



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 28th November 2019
Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

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, minuted by Jo Cork. Also present were Pippa Auger, Deputy Town Clerk and 16 members of the public.

Prior to the meeting prayers were said by Reverend Jenn Riddlestone from St Stephen’s Church.

101/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were present

102/19 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

103/19 DISPENSATIONS

Town Clerk granted all Councillors dispensations relating to the making of the budget.

104/19 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Michael Barnes representing the Longdene Action Group a copy of his representation is attached at Appendix 1.

David Harmer (Surrey County Council) highlighted 3 points that in his view need to be addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan:

- H6.3 - Wording confusing ‘not aggravate the creation of new public rights of way’.
- Pg 60/14 Hindhead Road is now 40 mph not 60mph as stated
- To clarify the terms ‘on street parking’ and ‘off street parking’

The Mayor asked Cllr Harmer to feedback these points at the Public Consultation.

Sam Dudman (Haslemere resident) stated that he has concerns regarding the ongoing damage caused to Lion Green caused by various events that are held there; particularly damage to trees and the green itself (he was disappointed to see Lion Green being used as a car park and trees being cut back at some events). Sam requested that the Council consider the following to protect Lion Green:

- Impose stricter terms and conditions on the hiring of Lion Green
- Implement an exclusion zone around the trees to protect them
- Have a designated entry/exit points to allow vehicles to access the site

The Town Hall officers will respond to Mr Dudman after the meeting.

105/19 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

Lesley Banfield - Chair of Haslemere Vision made the following statement:

Haslemere Vision recommends that the settlement boundary included in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan (Appendix 3 to the Full Council Meeting Agenda 28th November 2019) is approved. This is because this boundary reflects the boundary that Haslemere Vision included in earlier drafts of the Neighbourhood Plan. This boundary is created by the designated areas that surround the town (AONB, AGLV, Green Belt). The boundary defined in the March 2019 Neighbourhood Plan approved by Haslemere Town Council includes areas within AONB, AGLV and Green Belt, some of these relate to sites which Waverley Borough Council were proposing to allocate for housing in their Local Plan part 2. However, Waverley have not yet consulted on these sites and, with the passage of time, there is now uncertainty as to whether they will be allocated or not. To include AONB, AGLV and Green Belt within the settlement boundary would give a "green light" to developers.

Further, to proceed with the March 2019 Neighbourhood Plan may jeopardize the adoption of the plan as it may fail to gain 50% or more of the community vote at referendum. This would risk the immense contribution of the community in helping to shape future development in the town.

The draft Neighbourhood Plan may well be considered 'material evidence' in the interim before WBC prepare and adopt Local Plan part 2 and will have equivalent legal status to the Local Plan if it is adopted. The Neighbourhood Plan will, therefore, influence Haslemere Town Council's and Waverley Borough Council's decisions on any forthcoming planning applications in the locality. The views of the residents of Haslemere need to be clearly expressed in the Neighbourhood Plan and to Waverley Borough Council whilst it is considering Local Plan Part 2.

106/19 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 26th September 2019 and any recommendations therein be adopted.

107/19 MAYORS UPDATE

The Mayor gave an update for the past quarter, highlights include:

The Mayoress, Jacquie Keen's fundraising walk over the 02 raised £1k for the Mayor's Charities, the Mayor would like to thank the Mayoress for undertaking this challenge.

Presenting an award to a 4 year old boy called Tony who assists his Mother with delivering the community meals service to Haslemere residents.

108/19 CLERKS UPDATE

The Clerk's Report had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting and was noted.

109/19 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Robini proposed that the amended Neighbourhood Plan document and Summary (Appendices 3 and 4) is adopted by the Council to go forward for public consultation. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Barton.

Cllr Dear counter-proposed that the original Neighbourhood Plan document that was passed by Council at its March meeting be put forward to public consultation. He stated that the amended document as circulated with the Agenda had not been widely enough

consulted on and that organisations such as Chamber of Trade and Haslemere Society should have their say. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Odell.

There was a significant amount of discussion on the subject.

It was noted that there currently is no formal settlement boundary in Haslemere, in the document passed in March the settlement boundary set as per Waverley's draft LPP2 which lead to the encroachment of vital green spaces. It was hoped that the adoption of the amended version would help protect these green spaces. It was however stated that the original document already provided protection for AONB, AGLV etc.

In previous consultations, the public had been consulted on the informal settlement boundary, not the one in the March version of the Neighbourhood Plan. 65% of respondents did not wish to see development outside the current informal boundary.

Cllr Weldon commented that regardless of the issues with the Settlement Boundary, the original document was poorly worded and that his work had tidied it up

It was stated that the original document took 6.5 years to create, and should be the one to go forward to public consultation, however it was also noted that Haslemere Vision were in favour of the new amended document.

There was discussion over whether the adoption of the amended document would cause further delay to the process and it was noted that whilst there is no Neighbourhood Plan it leaves town wide open for development and loss of CIL funding.

RESOLVED: That the amended plan at Appendix 3 to the Agenda be adopted and put forward for public consultation.

Cllr Barton left the meeting at 7:57pm

110/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 6&7 and any variances in the Council's accounts are approved including the following overspends:

Photocopier Lease – budget £438 overspend at year end of under £200.

Subscriptions – budget £3000 overspend at year end of £261.

111/19 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

RESOLVED

1. Where a decision is made to place work without obtaining competitive quotes, then this decision should be recorded in minutes.
2. Council agrees that the minutes of the Staffing meeting held 7th March 2019 should be amended to show the correct pay scale for the Clerk of 42, not 41.

112/19 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

- Planning & Highways Committee – 10TH October and 7th November 2019
- Staffing – 19th October 2019
- Grants – 18th November

113/19 **COUNCIL STRATEGY WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Dullaway apologised that for various personal reasons the Strategy working party is behind schedule. An initial meeting has been held and a draft strategy document is to go to the Working Party next week prior to the next meeting.

8:02PM Cllr Barton rejoined the meeting

114/19 **BUDGET WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Dullaway reported that the budget WP met on Friday 8th November for consideration of the first draft budget. Income, core expenditure and capital expenditure line items were considered as well as an initial review of the non-core expenditure items which depend on the outcome of the Strategy WP before they can be finalised

Two exceptions which required further information:

1. Councillor Barton had requested funding in respect of the Haslemere Rail Partnership. The working party appeared to have contradictory information on what was required and why, so we deferred this item seeking further clarity. This has now been provided, and we will can consider this at the next WP meeting.

2. The WP felt that the suggestions that HTC adopt freehold transfers from WBC would give rise to potentially large professional fees, and wished to investigate what these might be so we budgeted accordingly. This will be considered at the next WP.

For non-core items we need to finalise the strategy. However, we includes indicative numbers based on the strategy work to date. The main implications of the strategy so far for the budget would be £10,000 for climate change grants and the need to provide additional staff.

Making allowance for the items mentioned above, the current position if our precept remained unchanged would be a shortfall of approximately £32K, or roughly 10% of income.

115/19 **HTC CARBON NEUTRAL 2030 AND CARBON AUDIT**

Cllr Lloyd circulated a paper prior to the meeting setting out how HTC will achieve their commitment of becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030, this was noted by Council. It was agreed that the Climate Change WP would continue to exist to take forward the actions in the document. Town Clerk to confirm membership.

116/19 **REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

The Hunter Centre – Cllr Round asked Cllrs to support their Christmas Event which takes place on the 4th December at St Bartholomews Church at 7pm, he also asked WBC member why no WBC funding is received by The Hunter Centre? Cllr Keen commented that their submitted application was incorrectly completed.

Haslemere Hospital – Cllr Barton commented that although it is good news that the MIU will remain open it does not meet the requirements of a UTC – Urgent Treatment Centre and members must remain vigilant after the General Election.

Love Haslemere Hate Waste – Cllr Lloyd updated the council on their upcoming local initiatives to encourage the public to minimise waste.

Cllr Matthes mentioned that 'Green Drinks' takes place on the 1st Thursday of the month at The Mill Tavern, this is an informal event to discuss environmental projects.

8:20pm Cllr Barton left the meeting

117/19 FOI POLICY

RESOLVED: That the Freedom of Information policy and publication scheme as circulated with the Agenda are adopted.

118/19 WBC FREEHOLD TRANSFER

There was some discussion was had about the areas in question; Woodcock Green and Grovers Garden:

Woodcock Green:

Cllr Isherwood questions areas of map submitted, he believes pathway shown belongs to the National Trust and who is responsible for the maintenance of the trees.

Grovers Gardens:

Cllr Whitby questioned if residents have a right of way and who would be responsible for the track shown.

Cllr Dear commented that we need to be clear on exactly what we are getting from the WBC land transfer and to investigate any indemnities, rights of way and caveats that may be in place.

The Clerk confirmed that she is awaiting a report from WBC, and will clarify what is being offered.

119/19 FENCING OF LION GREEN DURING DECEMBER

RESOLVED The Council agreed to install approx. 80m of temporary 3ft high posts around the specified areas of Lion Green at a cost of £1400 to help protect from further damage.

120/19 PUBLIC TOILET CLEANING TENDER

RESOLVED It was agreed that the contract is awarded to Clean King for the tender period of 3 years at a cost of £11,130 per year.

Town Clerk left the meeting as she has a interest in the below item, the Deputy Clerk took her place.

121/19 TOWN COUNCIL IT PROVISION

RESOLVED: it was agreed that HTC moves its IT support to PAAC-IT as soon as practical on a 2 year contract at a cost of £1964.00, so long as the monthly support costs do not begin until the next financial year.

Meeting finished 8.50pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LPP2. HASLEMERE TOWN SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY (HTSB)

- I REPRESENT MORE THAN 250 RESIDENTS WITHIN THE LONGDENE ACTION GROUP (LAG).
- WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THE CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN UNBUILT AND BUILT AREAS OF HASLEMERE. THERE IS NO CASE, HOWEVER, FOR BUILDING ON ANOB/AGLV.
- WE DO NOT SUPPORT ANY CHANGE IN THE EXISTING HTSB BECAUSE:
 1. LPP1 (APPROVED BY THE THEN SECRETARY OF STATE) RECOMMENDED NO CHANGE AS IT WISHED TO PROTECT AONB/AGLV FROM ANY ADDITIONAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DUE TO THE UNDEVELOPED NATURE OF THESE BEAUTIFUL HILLY PARTS OF HASLEMERE (LONGDENE COUNTRY ESTATE AND SCOTLAND LANE), IT'S COUNTRYSIDE SETTING AND INTRINSIC CHARACTER AS A SMALL MARKET TOWN.
 2. HASLEMERE VISION RECOMMENDED NO CHANGE.
 3. 65% OF THE HASLEMERE COMMUNITY WISHED FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TO BE KEPT WITHIN THE EXISTING HTSB.
 4. THE PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE HTSB INCLUDES MOSTLY AONB/AGLV WHICH IS PROTECTED FROM ADDITIONAL BUILDING. THE WHOLE PRINCIPLE OF PROTECTING AONB/AGLV WAS CONFIRMED BY INSPECTOR WOOLCOCK ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON 10THJANUARY 2019 AND CONFIRMED IN THE HIGH COURT BY MR. JUSTICE HOLGATE WHEN REFUSING A PLANNING APPLICATION FOR 28 HOUSES ON LONGDENE HOUSE ESTATE (WHICH WOULD BE WITHIN THE EXTENDED HTSB BUT NOT THE EXISTING HTSB).
 5. RECOMMENDATION: HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCILLORS SHOULD SUPPORT THE MAJORITY (65%) OF THE COMMUNITY, HASLEMERE VISION AND LAG BY RECOMMENDING TO WBC THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO EXTENSION TO THE EXISTING HTSB PRIMARILY DUE TO MOST OF THE LAND BEING AONB/AGLV.

MICHAEL BARNES BEM
ON BEHALF OF LONGDENE ACTION GROUP.