



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 8th October 2015
Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

Chairman	Cllr David Round*
Vice Chairman	Cllr Penny Bradley*
Councillors	Abeyesundara, Arrick, Edwards*, Hewett*, King*, Odell*, Rodgers, Sherratt*

*Present

Meeting clerked by: Sarah Nash, Deputy Town Clerk.

53/15 Apologies for absence

Councillor Abeyesundara

54/15 Declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

Cllr Odell declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7(vi) of the agenda as the Chairman of Haslemere Events.

55/15 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held 13th August 2015 were agreed and signed as a true record.

56/15 Matters arising from those minutes not otherwise stated in the agenda

48/15(i): The three bins have now been installed on Lion Green, the Deputy Town Clerk is currently in negotiations with Waverley Borough Council to have them added to their cleaning schedule. Cllr King suggested that a further bin should be installed near the picnic tables and the Deputy Town Clerk mentioned that an additional picnic table could also be installed. These two items can be considered during the budget discussions.

57/15 Representations by the public

None

58/15 Allotments

The Deputy Town Clerk gave an update on the site inspections, there are a few untidy plots, emails will be sent to the ploholders concerned. The Deputy Town Clerk also reported on income and expenditure on the three allotment sites.

Recommended: Allotment charges remain unchanged for 2017. Expenditure on maintaining the sites is not exceeding revenue received so there is no justification to increase the charges.

59/15 Lion Green

- i) **Marks & Spencer:** Cllr Odell provided an update on recent communication with M&S. It was agreed to keep the dialogue going. Cllr Odell also informed the committee that Tesco had been giving consideration to taking on the Post Office however their legal team has halted any negotiations until the lease with M&S has finished.

Cllr Edwards suggested that this issue is discussed further at the Planning and Highways meeting on 15th October as there are a number of applications for this site to consider.

- ii) **Installation of BBQ surfaces on Lion Green:** The Deputy Town Clerk is awaiting a formal quote from Commercial Groundscare and feedback from the Charities Commission.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to follow up.

- iii) **Play Area:** We are still awaiting confirmation from SCC on HTC's bid for funding for playground improvements has been successful.

The Deputy Town Clerk updated the committee on the meeting held with Playdale regarding play equipment and gym equipment. Cllr Edwards advised that Farnham will be installing some outdoor gym equipment shortly and suggested that HTC waits to see how successful this is before pursuing the idea.

Recommended: that the playground improvements are given priority and the gym equipment is revisited in the future.

The Deputy Town Clerk has received a request from a local resident for the installation of a table tennis table on Lion Green.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to liaise with Frensham Parish Council who are in the process of installing one.

- iv) **Electrification of Lion Green:** Cllr King suggested that the power could potentially run from the lampposts however it was confirmed that this would not be powerful enough.

Action: Cllr Round to speak with the Fringe, Haslemere Events and the Wave to establish what their requirements would be.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk / Cllr Round to get a formal estimate from SSE for the installation of power.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to chase the Charity Commission for a formal response to this proposal.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to speak to Farnham Town Council to see how this was implemented at Gostrey Meadow.

- v) **Water supply on Lion Green:** It has also been suggested that a permanent water supply could be installed on Lion Green.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to obtain a quote for installing a water supply with points to be located near the garage and the school.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to consult with users to see if this proposal would be beneficial.

vi) **Lion Green charging structure:** Cllr Round circulated the following proposal for consideration.

“All users will pay a deposit, refundable so long as the green is not damaged. The major and obviously commercial events (The two Fun Fairs and the Circus) continue at the present rates, rounded to £1350 (Easter fun fair), £1200 (October Fun Fair) and £2,100 (Circus). These rates will increase annually by RPI (as does the cost of our contractors who maintain Lion Green). These users will pay a deposit of £1,000.

Other users will all pay a deposit of £100.

Those on the list below, namely existing users who clearly provide a benefit to the town in holding events run by volunteers not for commercial profit, are not charged but they will pay a deposit and they are encouraged, and expected, to acknowledge the use of the Green from HTC in their literature whether on paper or a website.

Other users not on the list, that may arise in the future, will be charged £150 per day, or £50 for less than half a day, at the discretion of HTC.

The list of approved non-charged users is:

The Fringe
The Classic Car Show
The Food Festival
Shottermill school sports
Tennyson Sure Start
The WAVE
Other Haslemere Festival events”

After some debate the committee **recommended** that:

- non-chargeable events should be those that are volunteer-led and are for the benefit of the local community.
- the circus is charged a flat rate of £2100 to be increased by RPI on a yearly basis, plus a £1000 deposit
- funfairs are charged £150 per day, plus a £1000 deposit
- the list of approved non-charged users is agreed however remove ‘other Haslemere Festival events’.
- all applications for the use of Lion Green will continue to go to Amenities for consideration, at which point the committee will recommend whether any new users/events are added to the list of approved non-charged users
- **all** users (other than funfairs and the circus) will pay a £100 deposit
- for **all** users (i) excluding the circus and (ii) not on the list of approved non-charged users, the following charges will apply:
 - £150 daily charge
 - £50 half-daily charge
 - £15 hourly rate

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to draw up a formal table of charges to be reported to November Council.

The Deputy Town Clerk also updated the committee on recent complaints regarding the funfair, namely:

- Litter left on the playground side of Lion Green. The Deputy Town Clerk has since spoken with the owner of the funfair who has assured her that in future they will litter pick the whole site early in the mornings on the days they are present.
- Noise levels
- Anti-social behaviour in Weysprings

The committee noted the complaints however stated that they will continue to support the use of Lion Green by way of funfairs and other events when there is a demonstrable benefit to the community at large.

Cllr Hewett noted that HTC pays a lot for the upkeep of Lion Green and the funds secured through events such as this go some way towards this maintenance.

- vii) **Lampposts on Lion Green:** Cllr King introduced the item regarding lampposts along the footpath on Lion Green. It was stated that Cllr Barton's predecessor had promised that these lights would be adopted. The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Town Clerk is already in communication with Cllr Barton regarding this issue.

60/15 High Street Issues

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the quote from Broxap for replacement noticeboards on the High Street came in at over £3000 which was agreed to be too expensive. She will now get back in contact with the company used to source HTC's other display cases and a local blacksmith to see if this can be resolved at a cheaper cost.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to follow up.

61/15 Grayswood

- i) The Deputy Town Clerk is awaiting a response from the owner of the land surrounding the Grayswood War Memorial to establish whether they are happy with some tree remedial work to take place to open up the view from the site.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to follow up.

- ii) The Deputy Town Clerk is awaiting quotes for the installation of steps on Grayswood Recreation Ground.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to pass to Waverley Borough Council once received.

62/15 Pigeons in Haslemere

Cllr Odell managed to have a brief meeting with Mr Hawkins. The issue of the state of the Gibbs Trust buildings was also raised.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to investigate (by speaking to WBC) and formulate a proposal to eradicate the problem of pigeons and address the state of the Gibbs Trust buildings and report back to the next Amenities meeting.

63/15 Town Well

Cllr Round advised that the well is currently full of rubble and padlocked off. It was suggested that the rubble may be there as a safety measure.

The committee agreed that HTC should take on the maintenance of the well and once it has been brought up to a reasonable state an annual well dressing ceremony could take place, perhaps with the involvement of the schools.

Recommended: that the well is cleaned as per the quote of £300, but before doing so HTC's grounds maintenance contractors to cut back the vegetation surrounding the area.

64/15 Dustcart

Cllr Odell gave an update on the dustcart proposals. It was agreed that once indicative costs have been set out, this should be put in the budget for 2016/2017.

Action: Deputy Town Clerk to circulate the minutes of the meeting held with SCC regarding the dustcart.

65/15 Public toilets, High Street Car Park

The committee confirmed that HTC would not be interested in taking the toilets on without the freehold.

Action: Cllr Edwards to speak to the appropriate officer at WBC regarding the current state of the toilets.

66/15 Pocket Park

The Deputy Town Clerk advised the committee that the scheme originally proposed by Cllr Barton is now no longer going to go ahead as the officers at SCC state that creating access to the site will create an alleged H&S risk; they believe some form of barrier would be needed to prevent people from falling.

Recommended: that HTC proceeds with transferring the land from SCC and that a contribution could also be made by SCC for the ongoing maintenance.

67/15 Next meeting

17th December 2015

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman of Amenities