



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
01428 654305 / town.clerk@haslemeretc.org

Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 19th November 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: SCC Cllr David Harmer, 3 members of the public and Caroline Toms from the Haslemere Herald was in attendance.

Before the meeting prayers were said by Revd Richard Bodle of St Albans Church, Hindhead.

105/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Dover and Peel.

106/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item 16: Cllr Odell declared a Non-Pecuniary interest as Member of the Food Festival Committee

Item 14 – Cllr Odell declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest as Chairman of Haslemere Educational Museum.

107/15 DISPENSATIONS

None.

108/15 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

In relation to the Council's Public Works Board loans, Mr Mark Jasper questioned whether it would be best use of Council reserves to pay the smaller one off or alternatively for Council to consider re-financing the loans to a better interest rate.

Mr Jasper also questioned the £12k put into the draft budget under the item 'Dustcart collection'

Cllr Piper, chair of the Budget working party explained that the vast majority of the money currently held in the Council's deposit account was actually budgeted to be spent during the remainder of the financial year and therefore it would be unlikely that Council would be able to re-pay any loan from it. She went on to explain that the

Town Clerk would raise this with the Council's internal auditor, due to visit the following week.

Cllr Odell gave a response regarding the dustcart. She explained that she, on behalf of the Council, had been in negotiation with SCC in an attempt to keep some kind of household waste collection service at the Fairground car park. Mr Jasper pointed out that if the Town Council was to in any way sort or process the waste they would need a waste transfer licence. He also stated that items such as additional insurance would need to be considered. Cllr Odell told Mr Jasper that negotiations were still ongoing but that all of those considerations would be taken into account if and when appropriate.

Mrs Maria Mateo asked why the budget for Christmas lights this year had been increased by so much from last year. Cllr Odell explained that this had been done in direct response to businesses and residents who had complained in past years that the Council was letting them down due to a poor Christmas lights display.

109/15 REPRESENTATION BY EXTERNAL BODIES

None.

110/15 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Harmer gave an update on the issues with Superfast Broadband affecting residents in Hindhead and Beacon Hill. He stated that under the Treaty of Rome it is illegal for the council to support private business – which it would be doing if it paid for remedial work to be done. He has lobbied the European Commission to change this, which they agreed, but the issue is not bogged down in a bureaucratic minefield. Should residents in Haslemere /Grayswood have an issue it should be reported to him.

111/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held 24th September 2015 are approved and signed.

112/15 MATTERS ARISING

101/15 suggested that Richard Oldham should be nominated for a Haslemere Volunteer Award. It has since been established that he already has one.

113/15 COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MAYOR

Mike O'Neil has asked, on behalf of the Haslemere Society, if a blue plaque to the Haslemere Riot of 1855 can be placed on the Town Hall and if HTC would be willing to contribute financially.

RESOLVED: That the plaque can be placed on the Town Hall and that Council will contribute up to £125 on receipt of a VAT invoice.

The Mayor sent the Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery to former Town Councillor Michael Foster who has been unwell recently.

The Mayor reported that during this evening's meeting a candle lit walk, organised by a local French woman, would arrive at the High St war memorial. Councillors agreed that the Mayor should suspend the meeting at that time to allow them to join them.

114/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Sherratt updated Council on the current position of the neighbourhood plan – a copy of his report previously circulated to Council is appended to these minutes. He

stated that the next step was to consider the formation of a Neighbourhood Plan working party.

There was some discussion over the use of HTC funds to pay for workshops that are outside the scope of land use, housing and transport and it was agreed that these would not be paid for by HTC. There was also discussion over the number and quality of responses to the recent neighbourhood plan consultation. It was noted that the Council had not seen the results of the survey and that HTC would have to approve the final plan before it went to an inspector. The Mayor noted the huge amount of work that the Vision group has done to date on the neighbourhood plan.

RESOLVED: That a working party consisting of Cllrs Sherratt, Bradley, Piper, Odell, Peel, Carter, Edwards and Round is formed.

115/15 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED – that the schedule of payments totalling £148,682.19 (including (£112,025 transfer of precept to deposit account), and any variances in the Council's accounts are approved

116/15 BUDGET OVERSPEND

RESOLVED: That the Council's bank charges budget for 2015-2016 may be overspent by £77 from general reserves by the end of the financial year.

117/15 BUDGET 2016-2017

Cllr Piper gave an introduction and mentioned a few significant changes in the draft budget compared to the 2015-2016 financial year. Dustcart and Youth Worker lines at £12k each, reduced Council Tax Support Grant and reduced revenue from Lengthsman grant were all discussed.

Cllr Abeyesundara suggested that if the Council Chamber were refurbished and able to hold weddings it could generate a good income stream for the Council. Cllr Piper asked for a written proposal.

Cllr Hall mentioned that £30k of Council precept was spent on CAB, Hoppa and VIC grants.

All ideas for inclusion in final draft budget to be send to Cllr Piper.

118/15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

- Grants Committee 2nd November
- Finance & Audit Committee 12th October
- Planning & Highways Committee 15th October NB reference to lights at Junction Place should in fact have been by Tesco at the junction of Wey Hill and Lion Green.
- Planning & Highways Committee 12th November
- Amenities Committee 8th October

119/15 COUNCIL POSITION UPDATE

Youth and Sports

Cllr Odell gave an update on meetings held by the Youth and Sports working group and referred to her earlier report circulated to Council – a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

There was a lengthy debate over whether the Town Council should fund Youth Workers at the Wey Centre to replace the service that has been withdrawn by Surrey County Council.

The basis on which the decision to withdraw the Youth Workers was questioned as was the extent to which the County Councillor and others had fought to retain it. Council felt strongly that the Town is being short changed by SCC in regards to the withdrawal of the dustcart service, youth workers and other issues.

RESOLVED– Town Clerk to invite Cllr David Hodge to Haslemere to explain why these changes affecting Haslemere residents have been implemented. If Cllr Hodge is not able to come to Haslemere the Mayor and Town Clerk to go to County Hall.

There was discussion over the fact that if HTC is expected to keep picking up services withdrawn by other tiers of government this is effectively double taxation for residents.

There was also discussion over whether by funding the Youth Worker HTC weakened its case for having them re-instated by SCC and there was support for both views.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council contracts known, existing and fully qualified youth workers for 10 hours a week on a self employed basis to deliver three sessions at the Wey Centre until the end of the financial year. (16 weeks)

RESOLVED: That £12,500 is put into the draft budget for consideration at January Full Council once the Town Council has met with Cllr Hodge.

Parking

Cllr Round gave an update. He and the Town Clerk attended a meeting with SWT to get an update on potential additional car parking deck at Haslemere Station - meeting note previously circulated.

Cllr Sherratt has been co-opted onto the Parking working group.

Pay on exit parking needs to be looked into.

Craig McGowan also to be co-opted onto working group.

Business

Group to report to January Council – consisting of Cllrs Odell, Abeyesundara and Sherratt. Craig McGowan also to be invited.

120/15 CHARGING ON LION GREEN

A suggested charging structure for Lion Green was circulated at Appendix 5 to the agenda.

Cllr Hall suggested that Point 6 'added to the list of approved non-charged users' should be amended to 'added to or removed from the list of approved non-charged users'.

At 9pm the meeting was adjourned to allow Councillors to support residents at the war memorial outside the Town Hall in a vigil for people killed in the recent French atrocity. Meeting re-started 9.15pm.

Cllr Hall made the point that the classic car show makes in excess of £3k per year and should therefore pay towards the upkeep of Lion Green. There was much debate as to whether the event was commercial or not and the point was made that it was run by a registered charity however it was questioned whether it charged ticket entry or stallholders.

There was debate over what had previously been agreed by Council in this respect and the Town Clerk clarified previous Council resolutions:

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 [*later clarified to mean where charge for entry nor necessarily physical ticket issues*].
 - 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.

94/15 CHARGING ON LION GREEN

Cllr Round introduced this item and proposed that in addition to the paper previously circulated, a £100 deposit should be taken for all bookings on Lion Green, excluding the Circus and the Funfair who are charged £1000.

Cllr Hall stated that Amenities were tasked with coming up with a charging schedule; a proper charging structure has not been proposed.

The Mayor advised that there is a recommendation for £0 or £10 for community events, with a deposit of £100 and each case being considered on their own merit.

Cllr Piper agreed with Cllr Hall stating that the proposal is very vague; daily rate figures for the Circus and Funfair are approximate. An officer should be able to refer to a table of charges to confirm the price for any event.

Cllr Edwards suggested a standard rate for everybody, with HTC waiving the charge for certain community events, as HTC's contribution.

Some felt that Lion Green should be actively promoted to gain the most from the space for the community and financially. Any increases in income could be spent on worthwhile projects.

RESOLVED: October Amenities to produce a table of charges along with a recommendation on how often they should be reviewed. To be reported at November Council.

RESOLVED:

- I. That Section 5 of the Lion Green Charging Schedule at Appendix 5 to the agenda is removed.

- II. That Section 6 of the Lion Green Charging Schedule at Appendix 5 to the agenda is amended to remove the reference to approved non-charged users.
- III. Council rate is agreed as per the table in the Lion Green Charging Schedule at Appendix 5 to the agenda.
- IV. Funfair to remain charged at £150 per day.
- V. All other users to be charged £150 or less, depending on recommendation from Amenities.

[Note after meeting – the Town Clerk will put the amended document back on January’s council Agenda for approval].

121/15 GRANTS PROCESS

Cllr Piper suggested that this required further review to include consideration of the awarding of revenue grants.

RESOLVED: An amended Grants process document to be brought to January Council.

122/15 COUNCIL TENDER PROCESS

RESOLVED: That the amended Grants Process document at Appendix 6 to the Agenda is adopted by Council.

123/15 REMOVAL OF WEY HILL SATURDAY DUSTCART

The Mayor reported that she was still waiting from a response from SCC on exactly how any waste collected by HTC could be disposed of, and who would pay.

Cllr Piper stated that she would be visiting the Fairground Car park the following Saturday and would report back re fly-tipping etc.

RESOLVED: If no satisfactory response back from SCC by mid-January, the budget line for the service should be removed from the draft budget.

Cllr Edwards reported that WBC were trying to get the recycling bins at Wey Hill emptied at weekends.

124/15 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Hewett reported that the Chair of Twinning had sent condolences to his French counterpart regarding the recent Paris terrorist attack. She also reported that the recent quiz night had been a huge success and that the Bernay visit would be on 2nd June 2016.

Cllr Piper reported on Haslewey. There will be a free screening of The Snowman on 12th December, each child attending would get a free snowman toy. 13th December at 6pm the Farnham Maltings theatre company will be performing ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’. Tickets £5.

When available, Cllr Edwards will circulate the minutes of the SureStart meeting he attended.

Cllr Carter reported that there will be a fundraising musical evening for Syria on 5th December.

Cllr Blades reported that Shottermill and Haslemere United Charities had received Christmas vouchers from Tesco and Waitrose.

Cllr King reported that the Haslemere and Western Villages Traffic Task Group had identified 7 key projects to take forward. He and WBC Cllr Mulliner are pushing for

more for the area and Cllr King has written to SCC Cllr Barton asking for project costings.

CPRE – Dr Philippa Guest is to remain as CPRE representative for HTC.

RESOLVED: Cllr Carter to replace Cllr King as representative on SCC Haslemere and Local Villages Traffic Task Group and Cllr Bradley replaces Cllr Abeyundara as representative for Haslemere Hall.

125/15 WORKING PARTY UPDATES

Cllr Hall reported that the Mayor/Leader WP had met – minutes previously circulated. Process of consultation on Strawman has started and there will be three further meetings open to all Councillors, with a view to making a proposal to March Council.

Trevor Leggo to be invited to speak first.

Cllr Abeyundara reported that the first Community Engagement WP meeting would take place on 2nd December. There is also to be a meeting of Wey Hill traders on 20th November at 6pm, all Councillors welcome.

Cllr Carter reported that the Hindhead WP had met and a number of issues raised. There will be a first meeting with Hindhead and Beacon Hill traders at the Devils Punchbowl Hotel on Friday 22nd January 2016.

RESOLVED: That £100 be used from the community fund to provide drinks/snacks.

Council decided not to form a Funding Streams working party to identify grants etc that the Council could tap into for future projects. Cllr Edwards said he had contacts with officers at WBC and would work with the Clerk to see if any funding there could be applied for.

126/15 REPORTS FROM TWIN-HATTED MEMBERS

Cllr Piper reported that there will be a tea and chat session for the over 60s at Haslewey Friday 11th December, 1.30-4pm. This is aimed at socially isolated people who may live in houses too large for them and might want to consider downsizing.

127/15 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

128/15 STAFFING

To receive the minutes of the Staffing Committee meetings held on:

- 6th October

APPENDIX 8

- 22nd October

APPENDIX 9

Cllr Bradley gave an update to Council.

RESOLVED: Minutes of the meetings held 6th October and 22nd October and any recommendations therein are approved with the exception of the first recommendation in minute 26/15.

129/15 IT PREFERRED SUPPLIER

Council did not approve any of the suggested suppliers. Town Clerk Mayor and Chair of F&A given delegated authority to make a decision regarding the Council's future ad hoc IT supplier.

Meeting finished 10.20pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....