



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 29th September 2016
Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

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

* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan
Caroline Toms of the Haslemere Herald was also in attendance.

87/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Dover.

88/16 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Hall declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in items 21 as a member of the Royal British Legion and Item 24 as a resident of Hazel Grove.

Cllrs King and Edwards also declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in items 21 as a member of the Royal British Legion.

Cllrs Abeysundara, Piper and Carter declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 25 as trustees of the Haslemere Penny Ha'Penny trust.

Cllrs Odell, Edwards and Bradley declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 29 as members of Haslewey.

Cllr King declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in Item 29 as member of the Orchard Club.

89/16 DISPENSATIONS

None requested or granted.

90/16 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None.

91/16 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

SCC Cllr Barton explained that SCC is facing a financial crisis with £86m of cuts to find. This is really affecting services examples being:

- Cut in Haslemere library hours
- Withdrawal of Youth Worker
- Cuts to bus services
- Withdrawal of Saturday dust cart

Cllr Barton cautioned that there is more to come and stated that by 2019 SCC would have a negative support grant. Although the precept was increased by 2% this cannot keep up with costs of an aging population.

She also reported that:

- the crossing at Weyhill had been well received.
- 4 large sections of roads including Lower St and Kings Road to be repaired due to potholes.
- Funding has been found for a crossing outside Shottermill Infant school after requests from the school and parents.
- Local Area committee budget has been cut however each task group has £150k (split between Cllrs Barton and Harmer) to spend – 70% must be for maintenance.
- Station travel plan is in progress, poor lighting and bad pavements have been identified. Cllr Barton is speaking with Skanska re upgrading lights in West St.
- Community Rail Partnership is still considering how Haslemere can benefit from the people travelling through the Station.

Cllr King asked about a reduction in gritting in Surrey should it snow. Cllr Barton said that she had argued for more roads to be gritted and would continue to do so.

Cllr Edwards questioned why Surrey had to reduce so many services when WBC had reduced its budget and still improved services. Cllr Barton replied that SCC has already cut £350m without impacting front line services. Cllr Edwards noted that the Haslemere youth worker had been withdrawn, Cllr Barton explained that this was after a needs assessment.

Cllr Piper asked for an update on Christmas Lights, in particular the stars in trees. Cllr Barton reported that a lighting column could be installed on Lion Green for around £4.5k.

Cllr Hall asked what other local services might be under threat in coming years. Cllr Barton stated that busses might be cut more and that Haslemere might lose its library service. In addition Highways projects are likely to be cut with the council maintaining only.

92/16 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the town Council meetings held 14th July and 17th August 2016 are a true record of that meeting.

The minutes were signed by the Mayor.

93/16 MATTERS ARISING

Cllr King asked for an update on 73/16 – feeder pillar. The Mayor stated that would be addressed later in the agenda.

In relation to 60/16 Cllr Edwards reported that the sports event at Woolmer Hill on August Bank Holiday was a successful given that it was the first attempt. It is likely to be repeated.

94/16 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor announced the following:

- Mayor and Town Clerk have been meeting regularly with the Chamber of Trade to discuss how we can work on issues affecting the town.
- Festival of Sport was well organised and well attended.
- Haslemere Sports awards – it was wonderful to see how much talent the local area has.
- Undershaw opening – amazing to see what has been done to inspire next generations of young people.
- Twinning – the Mayor has been pleased to meet with the recent visitors and to plant the tree they donated. The town could work on networking and exchange of ideas more.
- Mayor’s charity fund day – nearly £700 was raised, thanks to all who helped.
- He was honoured to attend the Museum AGM and learn of their Queen’s award for volunteers as well as the recent Sandford award. The museum’s collection of peasant art is being considered for designation as a national and international collection.
- He has been working with VIC to get a brown sign, signalling Haslemere as an historic market town, on the A3.
- Congratulations to Woolmer Hill school which has been listed among the top schools in the country on exam results.
- Congratulations to all in Waverley who made it the best place for girls to live in the UK.
- Cllr King is working on an emergency plan, to be circulated for comments once completed.
- Train station car park should emerge from the ground towards the end of next week.
- Weyhill in Bloom has 40 new planters and a lot of new planting will be taking place.
- The Mayor, Cllr Round and Town Clerk met with WBC to discuss sites in the town that need more attention – investigating whether HTC could become WBC’s contractor in that area.

95/16 COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN CLERK

- HTC and VIC had an interesting presentation on how Visit Surrey could help the town to promote itself – more to follow separately.
- Christmas lights plans are underway however HTC is not allowed to have its stars in trees attached to lighting columns – looking at other options.
- Cross road banners – WBC will only take action if a complaint is received.
- Issue with Waverley insisting that banners for events must apply for advertising consent has resulted in at least one community group not being able to use them. Clerk will ask for this to be on the next joint WBC, Town & Parish meeting Agenda.

96/16 YOUTH WORKER

Leigh Middleton (LM), Senior Commissioning Manager (Community Engagement and Business Development) and Practice Lead - West Surrey for Community Youth Work Service for Surrey County Council addressed Council.

LM firstly stated that Youth Work is not a statutory service, the County Council simply has to provide ‘suitable activities’. There are more young people in need than funding can provide service to across the county and in national terms, youth work is pretty rare. LM gave some background on how the money for youth work is allocated across Surrey and confirmed that other areas such as Farnham had been judged to be in

greater need than Haslemere and therefore Haslemere currently receives no direct funding.

Based on SCC experience of working in Haslemere they would recommend a provision around health and wellbeing with professionally trained staff. HTC would be responsible for staff salaries only, all other costs to be absorbed by HTC. A trial is suggested that can be reviewed and changed if necessary after 6 months. Cranleigh have the same agreement with SCC.

Cllr Carter asked what the greatest challenges to young people had been over the last 5 years. LM replied that exam stress, cyber bullying and low level special needs had all emerged as issues.

Cllr Blades asked how the effectiveness of the trial would be evaluated and was told that a success criteria would be implemented and agreed in the proposal. The young people can also feedback via apps.

Cllr Hall asked to what extent self-harming is an issue in Haslemere. LM did not have the latest local data however confirmed that self-harm across the county is increasing. Cllr Hall suggested that was at variance with information posted on SCC website and LM cautioned Cllr Hall that much of the anecdotal evidence from youth workers is not reported.

Cllr Carter reported that at the Crossways Counselling AGM they had reported the biggest rise in Haslemere to be in self-harm.

Cllr Odell asked what the relationship would be between the SCC workers and local youth workers. LM assured her that SCC's job was to ensure that they all work together in a joined up way.

Cllr Odell asked what notice period HTC would have to give to cease the service. LM stated that this was a 6 month trial and that they would manage young people's expectation in that respect. Going forward, a 3-6 month notice would serve the young people best but SCC will ensure that any transition is properly managed.

Cllr Edwards suggested that more evidence was needed before Council could make a decision. LM suggested that on average 10% of young people in any community needed youth work assistance.

Cllr Hall commented that it is odd that SCC withdrew the service and now wants HTC to provide it.

There was some discussion over the nature of the provision, some councillors thought that they were not aware of the sexual health element however the Mayor confirmed that this had been discussed at the previous Council meeting.

Cllr Arrick said that having been a school teacher for many years she felt that what was on offer was too important to turn down. It's not much money and is an important thing to take on.

Cllr Hall stated that the budget had not been voted through on the basis that funding was now being sought for. Cllr Odell stated that it was not much different to what was initially proposed.

Cllr Drake asked if Council was going to consider voting on the proposal, given that no statistics on need in Haslemere could be provided by SCC. LM stated that last year 122 young people accessed the Haslemere provision.

County Councillor Barton spoke in support of the youth worker proposal.

There was some discussion over the geographical area covered by the proposal – young people from all Town Council wards can use the service.

Cllr Carter read a letter from the Head Teacher of Woolmer Hill School confirming that there is a need for health and wellbeing services for young people in Haslemere and supporting the proposal.

Cllr Sherratt proposed that the vote be deferred until more information was available and Cllr Hall seconded the proposal. The proposal was voted on and not carried.

Cllr Carter proposed a 6 month trial as per the SCC proposal document. Cllr Piper seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED: That a six month trial of a youth worker in Haslemere is implemented as per the proposal from Surrey County Council previously circulated.

97/16 AUDIT MATTERS

The Council's external auditor BDO LLP has signed off the 2015-2016 audit with no qualifications or additional issues arising.

RESOLVED: That Council approves and accepts the Annual Return and Auditor's Certificate.

The Council's internal Auditor, Mark Mulberry, has sent his engagement letter for the next financial year.

RESOLVED: That Mulberry & CO are appointed as Haslemere Town Council's internal auditor for the financial year ending 31st March 2017 according to the terms of the letter dated 11th August 2016.

98/16 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 7 and 8 and any variances in the Council's accounts are approved.

99/16 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the committee meetings below and any recommendations therein are adopted:

- Planning & Highways: 21st Jul, 18th Aug, 15th Sept – Previously circulated
- Amenities Committee: 11th Aug – Previously circulated

Council also considered the minutes of the Grants meeting held 13th September which recommended, in relation to the grant application from Haslemere Hogs, which 'The Grant application for £1000 is approved and Council considers awarding a further £1000 from the Community Fund.'

Cllr Drake spoke in support of the recommendation. He stated that it would generate income for the Council and was a cheap and effective way of advertising HTC. Cllr Odell stated that £1000 was enough and HTC's contribution should be capped there. There was

some debate over where any profit would go to and whether £1000 would be better spent as seed money for the new Penny Ha’Penny Trust which currently has no funds.

The Mayor stated that not only would the hogs generate income but the creative impact would be widely felt in the community.

RESOLVED:

- i. The Grants minutes of 13th September including £1000 for Haslemere Hogs are approved.
- ii. An additional £1000 is made available from for the community fund for the direct purchase of more hogs.

100/16 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Blades reported that the Walkers are Welcome festival covered 3 days, 12 walks and attracted 100 people. The bat walk was particularly popular with people having to be turned away.

Cllr Piper reported that Haslewey had been in discussions with the Post Office about having a counter there and these were encouraging. Awaiting Waverley planning.

Cllr Hewett reported a successful visit from Horb and thanked the Mayor for opening the Council chamber for the visitors.

Cllr Round reported that the health group website might be operational by the end of the year. He stated that the group would need some financial assistance with printing but that they did not have a bank account that a grant could be paid to. Cllr Piper suggested that they might apply to the League of Friends for assistance.

101/16 WORKING PARTY UPDATES

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

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Hindhead WP | 15 th Aug | Appendix 6 |
| Hindhead WP | 5 th Sept | Appendix 7 |
| Community Engagement WP | 17 th Aug | Appendix 8 |
| Neighbourhood Plan WP | 6 th Sept | Appendix 9 |
| Neighbourhood Plan WP | 19 th Sept | Appendix 10 |

Council thanked Cllr Rogers and the rest of the Strategy working party for their work on the document.

RESOLVED: that the Strategy Working Party report and recommendations therein be adopted by Council, with one amendment – first paragraph of Item 5 ‘those in need’ to be replaced by ‘voluntary organisations’.

RESOLVED: That Council appoints Cllrs Carter and Hewett as National Trust link Councillors for Hindhead and Cllrs Round and King as National Trust link Cllrs for the Town.

102/16 REPORTS FROM TWIN-HATTED MEMBERS

None.

103/16 BUDGET ROUND 2017-2018

Council noted the items that had been put forward for the budget. Cllr Piper noted that all should be supported by a proposal.

Cllr Sherratt left the meeting.

104/16 BUDGET WORKING PARTY 2017-2018

RESOLVED: 2017-2018 Budget Working party consists of Mayor, Cllrs Bradley, Carter, Drake, Hall and Round, Piper, Odell, Sherratt, King Edwards and Town Clerk.

105/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Odell reported that the Neighbourhood Plan was moving forward and that quite a few meetings had been had. Land use comments have gone back to the steering group and were well received. Work on detailed wording and policies in underway. Council thanked Cllr Odell for her excellent chairmanship.

106/16 WAVERLEY LOCAL PLAN

The Mayor noted the content of an email from Dr Philippa Guest asking for Council to object the suggestion in the Local plan to remove the ASVI designation from the Holy Cross site. This was agreed. Councillors to pass any other comments back to Deputy Clerk for reporting to Waverley.

107/16 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Clerk reported that Remembrance Sunday this year falls on Sunday 13th November.

Wreath layers were confirmed as:

Hindhead – Cllr Newbury

Grayswood – Cllr Round

Town – Mayor

St Stephen's church, Shottermill – Cllr Blades

RESOLVED: That Haslemere Town Council makes a donation to the Royal British Legion of £200 for supplying 4 wreaths.

Cllr Edwards asked for more volunteers for poppy collecting.

108/16 CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 2016

The Mayor stated that last year's carol service had been well received. He acknowledged that rotating the service between town centre and Lion Green had been discussed but was concerned that he wouldn't get the volunteers he needed for town centre. Some councillors were concerned that the town centre would miss out if the carol service was not rotated. The Mayor stated that he had been speaking to the Council's Christmas lights contractor about a light switch on in town and mooted the possibility of two events.

RECOMMENDED: That Cllrs Abeyesundara, Odell and Drake form a small working party with delegated authority to make the decision.

109/16 PLAYGROUND TENDER

There was some discussion over the merits of going over budget in order to buy another piece of equipment for Lion Green. Cllr Hall encouraged fellow councillors to keep to the budget.

A vote to authorise the additional piece of equipment, paid for from Community Fund, was not carried.

Cllr Drake left the meeting.

110/16 HAZEL GROVE ROUNDABOUT SPONSORSHIP

Cllr Carter reported that he had three potential sponsors. He proposed that since St Edmunds were interested first they should have the roundabout nearest them and Amesbury and the Royal School be offered a share in the second.

RESOLVED: Cllr Carter to negotiate the deal.

111/16 HASLEMERE HALF HA'PENNY TRUST

Cllr Carter reported that in order for the application to be successfully processed Council must pass the following resolution:

RESOLVED: "Council accepts and acknowledges the Charity Commission requirement that the Haslemere Penny Ha'Penny Trust is independent of Haslemere Town Council in all ways."

112/16 BOUNDARY ROAD

The Mayor reported that the residents association has raised the money to repair the road up to the surgery. They are now fund raising for the road beyond. Council agreed that the further stretch was not something they should support. Cllr Hall noted that WBC had donated £5k towards the project.

113/16 COUNCIL CHAMBER DECORATION

There was some concern raised that stripping the paper might uncover other issues however others argued that the building should be properly maintained.

RESOLVED: That the following is spent from the Town property maintenance budget:
Chamber decoration costs

To rub down, undercoat and gloss all woodwork in the Council chamber - £1000

To strip existing wallpaper, make walls good, hang new wallpaper - £950

Cost of materials - £300

Paper to be chosen by a small working party – Cllrs Abeyesundara, Peel, Bradley Round and Town Clerk.

Total £2250

114/16 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.

115/16 HASLEWEY AND ORCHARD CLUB MEDIATION FUNDING

Cllr Carter explained that he had underwritten the cost as at the time negotiations were difficult and he wasn't in a position to report to Council. Cllr Hall offered £100 from his Waverley budget however it was resolved that:

RESOLVED: That Council meets the £500 cost of mediation between Haslewey and Orchard Club.

Meeting finished 9.44 pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....