



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on
Thursday 19th January 2023. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street,
Haslemere, GU27 2HG

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

* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork. 2 members of the public were also in attendance.

1/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Councillors, Lloyd (work commitment), Robini (unwell) and Whitby (Holiday), Ellis (unwell) have given their apologies and those apologies are accepted.

2/23 METHOD OF TRANSPORT TO MEETING

Changes to usual method - Peter Nicholson walked to the meeting.

3/23 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Keen declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding agenda item 11 - A Place to Be Youth Club Budget 2022-23, she is a trustee of A Place to Be Youth Club.

Cllr Odell declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding agenda item 11 – as Chairman of Haslemere Educational Museum.

Cllr Round declared a non-pecuniary interest as Cllr Odell's spouse.

4/23 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr Jim Edwards addressed the Council and asked them to consider giving a grant to Haslemere Youth Hub, The Youth Hub provides essential support not just for youths but for many groups within the community including ethnic groups, LGBT community and CAHMS support.

Mr Edwards also requested that the Council's funding for Wey Hill in Bloom, a community group that is run by volunteers, be increased due to the cost of purchasing plants.

Mr Malcolm Carter addressed the Council and asked them to support the adoption of the Beacon Hill Phone Box (item 15 on the agenda) and to allow a local group of volunteers to lead and maintain the project.

5/23 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

None

6/23 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held 17th November 2022 are approved as a true record.

7/23 MAYORS UPDATE

The Mayor gave an update on her activities over their last quarter, highlights include The Rotary Charity Fair, The Hunter Centre, Harmonix Choir, Frame Football and the Town Christmas Carols. She also thanked Cllr Odell and her team for their hard work in putting on such a successful Haslemere Christmas Fair.

The Mayor also formally thanked Brian Howard for all his charity work over the years. Mr Howard has announced that he will no longer be running the very successful Haslemere Hens project. Cllr Arrick asked if a formal thank you could be sent to him on behalf of the Council.

8/23 CLERKS UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Town Clerk was noted.

9/23 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 8 and 9 and any variances in the Council's accounts, including reported overspends and variances in the Council's accounts are approved.

10/23 REPORT FROM INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED:

That the Internal Auditors report is noted. The Finance and Governance committee is instructed to develop an investment strategy to be in place before the end of the Council term.

11/23 BUDGET 2022-23

Cllr Dullaway gave background on how the working party came to a recommendation regarding budget setting. He stated that this year setting a budget has been a particularly difficult process given the high levels of inflation and the Council's desire not to add to the burden on residents if possible. The working party was broadly in agreement with the draft budget.

Cllr Dear questioned why the Haslemere Youth Hub has not been granted funding for 2022/2023. Cllr Dullaway referred Cllr Dear to the guidelines that the working party had adhered to, the Youth Hub had not received a revenue grant last year and it was questioned whether it met the criteria of wide community benefit.

Prior to leaving the room Cllr Odell stated that as the Charter Fair had done very well this year, the £2500 put into the budget for this year could be used elsewhere if needed. Cllr Keen reminded the Council that the budget working party had worked very hard to put together this budget in accordance with the guidance it had received from Council and that any additions could mean an increase above 10%.

Cllr Odell and Cllr Keen left the room at 19:20, Cllr Round left shortly afterwards.

There was some discussion and Council was in agreement that some funding should be provided for the Haslemere Youth Hub. Cllr Dullaway explained that if £5K was added to the budget then the precept would go over the 10% increase Council had stipulated.

Several ideas were mooted, and 2 proposals were put forward:

Cllr Barton initially suggested the allocation of funding be changed to allow the Youth Hub to receive £5k: £2500 from Charter Fair and £2500 from Visit Haslemere

Cllr Dullaway made a counter proposal that the Council awards £4k to the Haslemere Hub, taking £2500 from the Charter Fair, £1000 from the Mayors allowance and £500 added to the precept. This was seconded by Cllr Dear.

Councillor Barton amended her initial proposal to suggest that the Youth Hub was awarded £5000 funded by £2500 from Charter fair, £1500 from visit Haslemere and £1000 from the Mayors allowance. This was seconded by Cllr Waters.

RESOLVED:

That the draft budget presented to Council is approved with the following changes:

The Haslemere Youth Hub is awarded £4000, taking £2500 from the Charter Fair, £1000 from the Mayors allowance and adding £500 to the precept. This results in a precept of £410,115.

Cllrs Keen, Odell and Round joined the meeting.

Cllr Weldon mentioned that the Town Crier mentioned during his 'Town Crier talk' that traditionally the Town gives the Town Crier a bottle of port and some Stilton cheese, this would be a nice tradition to uphold and should be given to the Town Crier at March full Council.

It was agreed that the Town Council gives the Town Crier a bottle of port and some Stilton cheese at March's full Council meeting.

12/23 RISK ASSESSMENT

RESOLVED: That the Risk Assessment at Appendix 8 is approved.

13/23 ASSET REGISTER

RESOLVED: That the Asset Register at Appendix 9 is approved.

14/23 TOWN HALL ROOF/TOWN MEADOW DRAINAGE

RESOLVED:

I. That the Town Meadow drainage project is cancelled and the remaining budget (approx. £8.5k) put towards repairs to the Town Hall bell tower.

II. That Paul McBride building contractors are awarded the work (£15k) with £8.5k from Town Meadow project and the remainder from the unspent Project Reserve in the current year's budget (£7.5k).

15/23 PHONE BOX ADOPTION

Cllr Arrick has asked the Council to adopt the phone box at Woodcock Green, Beacon Hill. The phone box is located in a prominent position in the village and the community would like to make use of it. It is intended that a local committee is formed to come up with a plan for the refurbishment and ongoing maintenance of the box.

Cllr Matthes spoke about her involvement in the adoption of the phone box in Lion Lane and said it has been a success, a small grant was given by HTC for initial set up.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council will adopt the phone box at Woodcock Green with the proviso that a local Beacon Hill committee will be established to undertake regular maintenance and ensure appropriate community usage for either book exchange or something similar.

16/23 MEETINGS CALENDAR 2023-24

RESOLVED: That the Meetings Calendar at Appendix 13 is agreed.

17/23 STAFFING COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Staffing Committee Terms of Reference have been amended to reflect the Clerk's delegation schedule.

RESOLVED: That the Staffing Committee Terms of Reference at Appendix 14 are adopted.

18/23 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the following meetings and any recommendations therein, not already made under delegated authority, be adopted:

- Planning 8th December 2022, 5th January 2023.
- Grants – No meeting was held but £495 was awarded to Love Haslemere Hate Waste under delegated powers.
- Amenities 1st December
- CBEC 13th December

19/23 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Barton and Cllr Matthes wanted to highlight 'The Great Green Together' event which will bring together a number community groups to share their expertise with others and to raise awareness of the many opportunities for residents to get involved in a more sustainable, greener future for their community within the Town. The event takes place at HasleWorks on the 18th March from 10am – 4pm. All are invited to attend.

Cllr Round thanked Cllr Matthes for her hard work on The River Wey Trust.

Meeting finished 8:20pm

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....