Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on

Thursday 20th January 2022 - Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Mayor** | \*Cllr S Dear |
| **Deputy Mayor** | \*Cllr J Keen |
| **Councillors** | \*Arrick, \*Barton, \*Cole, \*Davidson, \*Dullaway, \*Ellis, Hewett, Isherwood, \*Lloyd, \*Matthes, \*Nicholson \*Odell, \*Robini, \*Round, \*Weldon, \*Whitby |

\* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O’Sullivan. PAO Martin Wellen was also present. No members of the public were present. Tom White from the Haslemere Herald was in attendance.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED**: Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Isherwood (unwell) and Hewett (family commitment). Cllr Arrick had notified the Clerk that she might be late and arrived during Item 15.

1. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Robini declared an interest as a Member of Rotary who are running supporting the ‘Talk to Me’ project (Item 18).

Cllr Odell declared a Non Pecuniary Interest as Chair of Haslemere Educational Museum, and Chair of Haslemere Events, both of which have budget items (Item 11).

1. **DISPENSATIONS**

The Clerk advised that under the Local Government Act councillors do not require a dispensation in the making of the budget.

1. **UPDATE TO CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Town Clerk gave background to the new code. It is good practice to keep in line with Waverley and the new Code includes recommendations from the Committee on Standards in Public life. She explained that Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) remained the same Members would need to get used to the new terminology of Other Registerable Interests (ORIs) and Non Registerable Interests (NRIs). All Members were provided with a flow chart to assist in making decisions regarding their interests. Full Guidance had previously been provided.

**RESOLVED**: That the LGA model Code of Conduct at Appendix 1 to the Agenda is adopted by Haslemere Town Council, with the paragraph which references members of the Executive removed.

1. **QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC**

None.

1. **REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES**

None

1. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED**: That the minutes of the meeting held 18th November 2021 and any recommendations therein be adopted. The minutes were signed by the Mayor as a true record.

1. **MAYORS UPDATE**

The Mayor’s Update had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting and was noted. Cllr Robini read a statement from Zac Ellwood regarding WBC’s 5 year land housing supply - the latest published position is that their supply of deliverable sites is 5.2 years

1. **CLERKS UPDATE**

The Clerk’s Report had been distributed to the Council prior to the meeting and was noted.

1. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**RESOLVED**: That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 8 & 9 and any variances in the Council’s accounts are approved.

1. **BUDGET 2022-23**

Cllr Dullaway gave an overview of the main points of the budget – Councillors had previously received a detailed budget report. Cllr Dullaway confirmed that, with use of released reserves, general reserve and PWLB the increase in precept came to pennies. Council agreed that it was good not to raise the precept at a time when the economic effects of the pandemic are still being felt by many residents.

**RESOLVED:** That the budget at Appendix 4 to the Agenda, showing a precept figure of £370,937, is adopted.

1. **RISK ASSESSMENT**

**RESOLVED**: That the Risk Assessment at Appendix 6 to the Agenda is approved.

1. **ASSET REGISTER**

**RESOLVED**: That the Asset Register at Appendix 7 to the Agenda is approved.

1. **MEETINGS CALENDAR**

**RESOLVED**: That the Meetings Calendar at Appendix 8 to the Agenda is agreed.

1. **INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS – PUBLIC TOILETS**

Cllr Lloyd reminded the Council that this project was budgeted for in the last budget, the initiative arose out of the Climate Emergency the Council declared in 2019. The Town Hall uses no fossil fuels and is on renewable tariffs but we can’t control where the Christmas Lights electricity comes from so the hope is that the electricity generated by the solar panels will cover that. The idea was not financial return, more about offsetting the lights and setting an example to the community. When asked if we could do something with any surplus generated, Cllr Lloyd confirmed that we could sign up to the Smart Energy Guarantee.

Cllr Arrick arrived at the meeting.

The Mayor raised the issue of potential glare in the Town, Cllr Lloyd agreed to address this before installation.

**RESOLVED**: That the Clerk is authorised to proceed with the installation of Solar panels by GGRS so long as it does not exceed the amount budgeted.

1. **MINUTES OF COM****MITTEE MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** The minutes of those meetings and any recommendations therein, not already made under delegated authority, be adopted:

* Planning 2nd December/6th January
* Staffing 3rd December
* Amenities 9th December
* Grants 10th January
* Infrastructure and CIL 6th January

1. **AONB B****OUNDARY REVIEW**

The Mayor asked for volunteers to form the working party. Cllr Dullaway noted that the deadline for responses is 31st January.

**RESOLVED:** That a working party consisting of Cllrs Dullaway, Matthes, Lloyd, Ellis, Round and Whitby be set up to formulate a response to the consultation. The Town Clerk is delegated to submit Council’s response after meeting with working party.

1. **HASLEWEY GRANT – CHANGE OF USE**

Whilst the Council broadly supported the £1000 being used for the ‘Talk to Me’ project it was felt that not enough information had been given about exactly what the money was going to be spent on.

**RESOLVED**: That the Mayor, Chair of Grants and Town Clerk are delegated to make an award up to £1000 once clarification on how the money is going to be spent is received.

1. **HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT GRANT**

The Mayor noted the hard work that Office Administrator, Jo Cork, and the Town Clerk had put into helping local residents from this fund.

**RESOLVED:** That the Household Support Grant continues to be administered by the Town Clerk in accordance with any WBC guidelines for its use. The Clerk may apply for more funds if the initial allocation is spent before the deadline of 31st March 2022, or if the deadline is extended.

Meeting ended 7.40pm

After the meeting Cllr Keen reported to those assembled that Kerry Morgan-Jeffs was retiring shortly from her position at Haslewey, after doing a significant amount of good work. The Mayor echoed Cllr Keen’s thanks.

Signed……………………………………..

Chairman of Meeting

Date………………………………………..