



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 21st September 2023.
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 Burns.

62/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllr Arrick, Cllr Banfield, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Weatherburn

63/23 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Matthes declared a disclosable pecuniary interest relating to item 10. Her husband is one of the consultant ecologists for the Haslemere Biodiversity Project.

Cllr Robini declared a non-pecuniary interest relating item 10. He is on the committee for Crossways Counselling.

Cllr Keen declared a non-pecuniary interest in Appendix 6. She has been requested to resign from A Place to Be but hasn't done so as yet.

64/23 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 20th July are approved but with the amendment that Cllr Austin is shown as present.

65/23 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

No representations received.

66/23 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Mayor was noted.

67/23 TOWN CLERKS UPDATE

The previously circulated update from the Town Clerk was noted with questions asked relating to the Banking Hub and Lion Green toilets. No further news regarding the banking is currently available and a weekly update will be provided to Councillors and the public via social media.

68/23 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 4 and 5 and any variances in the Council's accounts, including reported overspends and variances in the Council's accounts are approved. Summary Income and Expenditure is noted. Cllrs requested clarity on when the final concentration of funds will be removed from Unity Trust Bank. The Town Clerk confirmed that all applications had been made and are in the process of being completed.

69/23 2024-25 BUDGET WORKING PARTY

RESOLVED: That a Budget working party consisting of Cllr Waters, Cllr Davidson, Cllr Banfield, Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Keen and the Town Clerk is formed to put together the draft budget for consideration at November council and sign off at January council.

70/23 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN BUDGET 2024-25

RESOLVED: All items relating to Appendix 5 will be added to the draft budget.

71/23 REVENUE GRANTS 2024-25

Revenue Grants so far received have totalled £57,000, deemed too large a figure to be able to approve.

RESOLVED: all grant applications are noted only rather than agreed but are put into the draft budget for consideration. The process for submission and approval of Revenue Grants be considered by the Finance & Governance Committee for the next Budget year.

72/23 COUNCIL STRATEGY 2023-27

Cllr Robini gave an overview detailing the process by which the Strategy was produced. This is an organic document and will be reviewed/updated by Council as the term progresses.

RESOLVED: That the Strategy document at Appendix 7 is approved with the following amendment to Section 8: The Council will seek to support initiatives to encourage the maintenance and revitalisation of Beacon Hill as an important business hub.

73/23 MANORMEAD PROPOSAL

Cllr David Harmer, County Councillor for the Western Villages presented to Council to inform them that the purchase of Manor Mead would no longer be possible due to an issue with the funding. Council discussed the need for a community facility in Beacon Hill.

RESOLVED: A working group consisting of Cllr Arrick, Cllr Waters, Cllr Carter, Cllr Miller, and Cllr Davidson is convened to work on alternative locations for a Beacon Hill hub.

74/23 FARNBOROUGH AIRPORT EXPANSION PLANS

Cllr Carter addressed Council to explain the potential issue arising from the Farnborough airport expansion plans. Cllr Spence of Churt Parish Council supported Cllr Carter's concerns.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to raise an objection to the expansion plans. Cllr Carter and the Town Clerk will work on the written objection.

75/23 REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES

After a robust discussion of the pros and cons of Councillor allowances, some Councillors felt that by offering an allowance, a more diverse group may be encouraged to stand for Council as no one should be out of pocket in doing so. Others suggested that it was right that this was an unpaid voluntary role and would feel uncomfortable accepting a paid allowance. The Town Clerk clarified that Councillors may already claim back out of pocket expenses. Payment of an allowance would be paid in a lump sum for Councillors to spend as they wished. It was agreed that more needs to be done to connect with the wider community to 'advertise' the role of Councillor before the next election.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk informs Waverley Borough Council that Haslemere Town Council to confirm they do not wish to pay an allowance either to the Mayor or councillors and will continue to refund out of pocket expenses as it does currently.

76/23 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

RESOLVED: The CIL finance schedule as at 15th September 2023 was noted and confirmed that the CIL Committee were awaiting the finalisation of the Council Strategy on which to base CIL proposals.

77/23 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE

RESOLVED: Haslemere Town Council agrees that it:

- Has put in place a training programme for councillors and staff.
- Has signed up to the Code of Conduct for councillors.
- Has good governance arrangements in place including staff contracts and a will adopt a dignity at work policy.
- Will seek professional help at the early stages should civility and respect issues arise.
- Will commit to calling out bullying and harassment if and when it happens.
- Will continue to learn from best practices in the sector and aspire to be a role model/champion council through for example the local Council Awards Scheme.

- Supports the continued lobbying for change in legislation to support the Civility and Respect Pledge including sanctions for elected members where appropriate.

78/23 CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DIVISION BOUNDARIES IN SURREY

The Council has been notified that the Boundary Commission, whilst keeping the boundaries as is, are proposing to rename the Waverley Western Villages to Frensham, Elstead and Hindhead. County Councillor, David Harmer, and a number of the villages will be objecting, and HTC has been asked to consider objecting alongside.

RESOLVED: That Haslemere Town Council writes to the Boundary Commission with a vote of 16 to object to the proposal to rename the Waverley Western Villages to Frensham, Elstead and Hindhead.

79/23 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. Committees with delegated decision making:

- Planning & Highways 17TH August, 14th September

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

Cllr Weldon raised the point that Waverley Borough Council are restarting the entire local plan which may require that Haslemere revisit the neighbourhood plan which would have financial implications for Haslemere Town Council.

80/23 REPLACEMENT OF TOWN HALL KITCHEN WINDOW

RESOLVED: That the window is replaced as per the recommendation in Appendix 11 to the agenda.

81/23 TREE MAINTENANCE WORK

RESOLVED: That the tree maintenance work is carried out as per the recommendations in Appendix 12 to the agenda.

82/23 SCC DRAFT NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY & 20 MILES PER HOUR SPEED LIMIT

RESOLVED: the Clerk to write to Surrey County Council in accordance with the recommendation set out in Appendix 14 to the agenda, supporting its draft policy to implement 20mph zones for its shopping and residential areas.

83/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

None present.

84/23 STAFFING – ANNUAL APPRAISALS – Public excluded

Vice Chair Cllr Keen formally thanked the Town Hall staff for their hard work.

Meeting finished 21:06

Signed.....

Chairman of Meeting

Date.....