



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 23rd January 2025.
The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2HG.

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

* present

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Leach, clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork. One member of the public was also in attendance.

1/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllr Banfield (unwell), Cllr Carroll (work commitments), Cllr Weldon (WBC meeting). Cllr Robini and Cllr Nicholson have been delayed due to a WBC meeting.

2/25 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Cllr Matthes - see item 10/25.

3/25 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Harmer reported that Surrey County Council have withdrawn the bus service from Beacon Hill to Woolmer Hill school leaving a number of children unable to travel to school safely, he has written to SCC to complain about this and has suggested that HTC should also write to SCC. Town Clerk to draft a letter, Cllrs Davidson and Carter have details.

Cllr Bayliss advised Cllr Harmer that Beacon Hill and Hindhead are excluded from the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Cllr Robini (Surrey County Councillor) gave the following update:

New grit bins at a cost of £600 each are being placed at Critchmere Lane, Fir Tree Avenue and Azalea Drive.

Roadworks:

- Lower Street resurfacing, High Street paving and West Street Paving are all scheduled to take place shortly.
- Petworth Road is scheduled to take place 2025/2026.
- Hindhead Road/Critchmere Hill Junction re-design due to take place early 2025

An investigation is taking place regarding the recent allegation of fraud at Guildford Council.

PCC Meeting – The questions from the business community regarding increased shoplifting were not answered at the meeting held in December. The Town Clerk to book a meeting with the Borough

Commander/Mayor and John Robini. Cllr Carter asked if we could fund our own security officer/PCSO within the town? Cllr Leach confirmed this will be discussed at the meeting.

4/25 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None.

5/25 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 21st November 2024 are approved as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

6/25 Mayor's Update

The Mayor spoke about the Crime Commissioner meeting that was held at the Haslemere Museum in December where increased shoplifting in the town was discussed at length, since then the Mayor has given a number of interviews to the press both as a local business owner and as the Town Mayor.

The Mayor commented that the new clinical rooms at Haslemere Health Centre are operational, this is a great use of CIL funding.

7/25 Clerks Update

The Town Clerk has cancelled the Update & Participate meeting scheduled for Monday 27th January due to the lack of responses from Councillors. Cllrs Aslam, Kenn and Arrick requested that a new date be given for this meeting. The Town Clerk will schedule a new date for this.

The Mayor commented that local Councillors are not being seen at community events, and has concerns that residents do not know who their local Councillors are. The Annual Town Meeting takes place on the 5th March at the Haslemere Museum. All Councillors are expected to attend.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Haslemere Volunteer Awards take place after the Annual Town meeting, a link to the nomination form can be found in the update in Appendix 3 to the agenda

8/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

9/25 BUDGET 2025-2026

Cllr Waters gave an overview of the final draft budget for 2025-26. Due to concerns raised at the last Full Council meeting, the working party met with the Citizens Advice Bureau to discuss their operating hours, the recommended grant amount for 2025-26 remains unchanged.

RESOLVED

1. That the working party recommendations in respect of revenue grant awards are approved.
2. That the Haslemere Town Council budget for 2025-2026, with a precept of £464,890 is approved.

10/25 IN SCOTLAND LAND RULE 6 PARTY - FUNDING

Cllr Matthes declared an interest due to her husband Gareth Matthes being the local Ecologist employed, she will abstain from voting and left the room.

HTC has previously allocated £2500 to support the appeal other members of the Rule 6 will match fund the offer via member donations. Haslemere Vision has pledged an additional £1000. If further funding is required a further request will be submitted at March Full Council

RESOLVED: That Council agrees to consider a further request for funding at March full council.

11/25 ASSISTANCE WITH YEAR END ACCOUNTS AND CLOSURE BUDGET 2025-2026

RESOLVED: The Clerk is instructed to enter into a three year agreement for year end services with Paul Burdick from Accounting for Local Councils & Clerks, at a cost of £550 per year.

12/25 FINANCE AND AMENITIES RISK ASSESSMENT 2025

RESOLVED That the Risk Assessment as appended to the Agenda (Appendix 9) is approved.

13/25 20MPH WORKING PARTY REPORT

The working party met to discuss the principles required to complete the recommendation as outlined in Appendix 10 to the agenda.

RESOLVED: The working party will bring a recommendation to March full council.

14/25 STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Clerk reported that the Government is current consulting on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England. All local councils are being encouraged to respond.

RESOLVED: A working party is formed consisting of Cllrs Leach, Carter, Aslam and Robini who are to produce a response on behalf of the council. The Town Clerk to set up a meeting.

15/25 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees with delegated decision making:

- Planning and Highways 28 November and 12 December 2024
- Planning and Highways – 9th January 2025

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meetings, where committees hold delegated decision making powers, are noted.

16/25 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2025-2026

RESOLVED: That the schedule of meetings appended to the Agenda (at appendix 15) is approved.

17/25 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

Council noted the update in Appendix 16 to the agenda.

18/25 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Arrick - Beacon Hill Community Group; A community meeting was recently held where up to 50 residents attended, the following was discussed:

- Ongoing car park issues
- a 20MPH survey will be going out to all residents
- Christmas lights
- New committee members needed for the Summer Fete
- Empty premises at Jaycees
- Fireworks being held at Woolmer Hill Vs Hindhead

Details of local Councillors will be placed in community noticeboards.

Cllr Matthes – Transition Haslemere; A number of green projects are being planned, the recent Wassail that took place at Swan Barn was successful.

19/25 SOFT LANDSCAPING AT THE LION GREEN PUBLIC TOILETS

The working group are preparing a soft landscaping proposal to go to the February Amenities & CIL meeting. There is £6,000 left in the public toilets budget which is earmarked for this.

RESOLVED: The Amenities committee is delegated to approve a planting proposal up to £6,000.

RESOLVED: Weyhill in Bloom are authorised to plant two VE day themed flower beds at Lion Green public toilets, at their own cost. Any making good after the event is to be done by WHIB - The Amenities committee to make a decision at a later date regarding this, depending on how it looks.

Cllr Davidson was disappointed to hear about the recent vandalism at Lion Green toilets, The Town Clerk confirmed that “CCTV signage in operation” signs have been installed at the toilets, going forward the toilets will close at dusk to deter vandals.

19:45 Cllrs Robini and Nicholson joined the meeting

20/25 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: “That in accordance with the provisions of section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

21/25 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Cllr Arrick stated that we are currently recruiting for the soon to be vacant PAO position, interviews will be taking place in the next few weeks. The Office Administrator role will not be filled, with the hope that existing staff will encompass the additional work.

Cllr Waters asked if there will be enough staff resources to do this? The Town Clerk stated that if not then we will look at recruiting for the role.

Cllr Robini commented that although it is not clear what will happen regarding devolution at this point, it may well lead to an increase in staff workload if it happens. The Town Clerk reminded all Cllrs that a SALC meeting regarding devolution will take place on the 17th February, she will forward details to all Councillors.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Staffing meeting held 10th January 2025 (Appendix 18) and the resolutions therein are noted.

At the end of the meeting the Mayor congratulated Cllr Carter on his recently awarded ‘British Empire Medal’ which is awarded to people who have provided exception service to their community.

Meeting finished at 20:22

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....