



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
01428 654305 / town.clerk@haslemeretc.org

Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 14th March 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.

22/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllr Austin (Study) and Cllr Bridge (Work), Cllr Aslam will be arriving late.

23/24 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

24/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No representations received.

25/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

No representations received.

26/24 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 18th January 2024 are approved and any recommendations therein be adopted.

27/24 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Mayor was noted. The Mayor advised the Council the Car Boot date has changed to the 28th April.

28/24 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Town Clerk was noted.

29/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Town Clerk commented that reserves should be back to a healthy level at year end. She also reported that Waverley Borough Council had submitted an invoice for last year's election costs which is £8k higher than their initial estimate. The Town Clerk will ask WBC for clarification for this.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 10 & 11 and any variances in the Council's accounts and any reported overspends and virements are approved.
- ii. That the recommendations in the report at Appendix 5 to the agenda are approved and the town clerk is authorised to make any other necessary adjustments at year end.

30/24 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings at Appendices 6,7,8 and 9 where committees hold delegated decision-making powers, are noted.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings at Appendices 10 & 11 where committees hold no delegated decision-making powers, are agreed.

31/24 REVENUE GRANTS 2024-2025

Cllr Waters gave an overview of the new process for the consideration of revenue grant applications and confirmed that all 4 of the applications under consideration had met the criteria for an award.

There was a slight decrease to the amount that Crossways counselling had asked for but Cllr Waters confirmed that this would not prevent from training a new staff member.

A discussion took place regarding the Haslemere Biodiversity grant, the working party felt that alternative Council funding such as CIL funding could be used to make up the shortfall between the total amount requested (£10k) and the proposed award (£5k).

RESOLVED: That the following revenue grant awards, totalling £17,500, are made for the financial year 2024-25:

Crossways Counselling - £4500

Haslemere Food Bank - £7500

Haslemere Biodiversity Group - £5000

Sport Haslemere – £500

19:20: Cllr Aslam joined the meeting.

32/24 LION GREEN TOILET CLEANING COMPANY

RESOLVED: Clean King is awarded the contract for the cleaning of the Lion Green public toilets for four years at £14,884.71 per year, from the date of opening (or as soon as possible after that date).

33/24 SURREY HILLS SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TENDER

RESOLVED: That council does not renew the membership of Surrey Hills Society in order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest in planning and other matters. The Council instructed the Town Clerk to write to the Surrey Hills Society to explain the reason for not renewing is conflict of interest, and not because we do not support their objectives.

34/24 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

Council noted the update at Appendix 16 to the agenda.

35/24 SAFE VISION ZERO CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Council noted the consultation question responses as drafted by Cllrs Bayliss, Miller & Robini. The deadline for submission is 24 March 2024.

RESOLVED: The Deputy Town Clerk is asked to submit the responses as appended to the Agenda (Appendix 17).

36/24 LION GREEN TOILETS – LANDSCAPING WORKING PARTY

Cllr Keen gave an update of the Landscaping Working party considerations. It was agreed that no shrub planting would take this place this year, the rationale being that the area needs to 'bed-in', and the site needs to be observed to see what planting would be best suited to the area. It was agreed however that the grass area around the toilets should be made good in the way of turfing.

It was also discussed how to make the unit more aesthetically pleasing, the Working Party will reconvene in the summer to assess this further.

Cllr Leach suggested that the local schools get involved in improving the look of the unit by installing artwork/graffiti, Cllr Leach to investigate this further and report back to Council.

RESOLVED:

- i. Quotes for both turfing the area around the toilet block and paving the back are obtained. Both to be taken to Amenities Committee in April for a decision on which to implement first. The Clerk will put aside budget for the projects in an EMR at year end.
- ii. The working party reconvenes in late Summer to consider a further recommendation for planting and budget items for larger works.

37/24 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The council's contract with its Christmas Lights supplier ended in December 2023. Council has the option to 1) extend the current contract at a reduced price or 2) run a tender process to start a new scheme from 2024. The current scheme is still very much fit for purpose, and a re-tender will likely result in increased costs for the council. In addition to this, there is less impact to the environment by reusing, rather than replacing, the current scheme. The cost of the scheme over the last four years was £24,269 per year.

Cllr Carter highlighted a concern that he has that the Beacon Hill Light Brigade might not have enough volunteers going forward. It was suggested that Light Angels should be asked what they could provide for the current budget of £3k.

RESOLVED: That the current contract with Light Angels is renewed at a slightly reduced cost of £22,200 per year for 2024-26 inclusive, with an allowance made for additional testing and remedial costs for the wrapped trees.

The Town Clerk is instructed to obtain a quote from Light Angels to cover the Beacon Hill area.

38/24 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Haslemere Museum – Cllr Robini will e-mail Council with forthcoming events.

Haslewey – Cllr Keen commented that business has picked up at the centre, and footfall at the centre has increased.

Transition Haslemere – Cllr Matthes confirmed that a talk by John Tyndall is scheduled for the 21st of March at Haslemere Hall.

Love Haslemere, Hate Waste – Cllr Leach confirmed that the monthly Repair Café takes place at The Swan Inn, they currently have a team of 10 repairers. Also, a ‘Library of Things’ operates from The Haslemere Library.

Cllr Arrick reported that the Charter Fair will take place on the 6th May, road closures will be in place in the Town.

A Hindhead leaf Sweep will take place on the 6th April should any Councillors wish to join.

Meeting finished at 20:00

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of Meeting