



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 16th July 2015
Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

Mayor	*Cllr M Odell
Deputy Mayor	*Cllr S Abeysundara
Councillors	*Arrick, Blades, *Carter, Dover, *Drake, *Edwards, *Hall, *Hewett, *King, *Newbury, *Peel, *Piper *Rodgers, *Round, Sherratt

* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan
Also present 12 members of the public.
No press attended.

Before the meeting prayers were said by Rev Mary Bowden of St Bartholomew's Church, Haslemere.

59/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Blades and Sherratt.

60/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

During the representation from Craig McGowan (see 63/15) Cllr Odell declared a pecuniary interest as a local trader and withdrew from the meeting.
During the discussion on Grants (see 75/15) Cllr Odell declared an interest as Chairman of Haslemere Educational Museum and withdrew from the meeting.

61/15 DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk informed Council that prior to the meeting she had granted Cllrs Edwards, Hewett, Newbury and Carter a dispensation to participate in business relating to the approval of the budget, the approval of any borrowing under the LGA 2003, the making of the precept, the making of calculations under ss 49A, 49B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the approval of an allowance, payment or indemnity to Members. This dispensation lasts for the entire council term.

7.02pm The Mayor suspended the Council meeting to allow presentation of a Haslemere Volunteer Award to PC Ralph Swindell for services to Haslemere in his capacity as a neighbourhood policeman.

Meeting resumed 7.13pm.

62/15 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None.

63/15 REPRESENTATION BY EXTERNAL BODIES

Mr Craig McGowan, President of the Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation to Council regarding the work the Chamber is doing on behalf of local traders across the Town and expressed an interest in working more closely with the Town Council. He asked that documents relating to two initiatives, Haslemere business centre and BID Status, a copy of which is appended to the Minutes.

64/15 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Councillors Barton and Harmer had both send apologies. No written report received.

65/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held 21st May 2015 and Extraordinary Council meeting held 8th June 2015 were approved and signed.

66/15 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Piper commented that no minutes had been circulated from the Mayor/Leader working group meeting and asked that full minutes of all working groups should in future be circulated to all Councillors.

67/15 COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MAYOR

Could Councillors please let Tessa know if they want to go on the Chairmanship training course on 13th October.

Could all Councillors try to attend next week's training session with Anne Bott, 7pm Tuesday 21st.

All Councillors should attend Donaldson Day event midday Sunday 26th July 2015.

After recent meetings between Cllr Barton, SWT and the VIC the VIC has been invited to place some visitor information leaflets at the station. It was suggested that Cllr Barton give an update on the upgrade to the station at the next Council meeting.

68/15 HASLEMERE VISION

Cllr Sherratt was unable to attend the meeting due to family illness and the Mayor sent him best wishes on behalf of the Council. In his absence the Mayor gave a brief overview of the neighbourhood plan history.

RESOLVED:

- The 16 page questionnaire previously circulated to Council is approved for public distribution.
- Haslemere Vision is not to spend more than £500 of HTC funding without the prior approval of the Mayor, Chair of F&A and Town Clerk.
- Planning Committee to review HV / HTC Memorandum of Understanding, and HV timetable/events/cost. It will also consider formulating a management control strategy and make recommendation to Council.

69/15 WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS

- 1) The Mayor explained that proposals for Christmas Lights must be a priority as the Clerk needs to get a tender out and back for agreement at September Council.

RESOLVED:

- Amenities Committee to set up a working group to deal with the tender process and to consider Christmas lights for the trees on Wey Hill and Improving the Christmas lights.
- A Seasonal Celebrations working group consisting of Cllrs Round, Hall, Abeyesundara, King and Bradley is created to consider:

A Christmas Tree on Lion Green

Additional Christmas Trees at High Lane, Grayswood and Woolmer Hill

A Christmas Carol Service on Lion Green

Guys Fawkes bonfire on Lion Green.

As the VIC is already looking into the possibility of holding a bonfire on Lion Green the working party should consult with them. The working group will report to September Council.

- 2) Council considered Cllr Hall's proposals for the formation of a "Community Engagement" working group. Cllr Piper noted that the Council Chamber could not be marketed until it had been refurbished.

RESOLVED:

That a Community Engagement working group be set up consisting of Cllrs Piper, Drake, Peel, Hall, Round, Newbury, Abeyesundara and Town Clerk. Cllr Abeyesundara was elected Chairman having been nominated by Cllr Drake and seconded by Cllr Hall.

The working party to report into Budget working party once agreed at September Council.

- 3) Council considered Cllr Hall's proposal for the formation of a "Policy" working Group. There was some debate on the use of the word 'policy' and general consensus was that a Council 'position' could be achieved.

RESOLVED:

The items for discussion should be debated in a full and transparent way by all Members at Full Council. Business and Chamber of Commerce should form one single item and Expenditure to be removed from the list as this is covered by Financial Regulations. The three remaining items – Parking, Business and Chamber of Commerce and Youth and Sports Clubs to be given a 20 minute slot at each of the next 3 Council meetings, starting with Parking at September Council. Before each topic is taken to Council a brief paper will be prepared by nominated Councillors and Council officers.

For September Council Cllrs Hall, Round, King and Town Clerk will produce the report.

4) Council considered Cllr Hall's request for a review of the current planning process undertaken at HTC. There was some debate over the merits of this approach given that the government may be making policy changes that will affect town and parish councils. It suggested that residents should be able to come to the town hall to make representations and get support on planning issues. Councillor Hall explained that this was intended to be a process review, not a change to Council policy.

RESOLVED:

No action to be taken at present. The Clerk will add the item for further consideration at January 2016 Council.

70/15 FUTURE OF POST OFFICE CURRENTLY AT LION LANE COOP

After some debate on the subject it was agreed that:

- Cllr Piper to investigate the possibility of moving the Post Office to the Locality Office.
- Cllr King to speak to Craig McGowan, President of the Chamber of Trade to see if they can help.
- Mayor to meet with M&S to find out their plans for the Post Office before any further Council intervention.
- Town Clerk to use social media to remind people that the Post Office is open.

71/15 SCULPTURE WORKING PARTY (LION GREEN)

Cllr Bradley gave the history of the sculpture working party. It has now been suggested by Ken Griffiths that the tall planter outside Haslewey has some kind of metal sculpture, based on the winning design. There would be no cost implication to the Town Hall.

RESOLVED: that the working party consisting of Cllrs Bradley, Edwards, King, Odell and Rodgers meet with Ken Griffiths to discuss plans and report back to next Council.

72/15 REMOVAL OF SATURDAY DUSTCART SERVICE FROM WEYHILL CAR PARK

Councillors were extremely concerned to hear of the withdrawal of the Saturday dustcart service from Weyhill Car Park. Concerns were raised over impact on residents, fly tipping, and the fact that Haslemere will be the only large town/village in Waverley left without a permanent site. The costs of providing the service were also brought into question.

RESOLVED: The Mayor to write to SCC Portfolio Holder, Chairman of SCC and Haslemere Herald to convey the Council's refusal to accept the SCC decision and to state that the only basis on which the withdrawal would be acceptable would be in a permanent alternative site in the Town were found.

73/15 F&A LION GREEN REVIEW

Cllr Hall gave an overview of the history behind the review. There was wide ranging discussion over the charging options presented to Council.

RESOLVED:

- i. There will be a charge for the hire of Lion Green under the following circumstances:
 - Commercial use such as Circus and Funfair.
 - Events where entry tickets are sold.
 - Events with free entry but which charge participating stallholders.
- ii. Charges for use of Lion Green to be considered by Amenities with view to a recommendation to Council.
- iii. All events to pay an upfront deposit to the Council – amount to be considered by Amenities with view to a recommendation to Council.

74/15 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: – that the schedule of payments totalling £285379.74, and any variances in the Council's accounts are approved.

75/15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Grants 9th July 2015. Cllr Odell left the room. Cllr Piper asked for the minutes to be amended as Cllr King had stated that the Museum had received a grant in the previous financial year, which it had not. The Clerk explained that the minutes as a true record of what had been said, could not be amended but that she would ask the Deputy Clerk to place a note of Cllr Piper's comment with the minutes.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Grants committee meeting held 9th July and recommendations therein be adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Amenities committee meeting held 18th June and recommendations therein be adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning committee meetings held 28th May and 25th June and any recommendations therein be adopted.

76/15 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Hewett reported that the Twinning visit from Bernay to celebrate 30th anniversary of Twinning had been a huge success. 21 members of the committee are going to Horb on 3-6 September. Cllr Hewett reported that Twinning was having to raise substantial amounts of money via fundraising to cover costs, mainly twinning dinner, and questioned whether the Council could support Twinning in this, either through funding via the budget or by making the Twinning dinner a civic event. It was agreed that Twinning should write to Council in this respect and that any request would be considered by the Budget working party.

Cllr Bradley reported that the League of Friends was securing funding for a new Outpatients department at Haslemere Hospital.

Cllr Abeyesundara reported on his recent visit to the Haslemere Foodbank AGM. Users used to receive a voucher to spend on fresh food at Co-op but now Co-op is closed there is no mechanism by which families can get the fresh food they require. Cllrs Abeyesundara, Carter and Hall to consider what the Council can do to assist.

77/15 REPORTS FROM TWIN-HATTED MEMBERS

Cllr Piper reported that she, Cllr Edwards and Deputy Clerk had attended the Local Plan update at WBC. Further reviews on housing numbers to take place, including those in Haslemere. Cllr Edwards agreed that Haslemere should be prepared for a change in numbers.

Meeting finished 9.37pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....