



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 24th September 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 Deputy Town Clerk, Sarah Nash
Also present: SCC Cllr Nikki Barton, Town Clerk Lisa O'Sullivan and 4 members of the public.
Bea Philpotts from the Haslemere Herald was in attendance.

Before the meeting prayers were said by Revd Jonathan Carter of 3 Counties Church, Haslemere.

78/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Newbury.

79/15 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Item 16: Cllrs Edwards, Hall, Piper and Round declared non-pecuniary interests as Waverley councillors; they potentially have knowledge on the subject of parking that is not currently in the public domain.

Items 17 and 20: Cllr Odell declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Chairman of Haslemere Events.

Item 27: Cllr Dover declared a non-pecuniary interest; the business premises of one of the companies invited to tender, Light Angels, is next door to that of an organisation he is involved with.

During item 22 Cllr Hall declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Treasurer for the RBL and chose to withdraw from the meeting for this item.

80/15 DISPENSATIONS

None.

81/15 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mrs Maria Mateo submitted the following question in relation to item 16 of the agenda.
"Will Haslemere Town Councillors agree to:

- Give a large weight to the findings of the neighbourhood plan's 2014 transport consultation merited by the extent and thoroughness of the consultation process?

and

- Use sound statistical evidence before making decisions on a multi-storey car park for Haslemere?"

A number of councillors stated that when canvassing prior to the elections there had been overwhelming support from residents for increased parking at the train station.

Cllr Edwards stated that that the consultation document produced by Haslemere Vision did not ask a straightforward question regarding a multi-storey car park as it was felt this would be divisive.

Cllr Odell summarised that there is a general feeling of support from the community for a multi-storey car park however Haslemere Town Council would also be wise to consider other forms of transport to the station as well as this.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Mateo for her comments which are noted by Council.

Mr Miles Weston made a representation in relation to item 16 of the agenda. He requested that Council provides a reference list of the evidence used to support the statement "the case for the provision of such a [multi-storey] car park is overwhelmingly clear".

Cllr Piper also requested that Council is shown the evidence supporting Haslemere Vision's alternative view (as a result of the consultation).

RESOLVED: Cllr Round and the Town Clerk will put together the document as requested by Mr Weston. The Town Clerk will put in a request to Haslemere Vision for evidence supporting the alternative view.

82/15 REPRESENTATION BY EXTERNAL BODIES

None.

83/15 REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

SCC Councillor Barton circulated her blog prior to the meeting and provided an update on Boundary Road and the East Hants Community Rail Partnership.

- Boundary Road: Surrey County Council has declined to contribute to the Boundary Road improvement project as it is a private road and they are not willing to take on the responsibility for future maintenance.
- East Hants Community Rail Partnership: Cllr Barton is working with SW Trains and the VIC to add Haslemere to the scheme. This would result in a map being produced to be sited at all stations between Haslemere and Rowlands Castle with each station having a small marketing section outlining what the town has to offer.

84/15 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Ref 73/15: Cllr Hall asked for the minutes to be amended to clarify that 'entry tickets' was meant to encompass events where entry was paid for, regardless of a physical ticket being issued.

The Town Clerk explained that the minutes, being a true record of what was said, could not be amended but the clarification was noted at the bottom of the minutes.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Council meeting held 16th July 2015 are approved and signed.

85/15 MATTERS ARISING

None.

86/15 COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MAYOR

- Thank you to the following people for their involvement in the Queen's Longest Reign celebrations:
 - Cllr Abeyesundara for organising the multi-faith ceremony
 - Haslemere events for erecting the flags
 - The St Bartholomew's Bell ringers for their peal of bells
 - Businesses and shops for decorating their windows

- The Mayor has been contacted by members of the community to see if HTC would get involved with aid schemes for Syrian refugees. It was agreed that Cllr Carter would attend a meeting on Friday 25th September to gain some understanding of what is being done.

- SCC has withdrawn its funding for a youth worker in Haslemere, however the Wey Centre will remain open. The consensus was that although there are county-wide cuts, Haslemere seems to be losing out substantially with the complete removal of this service. Cllr Barton confirmed that the objectively assessed need carried out by SCC demonstrated that Godalming and Farnham had a greater need. It was suggested that without having permanent staff to manage the Wey Centre efficiently there is a fear that this facility will also be closed down at a later date.

- The Mayor has received a request from Hindhead RBL for a new arbitrator. The Town Clerk has replied to their request asking for more information on what the position entails which will be circulated to Council for consideration once received.

87/15 MAYOR / LEADER WORKING PARTY UPDATE

Cllr Hall introduced the item. Cllrs Hewett, Dover and Arrick questioned whether this review is needed as the current structure works well.

Cllr Arrick stated that the workload of the office staff should be considered as there is the potential for increased pressures when working with two leaders. Cllr Arrick also stated that the Mayor can call on other councillors for support at any time.

The general consensus was for this issue to be delayed until more information can be presented. Cllr Drake suggested a four-week delay however Cllr Piper advised Council not to make a hasty decision. The Mayor informed Council that there are no immediate time constraints as the earliest any change could be implemented would be May 2016.

It was agreed that a thorough operating model should be produced to see how the proposed re-structure would work and what the discernible benefits would be. This would need to show:

- How it would work
- What would it do
- What is the benefit

Included in this would be a time/cost benefit analysis along with a job specification and documentation showing areas of responsibility.

Cllr Abeyesundara also stated that as part of this process consideration should be given to what the Council is trying to achieve going forward.

RESOLVED:

- That the Mayor/Leader issue is revisited at either January or March 2016 Full Council.
- In the meantime the working party will reconvene to carry out a full analysis of the operating models for the following options:
 - Status quo with delegation to other councillors
 - Mayor & leader split role
- Cllr Piper to join the working party.
- To consider as part of this process any necessary changes to Council's Standing Orders.
- To include staff in the consultation process.
- All councillors will be included in open presentations on the issue.
- Trevor Leggo will be invited to advise the working party.
- Four Councils will be consulted, two adopting the Mayor structure and two adopting the Mayor / Leader structure, for their formal views.

In summary the working party consists of Cllrs Abeyesundara, Drake, Edwards, Hall, King, Newbury, Odell, Piper, Rodgers, Round, Sherratt and the Town Clerk.

88/15 HASLEMERE VISION

Cllr Sherratt's update was noted. It was also noted that the £15,000 figure for a sustainability appraisal is on the high side; it almost certainly will be considerably lower.

Cllr Sherratt advised that he would get an update from Stewart Brown on response rates to the current consultation and will circulate to Council once received.

Cllr Piper requested, via Cllr Sherratt, that Haslemere Vision submits to Haslemere Town Council its outturn budget for 2015/16 and its required financial assistance / forecast budget for 2016/17. It can then be considered as part of the budget discussions.

Cllr Drake stated that he felt the questions in Haslemere Vision's current consultation are rather obtuse and leading to an expected response.

Cllr Round echoed Cllr Drake's views and stated that the questionnaire is obscure and impenetrable.

89/15 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments totalling £30,949.83, and any variances in the Council's accounts are approved.

90/15 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2014-2015

Cllr Piper gave a vote of thanks to the officers for excellent financial accounting after receiving a glowing report from the external auditor

RESOLVED: Council acknowledges that it has received the report. No further action required.

91/15 BUDGET WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk and Cllrs Hall, Hewett, Odell, Piper and Round form the budget working party.

92/15 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Staffing committee meeting held 22nd July and recommendations therein be adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Planning & Highways committee meetings held 23rd July and 17th September and recommendations therein be adopted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Amenities committee meeting held 13th August and any recommendations therein be adopted.

93/15 COUNCIL POSITION UPDATE

Cllr Round introduced this item. He advised that the paper needs more detail, he is awaiting further information from Waverley Borough Council.

Cllr Piper asked whether Cllr Round will be speaking with Cllr Barton to establish whether there are any imminent SCC parking proposals that need to be considered, this was confirmed.

Cllr Abeyesundara advised that the charged parking times in the Waverley car parks impact on the first 30 minutes of performances at Haslemere Hall. Cllr Round confirmed that Waverley Borough Council is looking at parking charges as part of its budget considerations.

The Mayor summarised that these position papers are 'living' documents, they will be updated as and when changes are agreed at Council meetings.

RESOLVED: The 'positions' will be a standing item on future agendas to enable them to be updated as necessary.

Cllr Carter asked whether the Fairground car park is being policed by Waverley as there are a vast amount of commuters parking in the trader area. Cllr Edwards confirmed that there are issues with the infrastructure and major construction work needs to take place before the barriers/spikes are working.

RESOLVED: Waverley councillors to investigate this issue and report back to November Council.

RESOLVED: The parking position paper is agreed.

RESOLVED: The Youth and Sports Clubs paper is to be presented to November Council. Cllrs Odell, Peel and Sherratt will produce the report.

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.

95/15 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKING PARTY

Cllr Hall introduced this item; there is still a lot of work to do.

RESOLVED: The Community Engagement working party to meet to produce a paper and report to Council at a later date. For information the Town Clerk and Cllrs Abeyundara (Chairman), Drake, Hall, Peel, Piper, Newbury and Round form the working party.

96/15 REMOVAL OF WEY HILL SATURDAY DUSTCART

The Mayor informed Council that 1601 signatures had been obtained for the petition and approximately 600 cars a day were visiting the service. The Town Clerk has sent these figures to Cllr Goodman at SCC together with the comments made by those signing the petition. The draft proposal has also been sent to him. We are currently awaiting information on costings of HTC's proposal from the SCC officer concerned. Cllr Barton confirmed that she would call the SCC officer to speed up the information.

Cllr Hall asked when Cllr Barton first knew of this closure and Cllr Edwards asked when the decision went through the SCC committee system. Cllr Barton did not know the exact dates.

Cllr Piper suggested that Waverley could be contacted to see how much they are charged to lease the green waste lorry from SCC. It was agreed that Cllr Piper will try to establish this information.

It was agreed to have a presence on the planned final day of the service before its closure. A leaflet will be handed out by councillors on the day which will explain the background to the closure and HTC's proposal.

97/15 HASLEMERE CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Cllr Abeyundara introduced the item and explained the paper previously circulated with the agenda.

There was some concern over having it outside the Apple Tree; it was questioned whether there was enough space.

The question of electrification of Lion Green was raised. Cllr Round informed Council that this will be given consideration by the Amenities Committee.

Cllr Abeyesundara suggested that Council underwrites the cost of putting on the carol service as presented in the paper, with the intention that as much expenditure as possible is recouped.

The Mayor stated that an officer must be involved and that the work should be absolutely minimal for the staff as we are leading into a busy part of the year.

Cllr Piper questioned how much funds remain in the community fund; the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that there are sufficient funds available.

Cllr Round questioned what the alternative would be to Haslemere Town Council organising the carol service. It was confirmed that Haslemere Events had already stated that they would be prepared to take on the event.

RESOLVED: Council underwrites £4000 to put on a carol service on Lion Green. The details of how it will be arranged and where on Lion Green it will be located is delegated to the Community Engagement Working Party chairman (Cllr Abeyesundara), Cllr Odell and the Town Clerk.

98/15 HINDHEAD WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED: Cllrs Arrick, Carter, Dover, Edwards, Hewett, Newbury and Odell to form the Hindhead working party, to be clerked by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Cllr Drake left the meeting

99/15 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WREATHS

RESOLVED: Council to donate £200 to the Royal British Legion for supplying four wreaths for Remembrance Sunday.

- Hindhead Cllr Carter
- Shottermill Cllr Bradley
- Grayswood Cllr Peel

100/15 REPAIRS TO BOUNDARY ROAD, GRAYSHOTT

RESOLVED: Council to donate £1000 from the Community Fund for this project.

101/15 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

- Hospital League of Friends: The new outpatients department is currently in the pricing stage, it is hoped that plans will go to Waverley in December/January.
- Haslewey: A masked ball is being held on 24th October, tickets are now on sale.
- Orchard Club: Council noted the report circulated by Cllr Blades. The Orchard Club managers have extended an open invitation to councillors to visit Haslewey to see what the Orchard Club does. They are happy to offer a breakfast meeting to those who work.
- Sure Start: The manager has been off sick for some time but is due to return soon. Cllr Edwards is attending a meeting on 30th September and will report back to November Council.
- Haslemere Hall: Richard Oldham is retiring, his last day will be 31st December. It was suggested that he should be recommended for a Volunteer Award.

The Mayor addressed Council requesting that any councillor who is linked to an external body must attend meetings; if they are unable to they must find a substitute councillor to attend in their place.

102/15 REPORTS FROM TWIN-HATTED MEMBERS

None.

78/15 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.

78/15 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TENDER

RESOLVED: That Light Angels is awarded the Christmas Lights tender for Christmas 2015 to Christmas 2017 inclusive. The working party is given delegated authority to work with the chosen supplier to amend the specification to ensure the cost comes in below the Council's stated budget of £20,000.

Meeting finished 10.20pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....