



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 18th January 2024.
The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2HG

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.

1/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllr Matthes (Away), Cllr Aslam (Ill) and Cllr Austen (study commitments).

2/24 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

3/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No representations received.

4/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

No representations received.

5/24 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 16th November 2023 are approved and any recommendations therein be adopted.

6/24 MAYOR’S UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Mayor was noted.

The Mayor took the opportunity to raise the issue of Waverley Borough Council not notifying objectors about the opportunity to attend a public session at the Redcourt appeal. Councillors were unanimous in their frustration that this could happen, especially with such a controversial application.

The Town Clerk was instructed to write to WBC to express HTC’s anger and disappointment in this matter, and to request that the meeting be re-scheduled face to face, not via zoom and demand an apology be given.

7/24 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

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

Sandrock Handrails – Cllr Weldon stated that a complaint has been made by residents regarding the placement and appearance of these handrails (within a conservation area). WBC are reviewing.

8/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 8 & 9 are approved.

9/24 BUDGET 2024-2025

Cllr Waters stated that the budget and accompanying report was originally presented at November Council, with no changes being requested. The final draft budget for 2024-2025 shows a total budget of £489,035 with a precept of £438,540. This would represent an overall increase of 6.93% which in real terms means an increase per Band D property of £3.60 per annum.

RESOLVED: That the 2024-25 budget at Appendix 5, with a precept figure of £438,540 is adopted.

10/24 RISK ASSESMENT 2024

RESOLVED: That the 2024 Risk Assessment at Appendix 7 to the Agenda is approved.

11/24 ASSET REGISTER 2024

RESOLVED: That the Asset Register at Appendix 8 to the Agenda is approved.

12/24 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings at Appendices 9 & 10 where committees hold delegated decision-making powers, are noted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings at Appendices 11 & 12 where committees hold no delegated decision-making powers, are agreed.

13/24 Beacon Hill WORKING PARTY

In November 2024 the Beacon Hill working party was set up by Full Council to consider alternative locations for a Beacon Hill Community Hub after the Manorhead site was deemed too expensive to continue with. Cllr Arrick gave an overview of the work the working party has been doing, mainly discussing two interrelated topics.

1. Provision of a 'community hub' in Beacon Hill area
2. Provision of additional space for the Grayshott doctor's surgery which most Beacon Hill and Hindhead residents use and is in need of expansion.

There have been a number of productive meetings regarding community buildings, and it has transpired that the properties at the south corner of Beacon Hill Parade are currently up for sale. The working party considers these buildings to have excellent potential, both as a community hub, extension to Grayshott surgery and to encompass some social housing in the way of flats above. These considerations are at a very early stage and further exploration of this project is needed. Cllrs Spence and Davidson will approach WBC to see if any interest. They have already approached the estate agent to notify them of the council's interest.

Cllr Nicholson stated that CIL funding could be used for these sites.

Cllr Waters urged Councillors to support recommendation as this is a key site in Beacon Hill which would benefit from revitalisation.

RESOLVED: The report from the Beacon Hill working party at Appendix 13 and recommendations therein are approved.

14/24 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED: That the Finance and Governance committee terms of reference at Appendix 14 to the agenda is adopted.

15/24 REVENUE GRANTS REVIEW

The Finance and Governance committee has been undertaking a review of the Revenue Grants process, as instructed by Council; Cllr Waters gave an overview of how it is intended that the council will manage the revenue grants going forward.

RESOLVED: That the Revenue Grants process and form attached are adopted, subject to review by the council's solicitor. The Chair of F&G and Clerk are authorised to make minor amendments based on the legal advice obtained.

16/24 MEETINGS CALENDER 2024-2025

RESOLVED: The Meetings Calendar at Appendix 17 to the agenda is agreed. Councillors are asked to put these dates into their diaries ASAP.

Cllr Bridge asked if any decisions were made following a conversation at the planning meeting about moving the start time to 7.30pm to allow for commuter's attendance. Cllr Weldon stated that as a compromise important agenda item be moved down the agenda to allow for any late arrivals.

17/24 COUNCILLOR EXPENSES POLICY

After discussions at September Full Council regarding the adoption of councillor allowances, the Clerk has drafted an expenses policy with the intention of clarifying to councillors what they are able to claim. The new claim form will be available on the Members' area of the website.

RESOLVED: The Councillor Expenses policy at Appendix 18 to the Agenda is adopted.

18/24 IT TENDER

RESOLVED: The Finance and Governance committee undertakes an IT support tender, in accordance with the Council’s adopted process, and is authorised to award the IT support contract for the next 4 years.

19/24 LION GREEN SWING REMEDIAL WORK

RESOLVED: That the recommendation in the report at Appendix 19 to the Agenda is adopted and the lowest quote from Playsafe Playgrounds (£1201) is accepted. The work will be paid from CiL.

20/24 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

Council noted the update at Appendix 20 to the agenda.

21/24 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Arrick confirmed that the Charter Fair is being held on 5th 6th May 2024.

The report from Cllr Miller regarding Haslemere Hall and Hunter Centre was noted.

meeting finished at 20:10

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of Meeting