



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 16th November 2023.
The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2HG

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| Mayor | *Cllr Davidson |
| Deputy Mayor | *Cllr Matthes |
| Councillors | Arrick, *Aslam, *Austin, Banfield, *Bayliss, *Bridge, Carroll, *Carter, *Keen, *Leach, *Miller, *Nicholson, *Robini, *Waters, Weatherburn, *Weldon |

* present

The meeting was clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork.

85/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllr Arrick, Cllr Banfield, and Cllr Carroll. Cllr Weatherburn was absent but did not give apologies.

86/23 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

87/23 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 21st September are approved.

88/23 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No representations received.

89/23 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Mayor was noted. The Mayor asked for volunteers to help with the HTC/Mayor's Charities Christmas stall, Cllrs Robini, Matthes, Miller, Aslam, Carter, Keen all volunteered, a rota will be drawn up for the day.

90/23 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Town Clerk was noted, the following comments were made:

20MPH Request

Cllr Waters highlighted Surrey County Council's disappointing response to the request for 20MPH in residential and retail areas in Haslemere, SCC have stated that any decisions will not be made until a later date and once a policy on this has been written.

Banking Hub

The Council would like to know when the Banking Hub in Haslemere High Street will open, The Town Clerk to enquire when the official opening date is and report back to Council.

Farnborough Airport Expansion

Now that a formal planning application has been submitted, Cllr Carter and the Town Clerk are to review the Council's initial objection before sending to Rushmoor BC.

91/23 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 6 & 7 are approved. Summary Income and Expenditure are noted.

92/23 CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT 2022-2023

RESOLVED: That sections 1-3 of the Annual Return are noted no further action is to be taken in relation to 2022-23 external audit of accounts.

93/23 INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT 2023-24

RESOLVED: That the Interim internal audit is noted. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Governance is delegated to make a decision regarding any increase in fidelity cover before the Council's insurance is renewed in April 2024.

94/23 2024-25 BUDGET

Cllr Waters, gave a report as Chair of the Budget working party, detailing the discussions which lead to the draft budget, as previously circulated to councillors, being finalised.

Councillors were mindful of wanting to continue to provide services to local residents and support local groups whilst keeping any increase broadly in line with inflation.

Council's reserves had been used in previous years and were now at a level where they could not be further depleted in order to keep the precept down.

Some councillors had been concerned about increasing the financial burden on residents but Haslemere town council's precept is far lower per Band D property than the national average and that of many nearby councils. The proposed increase would equate to around £3.60 per household.

Overall, the Council were in agreement with the Working Party's recommendations and target to keep precept to the level of inflation at 6-7%.

RESOLVED

- i. The Budget working party will then produce a final budget and report to be brought to January council for adoption.
- ii. That the proposed drainage work to Town Meadow will be paid for from CiL, the Amenities committee is delegated to make the decision to approve a contractor once all quotes have been received.

95/23 SCOTLAND PARK ALLOTMENTS

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the developer's offer for 25 allotment plots at the Scotland Park development site.

It was noted that permission had already been given for the allotments / community orchard, separately to the Phase II application, so one was not dependant on the other. However it was also noted that there was no rush to make a decision on this, and that by agreeing to take on the allotments could be misconstrued as support for the whole development which is awaiting to be considered on appeal.

Cllr Nicholson proposed that council postpones making a decision to after the Government Inspector's report has been issued in response to the appeal.

Cllr Matthes seconded this.

RESOLVED: A decision on the allotment plots offer is to be made at the first Full Council meeting after the Government Inspector's report is published.

96/23 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

The CIL finance schedule as of 15th September 2023 was noted.

97/23 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meetings, where committees hold delegated decision-making powers, are noted.

Cllr Keen left the meeting at 8.15pm

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meetings, where committees hold no delegated decision-making powers, are noted.

98/23 LONE WORKER POLICY

RESOLVED That the Lone Worker Policy at Appendix 17 to the agenda is adopted. Town Clerk to ensure that adequate provision is given to officers contacting the office after meetings.

meeting finished at 20:35

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting
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Date.....18-1-2024.....