



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 21st May 2015
Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

Mayor	*Cllr M Odell
Deputy Mayor	*Cllr S Abeyesundara
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 24 members of the public and press.

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

43/15 ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR FOR 2015/2016

Cllr Arrick proposed Cllr Odell.
Cllr Dover seconded Cllr Odell's nomination.
No other nominations were received.
Cllr Odell was unanimously elected Town Mayor 2015-2016.

44/15 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF TOWN MAYOR

Cllr Odell made the declaration of acceptance of office then made a short thank you speech.
She then presented Cllr Bradley with a Past Mayor's Badge and small gift.

Cllr Odell then presented Cllr Round with Mayor's consort badge and presented previous consort John Orr with small gift.

45/15 ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR FOR 2015/2016

Cllr Drake proposed Cllr Abeyesundara.
Cllr Bradley seconded Cllr Abeyesundara's nomination.
No other nominations were received.
Cllr Abeyesundara was unanimously elected Deputy Town Mayor 2015-2016.

46/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Carter, Edwards, Hewett and Newbury.

47/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

48/15 DISPENSATIONS

The Town Clerk informed Council that prior to the meeting she had granted all Members present 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 4 years.

49/15 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Miles Weston made the following announcement and asked for it to be recorded in the minutes:

"At the request of the Leader of the House of Commons the Haslemere bell ringers commemorated the 70th anniversary of VE day. We rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles on Sunday, 10th May 2015. As this was a civic duty, I ask that it be recorded in the minutes of this meeting."

As background, the Council may be interested to hear that ringing church bells to commemorate the end of the second world war has a historical significance. During the hostilities churches were asked to refrain from ringing bells to reserve the sound of bells as a warning of invasion. On the news of peace it was reported that church bells were rung with enthusiasm all over the British Isles.

The Mayor read out a statement from County Cllr Barton, a copy of which is appended to these minutes. Cllr Barton congratulated the recently elected town councillors and stated that she was looking forward to working with them.

50/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held 26th March 2015 were approved.

51/15 MATTERS ARISING

None.

52/15 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED – that the schedule of payments and any variances in the Council's accounts are approved.

53/15 AMENDMENT TO BUDGET ITEM

The Town Clerk reported that two items in budget need amendment – income from Lion Green and Costs of Lion Green maintenance. This was due to the Village Green at Shottermill Charity and March Council resolving that VG@S would receive income from from Lion Green and donate it to HTC towards Lion Green's maintainance costs. HTC will administer and pay for maintainance of Lion Green.

RESOLVED: Amended budget at APPENDIX 2 of the Agenda replaces that agreed in January 2015.

54/15 BANK SIGNATORIES

RESOLVED: that the signatories on the Town Hall bank accounts are Town Clerk, Deputy Clerk and any two of the following Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair of Finance and Audit, Cllr Bradley.

55/15 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT RETURNS 2014-2015

The Mayor was pleased to report that the Internal Auditor had found no issues and stated that he "would go so far as to say [HTC] are a model of good practice".

RESOLVED: That the unaudited Financial Statements for year ending 31st March 2015 are approved. **RESOLVED:** That the report and recommendations therein made by the Internal Auditor are adopted by Council.

RESOLVED That the Annual return and governance statement for year ended 31st March 2015 are approved, with one amendment, as recommended by the internal auditor namely that Box 9 for Year Ending 31 March 2015 to be amended to **£527,773** to reflect £39,002 spent on renovating the Town Hall roof being capital expenditure.

56/15 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

RESOLVED That Haslemere Town Council wishes to adopt the General Power of Competence and confirms that it meets the two eligibility criteria for adoption of the Power of General Competence as set out in a statutory instrument known as the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012, namely that at least 2/3 Members of Council have been elected to office (not co-opted) and that the Council employs a 'qualified Clerk'.

57/15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED:- that the minutes of the following meetings and any recommendations therein be adopted.

Planning 2nd April, 30 April
Staff 20th April
Amenities 16th April

58/15 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2015-2016

RESOLVED: That the membership of committees and representatives to external bodies is agreed as per the final draft circulated by the Town Clerk on 21st May 2015 (appended to these minutes).

RESOLVED: That the membership of any committee may be varied at any time by a resolution of that committee, so long as any maximum committee membership numbers are adhered to.

Meeting finished 7.25pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....