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

Thursday 22nd November 2018, Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

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

\* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O’Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork. The press and 2 members of the public were also present.

Before the meeting prayers were said by Reverend David Muskett.

The Mayor welcomed the newly elected Councillors; Cllr Hill and Cllr Isherwood to their first Council meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED**: The following apologies are accepted by Council: Cllr Hall (Work Commitments), Cllr Peel (Work Commitments).

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Relevant minute number shown in brackets.

**Non – Pecuniary Interests:**

Cllr Odell (Item 10) Treasurer of HCRP

Cllr Barton (Item 10) Chair of HCRP

**Pecuniary Interest:**

None

1. **DISPENSATIONS**

The Town Clerk reported that she had previously granted a dispensation to all Councillors in respect of budget setting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED**: That the minutes of the meeting held 27th September 2018 and any recommendations therein be adopted. The minutes were signed as a true record.

1. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

1. **REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES**

None.

1. **MAYOR’S UPDATE**

The Remembrance Sunday event went extremely well and The Mayor would like to thank all involved in the organisation of this event.

The Mayor’s Charity Dinner was held on the 17th November at the Georgian Hotel and was well attended, the evening raised £6k for the Mayor’s Charities.

A reminder that the Haslemere Christmas fair takes place on the 2nd December and as always volunteers are needed, please contact Cllr Odell if you can spare some time.

The Mayor’s Christmas Drinks are on the 14th December, please do RSVP if you haven’t already.

Cllr Edwards would like to thank the Mayor and Mayoress and all Councillors who helped with the Poppy Appeal, currently £32,600 has been raised, the final figure will be announced shortly. A special thanks goes to Cllr King who personally raised £700.

1. **CLERKS UPDATE**

The audit was completed today and the auditor has commented that he is extremely pleased with the governance and processes that are in place within the Town Council.

The Town Clerk attended a meeting regarding ‘Policing in Haslemere’ and following that a meeting is scheduled with Gary Smith (Borough Commander) to discuss CCTV within the Town.

The Haslemere Christmas carols will be taking place on the 19th December at The Haslemere Museum, please do put this event in your diaries.

The Christmas decorations have been installed and will shortly be switched on, special thanks goes to The Station House for allowing the use of their electricity for the Railway Station lights.

Cllr Barton advised that Christmas carols are also being held at the Railway Train Station on the 17th, 18th and 20th December for anyone who wishes to attend.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED:** That the scheduled of payments as detailed in the cashbook printouts for months 6 & 7 and any variances in the Council’s accounts are approved.

1. **BUDGET WORKING PARTY**

The Budget working party has produced a first draft budget for the Council to agree in principle:

Cllr Barton enquired as to why Community Rail Partnership is not under Tourism within the Budget, Town Clerk will amend the Budget to reflect this.

Cllr Odell apologised, she should have disclosed a non-pecuniary interest for this agenda item due to her involvement in the Charter Fair.

**RESOLVED:** The Council agrees the Budget in principle, with a final decision being made in January Council.

1. **WBC MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

A discussion took place regarding the ongoing maintenance of Grovers Gardens, with Cllr Odell requesting a steer from the Council for the Amenities Committee;

It was agreed that the Council approach Waverley Borough Council and request a long-term lease of 100 years for this area to allow HTC to maintain.

Cllr Barton suggested that perhaps we could use this approach for other pockets of land that are owned by WBC. It was suggested that we see how this approach is received in the first instance.

**RESOLVED:** That the Amenities Committee (at its December meeting) responds to WBC requesting a long term lease of 100 years for Grovers Gardens, without entering the Town Council into additional financial commitments to Waverley.

1. **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Marie Hill joins Planning and Amenities committees. Cllr Peter Isherwood joins Planning and Grants.

1. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the following meetings and any recommendations therein, not already made under delegated authority be adopted.

* Planning & Highways Committee 11th Oct, 8th Nov 2018
* Amenities Committee 4th October 2018
* Grants Committee 15th October 2018

Cllr Barton voiced concerns over the lack of attendance and involvement from our Surrey County Councillor with the Highways meetings. Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had gone out to him this week.

1. **WORKING PARTY UPDATES**

Public Toilets: Cllr Dear gave an update stating that the working party has recently met regarding improvements to the toilets, these improvements fall into 2 areas; essential works (plumbing) and desirable works (heating).

A quote of £6625 has been received for essential plumbing work. The budget for this year is £4835 leaving as shortfall of £1790. The Working Party requests that we proceed with the improvements and that the shortfall be met from funds currently within the Community Fund (up to a max of £3k) to allow for some heating work to be carried out.

Cllr Piper asked if the Budget amount for next year is to be reduced, due to the work being carried our this year, and that the Budget Working party be informed of any amendments that need to be made to next year’s Budget as soon as possible.

Cllr Arrick suggested that once improvements be made could we capitalise on advertising to raise funds? Cllr Dear advised that the WBC contract states ‘That any advertisement for revenue requires consent and WBC would be entitled to take a proportion of such revenue’.

Cllr Piper proposed that Cllr Dear and Town Clerk to contact WBC to enquire on terms and conditions of advertising. Cllr Isherwood advised that he will speak with a Mr Bainbridge (WBC Solicitor) regarding revenue from advertising.

**RESOLVED:** That the budget for works to the Public Toilets this year be increased by a maximum £3k which is to be taken from the Community Fund.Work to be carried out as per Deputy Clerk’s previously circulated report.

Long Term Parking Strategy – Cllr Edwards stated that town car parks are full, surrounding streets are being used by commuters and a long term strategy is required; he suggests that a Working Party is formed to address this issue.

Cllr Carter commented that last year he was involved in two working parties and met with WBC twice about this issue and until they are prepared to act on our recommendations that he would not get involved. WBC need to get parking tariffs correct in order for this to move forwards.

Cllr Barton commented that we need to be more creative with our parking solutions: park and ride/linking bus services with trains. If a working party is to be formed then it needs to take a holistic approach.

Cllr Piper stated concern that Council was considering setting up a third working party on parking.

Cllr Odell suggested that we change the remit of the working party and to invite WBC/SCC and SWR to a meeting to look at parking in a holistic fashion to see if we can advance with this project.

**RESOLVED:** Thatthe remit of the existing car park charging working party is amended to include long-term parking strategy and involve other partners.

1. **WW1 POPPY WREATH PROJECT**

Cllr Odell thanked all the Councillors involved for delivering the 145 wreaths to the householders and for wholeheartedly supporting this project, the Town Council’s contribution to the project was invaluable. Cllr Odell read a selection of positive comments she has received from the public regarding the wreaths. The Camera Club has taken some photos of the High Street Memorial, but if anyone has any photos of any of the other memorials then do forward them on. A vote of thanks went to Cllr Odell for all her hard work and inspiration for this project.

1. **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON CRC**

Cllr Abeysundara is appalled at the religious/ethnicity questions at the back of the document and questions the relevancy.

Cllr Isherwood commented on the restriction on hours for Farnham tip will result in an increase in fly tipping.

Cllr Piper commented that the document does not suggest the closure of Witley Tip.

**RESOLVED:** The Mayor and Town Clerk to draft a response and e-mail Councillors prior to sending to SCC.

1. **REPORTS FROM REPS ON EXTERNAL BODIES**

Cllr Edwards gave a report on the potential closure of Sure Start Centres, including the one in Haslemere. SCC have gone out to consultation on the future of the Sure Start Services within the County, we currently have 8 centres but the plan is to reduce to two, one in Hale and one in Losely Park, transportation to centres is also to cease. Cllr Edwards asked Councillors to support and keep this service for vulnerable families within Haslemere and surrounding areas.

Cllr Barton suggested that we raise the precept within Haslemere to keep the service within the town.

Cllr Piper questioned when the current funding will end? Suggested submitting a project proposal to the Budget working party for costings as soon as possible.

The Town Clerk noted that the Council Chamber could be available free of charge if space is needed, Cllr Bradley stated the same for Haslewey. Cllr Barton commented that the Tennyson Centre itself could also be available

Cllr Edwards to come back to the Council with a proposal once he has spoken with stakeholders.

Cllr Round and Town Clerk to construct a letter to SCC regarding the closures of the Sure Start Centres.

Meeting finished 8.20pm

Signed……………………………………..

Chairman of Meeting

Date………………………………………..