



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
01428 654305 / town.clerk@haslemeretc.org

Amenities Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on 11th August 2016
Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

Chairman	Cllr David Round*
Vice Chairman	Cllr Libby Piper*
Councillors	Abeyesundara*, Bradley, Carter, Dover, Hewett*, King*, Odell*, Peel

*Present

Meeting clerked by: Sarah Nash, Deputy Town Clerk.
In attendance: None

45/16 Apologies for absence

Councillors Carter and Dover.

46/16 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

None.

47/16 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 16 June were agreed and signed as a true record.

48/16 Matters arising from those minutes not otherwise stated in the agenda

36/16: The hedgerow management consultants have not yet met with HTC.

Action: Deputy Clerk/Cllr Round to meet with them and add to next agenda for outcomes.

40/16: The Deputy Clerk and Cllr Round met with Arno Spaarkogel who has advised that no major pruning is needed of the Tulip tree on the High Street memorial green. He confirmed that it is still young and will grow substantially taller. If the lower branches are managed carefully, the crown can be raised and the view up and down the High Street will be restored after time. He offered to carry out the pruning.

Action: Deputy Clerk to establish whether there will be a cost for this, if not to instruct Arno Spaarkogel to carry out the work.

49/16 Representations by the public

None.

50/16 Allotments

The Deputy Clerk informed the committee that some plots are untidy at Clammer Hill and there have been problems with allocating some vacant plots. There are still some people on the list who need to be offered the plots; if there is no take up then it is

Recommended that the Deputy Clerk advertises them on social media and gets HTC contractors to cut the plots back ready for new ploholders, and offer a discount for the remainder of the year.

51/16 Lion Green

- i. Playground refurbishment: Cllr Abeyesundara provided an update on this process. He presented the types of equipment that HTC will be seeking to be provided along with options for surfacing; artificial grass being the cheapest option at present. The working party will be meeting shortly to put together the tender specification and send out.

Action: Deputy Clerk to add this item to the next Amenities agenda for an update.

- ii. Fringe Festival complaint: A number of complaints were received regarding noise levels of the Fringe Festival. No further action will be taken as it was agreed that this event only take place every two years so is not a constant issue.

Cllr Piper informed the committee that WBC has some guidance regarding appropriate decibel levels.

Action: Deputy Clerk to add this information into the application form and contract for Lion Green hire and to write back to the complainant advising him of this action.

- iii. Wey Hill in Bloom spare barrels: Cllr Edwards advised prior to the meeting that WHIB will have some redundant barrels after the new planters have been installed.

Action: Deputy Clerk to raise at the Hindhead Working Party meeting and establish cost and dimensions from Cllr Edwards prior to consulting all councillors on suggested locations/ideas.

52/16 Budget for BBQ surfaces

The Amenities Committee have been given delegated authority by Council to reallocate the budget for the BBQ surfaces to a project on Lion Green.

Resolved: The budget of £2000 should go towards the playground improvements subject to a successful bid for S106 funds for two new picnic tables.

53/16 S106 Funding

There is potentially £9000 of SCC S106 funds available for capital highway projects. The committee suggested the following:

- Boundary Road resurfacing.
- Improvements to drainage on Polecat Hill.

Recommended: That Council considers both of these projects at the September Full Council meeting.

54/16 Grayswood

- i. Tree management of war memorial

Action: Deputy Clerk to call the owners as soon as possible to discuss remedial work to take place. It can also be stated that the Haslemere Branch of the Royal British Legion is fully supportive of tidying up the memorial.

- ii. Steps for recreation ground

An application for funding has been made to WBC (awaiting notification) and the National Trust has agreed to the installation of steps.

Action: Deputy Clerk to establish whether a hand rail would also be needed.

55/16 Japanese Knotweed

There have been a number of cases of Japanese Knotweed in the area.

Action: Deputy Clerk to put together a guidance note for people affected by the weed and a standard letter to send to the owner of the property from which the weed originates requesting that they take remedial action. This information can also be uploaded onto the HTC website.

56/16 Christmas Lights

Cllr Abeyesundara has visited all of the shops on the High Street, West Street and Wey Hill and has had a good uptake of retailers wishing to update their Christmas lighting. Hindhead and Beacon Hill will also be visited.

Skanska do not want HTC to attach the hanging stars to the lighting columns so independent power columns are needed. It was suggested that a meeting with Skanska is needed to discuss the infrastructure.

Cllr Round offered to assist with this work.

Action: Cllr Round / Cllr Abeyesundara to carry this forward with a view to meeting with Skanska.

Action: Cllr Abeyesundara to submit a report to September Council.

57/16 Town Well refurbishment

Cllr Round informed the committee that he would like to pursue this project and carry out some research.

Action: Cllr Round to carry this forward and feed any associated costs into budget considerations as this has been identified as one of HTC's priorities.

58/16 Georgian tree uplighter

Action: Deputy Clerk to seek agreement from the Georgian in writing regarding power to the lighting on the tree.

59/16 Tall planters in High Street and Petworth Road

Council has already agreed to leave the planters where they are however it was suggested that there may be some local retailers who may like to take on the responsibility for them.

Action: Cllr Round to contact nearby retailers to establish whether they would be interested in 'adopting' the planters on the High Street and Petworth Road.

60/16 Beautifying neglected parts of Haslemere

Cllr Abeyesundara advised that he has been in touch with the WBC officer charged with the maintenance of green spaces in the area. Cllr Abeyesundara and Round both met with said officer for a walk around to assess areas in need of improvement.

St Christopher's Green is being maintained by Glendale (contracted by WBC) however WBC does not have sufficient budget for a closer cut with removal of grass cuttings. As a result the standard of cut is far inferior to that of Lion Green.

It has been suggested that WBC could consider allocating the existing budget to HTC for HTC to then arrange for its contractors to carry out the work to a higher standard at a potentially lower cost.

There are four other key areas requiring attention:

- Strip of land on the opposite side of the road to St Christopher's Green where the WBC toilets used to be.
- The railway embankment
- The pocket park
- The boggy centre of Town Meadow

Cllr Abeyesundara suggested that wild flower meadows could be created at these locations, similar to the one already in existence by Tanners Lane car park. They are extremely low maintenance, only requiring one cut per annum.

WBC have confirmed that they have available funds to supply the materials if HTC can source/provide the labour.

Cllr Odell questioned who would be responsible for the annual cut. Cllr Abeyesundara, after speaking with Ken Griffiths, advised that enough volunteers could be sourced.

Cllr Round raised the recent letter received from Mr Greer regarding outstanding issues in the town. Cllr Round suggested that regular HTC walkabouts are needed to keep on top of any issues regarding the town.

Recommended: Cllrs Abeyesundara, Bradley and Round carry out regular walkabouts.

Action: Deputy Clerk to write to Network Rail regarding overgrown brambles on Critchmere Lane.

Action: Deputy Clerk to write to the Haslemere Society requesting they clean their town crest badge on the railway bridge.

Action: Cllr Round to construct a reply to Mr Greer.

61/16 **Emergency Plan**

Recommended: Cllr King carries this project forward, taking into account WBC advice.

62/16 **Next meeting**

6th October 2016

Meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairman of Amenities