming a small advisory group with some members of the Town Council.

The Town Clerk commented that the Centre for Sustainable Energy would also be keen to get involved with initiatives in the town.

Cllr Lloyd reiterated that the Solar Panels project would help promote, educate and encourage the community to use renewable energy resources and enable the Council to lead by example - this would not necessary be the least expensive option.

109/20 **GEORGE DENYER PAVILION**

Cllr Matthes stated that the George Denyer Pavilion is due to open in January 2021 with the purpose of helping members of the Community get back on their feet after the Covid crisis. Support from local organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Job Centre have been welcomed, Waverley Housing will also be promoting this service. Care in Haslemere have given a £1k grant towards this project.

The Town Clerk confirmed that HTC will incur no additional rates charges by taking on the lease for the pavilion.

Cllr Robini thanked Cllr Matthes for her continued hard work on this initiative.

110/20 **AMENDMENT TO PLANNING TOR/STANDING ORDERS**

RESOLVED: The updated documents at Appendices 5 & 6 are adopted.

111/20 **WORK TO CLAMMER HILL ALLOTMENTS**

The Amenities committee agreed to proceed with the entrance upgrade subject to approval from Full Council as the cost is above the cost of delegated authority.

RESOLVED: The council agreed to fund this project using the following reserves:

EMR Allotment reserve £2760

EMR Amenities reserve £345

Haslemere Community Fund £2664

112/20 **REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

In addition to the report submitted Cllr Keen commented that prior to this current lockdown Haslewey were getting back on their feet, they are currently still providing 'Meals on Wheels' to residents (since March 11 they have provided in excess of 7000 meals).

Cllr Round stated that although the Hunter Centre remains closed it is in robust health.

113/20 **HIGHWAYS UPDATE**

Cllr Barton gave an update on the proposed replacement of traffic lights at the Tesco junction, Haslemere; these works are due to take place for three weeks starting Monday 23rd November. The potential disruption in town, which coincides with traders re-opening at the end of this current national lockdown, is not ideal. Cllr Barton has raised this with Surrey County Council but been unable to get them to postpone.

Cllr Odell stated that the town's traders had had enough issue over the Covid crisis without this work being done at such a bad time for traders in the run up to Christmas. She requested that the dates proposed be changed to allow businesses in Haslemere to benefit from retail over the Christmas period. Traffic disruption at the Tesco junction will affect the Town in many ways. Cllr Barton agreed that this is unfortunate timing and will pass comments onto the portfolio holder Mathew Furnace.

Cllr Robini has a 'Leaders Meeting' tomorrow with MP Jeremy Hunt and will discuss this item.

The Town Clerk to also write a letter on behalf of the Council supporting a delayed start.

Cllr Keen has concerns over the works carried out at The Wey Hill development site, last week saw flooding on the Wey Hill due to debris from the site, Cllr Barton has already raised this issue and a site visit is being arranged.

114/20 STAFFING UPDATE

Cllr Odell drew the Council's attention to the recent Staffing minutes which had been circulated to all Members.

RESOLVED: That Arron Acott's position as the Town Council's Project and Open spaces officer is confirmed his hours are increased in line with the recommendations in the Staffing minutes of 9th November 2020.

Cllr Odell asked that the Council's thanks to all the Town Hall staff for their continued good work during this difficult period is minuted.

Meeting finished at 8.45pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....