



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 12th September 2024.
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. There were no members of the public or press in attendance.

71/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Aslam (work), Bayliss (work) and Austine (work).

72/24 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

73/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

None.

74/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

None.

75/24 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 11th July 2024 are approved and any recommendations therein be adopted.

76/24 Mayor’s Update

The summer holidays are historically quiet with fewer events taking place:

- Lion Green Euro’s final – As previously discussed, although this event marred by a small minority after the event, the majority of the community welcomed the efforts made by the Council to arrange this community event.
- Cllr Arrick opened the Haslemere Beer Festival this month; it was very well attended and showcased local breweries and bands.
- The car boot sale was a success with over 50 cars turning up, it was a good community event and over £250 was raised for the Mayor’s Charities.

The mayor would like to highlight how a local resident was given help by the Council this week; the resident had an accommodation issue and with the help of HTC Councillors the issue was resolved. The mayor would like to pass on his thanks and was impressed on how well the Council works together to help residents in need of help.

77/24 Clerks Update

The Town Clerk met with Haslemere's new PCS Archie Ridley and PCSO John Savage; they are very keen to be more involved in town events and would like to arrange a date to speak at a Council Meeting and to meet the Councillors, the Town Clerk has invited them both to come along to November's Council meeting.

The Town Clerk gave an update of her recent meeting with a WBC officer, Caroline Wallace (along with Cllr Bridge) to discuss the delay in HTC taking over land at Haslemere Recreation Ground and at Beacon Hill. WBC are also frustrated with the length of time this transfer is taking, Caroline will start the transfer process with her team. It was agreed that an independent solicitor should be used for the legal documentation to help speed up the process.

The Town Clerk asked Council to confirm that they were in agreement that she should complete an 'Expression of Interest' to get this process started. All Councillors were in agreement.

78/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 4 & 5 and any variances in the Council's accounts and any reported overspends and virements are approved.

79/24 CONCLUSION OF EXTERNAL AUDIT 2023-24

the Council's accounts have been scrutinised by the nominated External Auditor who found no matters requiring attention.

RESOLVED: Council notes sections 1-3 of the Annual Return (attached) and agrees no further action to be taken in relation to 2023-24 external audit of accounts.

80/24 YOUTH CENTRE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Robini gave some background to the project holder and confirmed that no firm decisions had been made on the new youth centre, either in terms of plans, users or management. The working party agreed that HTC should be involved in the design and management of any new facilities.

Cllr Davidson asked how will it be decided on what amenities the building will offer? Cllr Robini stated that all the groups currently engaged in working with Youth will be asked what their requirements are, and that engagement would take place with local youth to see what they would like to see in the new centre.

Cllr Waters asked if WBC has considered long lease vs ownership, as it could be a better option? Cllr Robini stated that this project was in the very early stages and more discussion is needed with WBC officers.

The Town Clerk has spoken with the Town Clerk at Godalming; they have recently taken long ownership of a building in Godalming, so it is common practice.

Cllr Carroll requested that he join the working group for the Youth Centre.

RESOLVED The Full Council agrees the following:

1. HTC should be a key partner with Waverley on this project.
2. Subject to satisfactory arrangements being agreed with WBC, HTC would like to manage building on a long lease.

3. The CiL committee is asked to ringfence £250k towards this project in the 2024-25 financial year (Council to agree exact amount once figures are known).
4. The working party should consult locally, is authorised to discuss on behalf of Council with WBC then bring a full recommendation back to Full Council once that work is complete. Regular updates will be given to Full Council.
5. Cllr Carroll is added to the Working Party.

81/24 TOWN MEADOW DRAINAGE

The project started as planned but the contractor has discovered additional water sources including springs and additional collapsed drainage pipework; this has resulted in additional costs.

RESOLVED: That the additional work at Option 3 in the previously circulated paper is agreed approved at a cost of £ £5,994.50 plus VAT.

82/24 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees with delegated decision making:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the following meetings are noted:

- Planning and Highways 18th July and 8th August 2024

RESOLVED:

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

Committees with no or limited delegated decision making:

Please read all the minutes before approving them, they may contain recommendations that you are agreeing to by approving the minutes:

- Amenities & CiL 29th August 2024

RESOLVED:

Council approves the granting of £36k Neighbourhood CIL funds to Haslemere Health Centre Project.

That the minutes of the meetings where committees do not hold delegating decision making powers and any recommendations therein be adopted.

83/24 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

Council noted.

84/24 REPORTS FROM WARD WORKING PARTIES

At the last Update and Participate session it was decided that each ward would form a small working party to:

- Draw up a list of top 10 items in their wards that need attention.
- Consider how best to engage with residents on local issues.
- Consider holding a regular ward working group meeting.

Cllr Carroll has created a process to help identify what needs attention in the wards, he will share this process with other Councillors.

It was agreed that the following councillors lead on this for their wards:

Cllr Caroll - Haslemere South
Cllr Leach - Haslemere North
Cllrs Keen/Matthes - Haslemere West
Cllr Arrick - Beacon Hill, Hindhead and Nutcombe

Cllr Arrick and the Beacon Hill/Hindhead Cllrs already have regular meetings and are producing an audit for the area (this takes in footpaths, overgrown vegetation, park bench repairs etc).

Cllr Davidson commented that there is an issue with Beacon Hill car park getting filled with resident's cars/work vans, they have requested that WBC install a 2 hour limit to help with this.

85/24 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Haslewey – Cllr Keen reported that Haslewey is hoping to operate a Warm Hub this winter. Haslewey will be holding their annual fair on the 28th September from 11am to 4pm.

Transition Haslemere - Cllr Matthes reported that transition Haslemere along with other local green groups are looking at projects to help minimise food waste in the town.

86/24 STAFFING – ANNUAL APPRAISALS AND PAYRISES

Cllr Arrick reported that all Staff appraisals have now been completed and would like it noted that we as a council are lucky to have and to retain such professional and effective staff.

Our PAO Martin Wellen is looking at retiring in April, the Staffing committee are looking to advertise this position shortly.

Meeting finished at 19:45

Signed.....
Chairman of Meeting

Date.....