



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 November 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 Arrick, clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O’Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork. Surrey County Councillor David Harmer was in attendance, along with 2 members of the public. Cllr Leach joined the meeting via Zoom as did Georgia Hase (Haslemere Herald).

87/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllr Leach (away) and Cllr Carroll (family commitments)

88/24 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

89/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr Betts asked the following questions:

- What are the benefits to the residents of joining the Rule 6 party?
- Regarding revenue grants - what does ‘3 days equivalent’ mean in respect of opening hours for Citizens Advice Bureau?

These topics will be addressed later in the meeting.

Surrey County Councillor David Harmer informed Council that funding (Your Surrey Fund) is still available for Hindhead and encouraged Councillors to put forward any projects for consideration.

Councillor Robini confirmed that this funding is also still available for Haslemere.

90/24 REPRESENTATIONS BY EXTERNAL BODIES

None.

91/24 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 12th September 2024 are approved and any recommendations therein be adopted.

92/24 Mayor’s Update

The previously circulated update from the Mayor was noted.

93/24 Clerks Update

The previously circulated update from the Town Clerk was noted, the Town Clerk gave the following updates:

The town council will be hosting a ‘Recycle and Re-use Christmas Decorations’ event in partnership with the Harbour to Hills Community Rail Partnership. This will be held at the Haslemere Hub at the

Train Station in Haslemere, courtesy of the Haslemere community rail partnership. Town Council staff have volunteered to assist at the hub. Future schemes include a Winter-warmer event where winter coats will be recycled.

The Christmas carol event that will now take place on the 12th December in the gardens of the Haslemere Museum, we hope Councillors will be in attendance.

94/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 6 & 7 are approved.

95/24 REQUEST TO JOIN RULE 6 PARTY – PLANNING APP NO WA/2022/01887 SCOTLAND PARK

The Town Council has had a request from Haslemere South Residents Association to support the creation of a local Rule 6 group and agree to join as one of its members. All councillors have previously been supplied with the full email and advice from the gov.uk website.

Cllr Aslam explained that the formation of the Rule 6 was necessary for the following reasons:

- For the protection of an area of 'Outstanding Natural Beauty'
- To support the large number of Haslemere South residents opposed to the Scotland Park plan
- To ensure that the conditions of the Haslemere Neighbourhood Plan are met.

Debate took place regarding setting a limit on financial commitment for this (In 2021 the financial cap was £2500).

RESOLVED:

Council joins the Rule 6 Party as proposed by Haslemere South Residents Association

A financial cap of £2.5k is set, but Council reserves the right to review this at January council if an alternative is put forward.

96/24 20MPH ZONES IN HASLEMERE

A significant amount of discussion took place on how and where the zones will be and how this will be monitored.

Cllr Robini stated that proposal will have to be self-monitored - Police will not enforce a 20mph restriction.

Cllr Leach supported the proposal in main part of Town, however having different speed limits across town may cause confusion for drivers. '20 is plenty' signs should be enough to deter speeding, as has already been seen in Bunch Lane where their implementation has caused a reduction in speeds.

Cllr Bayliss stated that we need a clear strategy on how to take this forward, we need to work together with other stakeholders to achieve a clear and concise plan. The creation of a working party will help to achieve this.

Cllr Banfield questioned whether the proposed 20mph zone should be amended to start at Three Gates Land and go through to the junction of A287 and Church Rd in Shottermill.

RESOLVED

1. That the Town Council continues to support the implementation of a 20mph limit from Haslemere Educational Museum in the High St, via Lower St and Wey Hill to the Junction with Lion Green (Tesco).
2. Cllr Bayliss to form a working party (to include Surrey Highways) to look at other areas that could be included in the 20mph scheme and bring a recommendation to January Full council.

97/24 INTERNAL AUDIT 2024-25 – INTERIM REPORT

Cllr Waters thanked The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their work on the Internal audit.

RESOLVED: That the Interim Audit report for November 2024 is noted. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair of Finance and Governance is delegated to make a decision regarding any increase before the Council's insurance is renewed in April 2025.

98/24 BUDGET 2025-2026

Cllr Waters gave an overview of the work the Budget working party had done to arrive at the draft 2025-2026 budget. The final draft will be brought to Council in January. Council was content with the suggested percentage increase.

Mr Betts questioned what '3 days equivalent' meant regarding opening hours for Citizens Advice Bureau. The Town Clerk and Chair of Finance and Governance will review this and amend the service level agreement to state actual hours (to be reported at January Council).

Cllr Waters commented that he is hopeful that plans will be made to commemorate VJ day, plans are already in place for VE day. It was suggested that this could be a small gathering at High Street War Memorial.

RESOLVED:

PWLB loan – that the larger of the Council's PWLB loans is repaid in the 2026-7 financial year.

Revenue Grants:

Whilst the Council is broadly in agreement with the draft budget and revenue grant recommendations, the budget working party should review the CAB grant in the light of concerns raised.

The final draft budget will be agreed at January full council.

99/24 COUNCIL CHAMBER REPLACEMENT WINDOW

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk is instructed to contract Neil White Joinery to carry out the Council Chamber Window Replacement At a cost of £3,024.

100/24 LOVE HASLEMERE, HATE WASTE GRANT APPLICATION

Cllr Keen proposed that the full £1000 is awarded to provide a community fridge and freezer to help reduce food waste. This is a great project and fits in with the council's green aspirations.

Cllr Weldon seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED:

The full grant request of £1000 has been awarded to LHHW from the Green Grant fund.

101/24 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees with delegated decision making:

- Planning and Highways 3RD and 31ST October 2024

RESOLVED:

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

Committees with no or limited delegated decision making:

- Amenities & CiL - 14th November 2024
- CBEC - 1st October 2024
- Finance & Governance – 8th October 2024

RESOLVED:

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

102/24 REPORTS FROM WARD WORKING PARTIES

At the last Council meeting 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.

RESOLVED

A collated list of issues will be produced from the information provided. Town hall officers will then:

- Report issues which are the responsibility of other councils to the relevant authorities
- Seek to resolve issues which are the responsibility of the town council
- Contact the lead ward councillor if new projects have been identified which need further scope / funding etc.

This item will be left on the Council agenda with progress reported at each subsequent meeting.

103/24 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

CLlr Arrick gave an overview of the Beacon Hill and Hindhead Working Party report as detailed in Appendix 21 to the agenda.

Meeting finished at 20:45

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of Meeting