



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 17th July 2025.
The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2HG.

Mayor	*Cllr Arrick
Deputy Mayor	*Cllr Keen
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. 4 members of the public were in attendance as was the local press.

58/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Austin (family commitments) and Cllr Banfield (Unwell).

Cllr Weatherburn did not attend or send apologies.

59/25 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

60/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held 15th May 2025 are adopted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

61/25 REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC

Heather from Woolmer Hill Sports Association (WHSA) addressed the Council; It was reported that in July 2023, Waverley Borough Council (WBC) withdrew their leisure operator from The Edge at Woolmer Hill and subsequently terminated their lease with the building owner, Surrey County Council.

Since that time, WHSA has taken on responsibility for the day-to-day operations, bookings, and maintenance of the three artificial pitches, operating under an agreement entered into with WBC in July 2023. WHSA confirmed they continue to manage these facilities.

Under WBC's Community Asset Transfer Policy, WHSA expressed their full support for the transfer of the WBC-owned facilities at Woolmer Hill to Haslemere Town Council (HTC), stating that such a move would enable greater local control and more community-led development.

The WBC-owned assets identified at Woolmer Hill Recreation Ground include:

- Artificial hockey pitch (ATP2)
- 3G football pitch
- Athletics track
- Grass pitches
- Sports pavilion and parking areas

WHSA stated their willingness and enthusiasm to work in partnership with HTC, should the Council proceed with acquiring ownership of the facilities from WBC.

62/25 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Waverley Borough Council:

Cllr Nicholson attended a meeting at Waverley Borough Council where WBC resolved to terminate its external Ground Maintenance contract and transition to an in-house service provision.

Cllr Weldon confirmed that a meeting is scheduled for the end of July to discuss the move of the Youth Provision from the Fairground car park to Weydown Car Park. An external company are investigating the current usage of Weydown car park.

Cllr Weldon also stated that the Scotland Park planning appeal decision has been further delayed due to a new representation being submitted.

Cllr Weldon also confirmed that WBC has an ongoing review of its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) procedures.

63/25 MAYORS UPDATE

In addition to the Mayor's report the Mayor would like it noted that she recently visited 'Love Haslemere Hate Waste' and was impressed with their offering of a community fridge to Haslemere residents.

The Mayor was also part of a group of Councillors that visited Beacon Hill School to find out more about their CIL funding request for a proposed Nursery school offering, which she fully supports.

64/25 CLERKS UPDATE

In addition to the Clerk's report the Town Clerk stated that Union flags that were installed in Town prior to VE day have been taken down due to disrepair - it had been hoped that they would remain up until after VJ day.

65/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: The schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 2 & 3 and any variances in the Council's accounts and any reported overspends and virements were approved.

66/25 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees with delegated decision making:

- CBEC – 3RD June
- Planning and Highways – 29th May & 26th June
- Staffing – 27th June

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings, where committees hold delegated decision making powers, were noted.

Committees with no or limited decision making:

- Finance & Governance 17th June

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meetings where committees do not hold delegated decision making powers and any recommendations therein be adopted.

67/25 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION – SURREY LGR

Discussions took place regarding the Surrey Local Government proposal; Two Way Unitary vs Three Way Unitary, Council were in agreement for the Three-way unitary proposal, the following comments were made:

Cllr Nicholson supports the Three-Way Unitary model as he believes it is a better fit for Haslemere geographically.

Cllr. Weldon expressed his support for the proposed Three-Way Unitary model, highlighting its coherence from both an economic and social geographic perspective. Additionally the Three-Way Unitary proposal better addresses the financial and debt issues at other larger Councils such as Woking and Spelthorne.

Cllr. Weldon also raised concerns regarding the Two-Unitary proposal, which places Haslemere within a group of boroughs with stronger ties to the London metropolitan region. He commented that this alignment is inappropriate, as Haslemere does not share the same demographics, service patterns, or community identity as the London Boroughs.

Cllr Waters stated that he was impressed with Farnham Town Council's approach to publicising this to their residents and asked whether Haslemere could create something similar. The Town Clerk commented that the Council's decision to support a Three-Way Unitary model will be shared on our website and social media channels.

RESOLVED: Haslemere Town Council authorises the Clerk to draft a response to the Government to support a Three-Way Unitary Model which will be agreed by Councillors prior to submission.

68/25 LGR WORKING PARTY - TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Discussions took place regarding the list of transfer assets; the following comments were made:

Cllr Davidson urged Council not to take on the transfer of non-paying car parks due to financial implications. Cllr Waters disagreed with the above comment as he believes if we do not take on this land it will become neglected.

Cllr Weldon reminded Council to consider cost implications and workload when taking on these assets.

Cllr Bridge urged Council to retain a say in the future development of the Fairground car park and asks if it could be legally binding.

Cllr Robini suggested that Council evaluate Common Land on a case-by-case basis.

RESOLVED: That Council agreed the content of the working party's note and agreed the list of potential asset transfers. The Clerk is requested to bring an estimate of costs and resource implications to the next Full Council meeting and is authorised to enter into conversations / make formal applications to WBC for these assets to be transferred, so long as this does not legally bind the council before financial implications have been assessed.

The Town Clerk to speak with Roger Taylor regarding legal advice on whether HTC can be made formal decision making partners in respect of the transfer of the Fairground Car Park. Cllr Bridge to be invited onto the Working Party.

The Town Clerk to hold a Working Party meeting to review common and open land locations.

69/25 ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

ACO Amelia King gave an overview of her role and how we can connect better with local organisations. She requests that Councillors contact her with any local organisations that could be included within the project.

RESOLVED: That the ACO continues with the project and reports back to September 2025 Full Council Meeting.

70/25 TOWN MEADOW PLAY EQUIPMENT

RESOLVED: The play area is to be extended in its current location and not relocated.

RESOLVED: No planning application be submitted.

71/25 LYNCHMERE PC CIL APPLICATION

Cllr Nicholson noted that due to the timescales involved Lynchmere Parish Council must have already secured full funding. He suggested that Council could consider a reduced award of £1000.

Cllr Keen supported the full funding of £2000 as Haslemere residents will benefit greatly from this project.

Cllr Weldon stated that in future they Council follow CIL processes and not accelerate the timescales as was done for this application.

RESOLVED: Council agreed to award funding of £2000 to Lynchmere Parish Council to support the project to upgrade play equipment at Camelsdale Recreation Ground.

Cllr Nicholson voted against the proposal.

72/25 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

In addition to the reports submitted Cllr Robini announced that Haslemere Museum are currently looking for a Treasurer.

73/25 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item(s) due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted."

The Town Clerk updated the Council on the subject of the potential car park transfers from WBC as part of the LGR process.

Meeting finished at 20:25

Signed.....

Chairman of Meeting

Date.....