



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 6.15pm on Thursday 1st May 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.

37/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Banfield and Davidson (unwell), and Cllrs Arrick and Austin (holiday), Carroll (family commitment).

Cllrs Aslam and Weatherburn did not attend and did not send apologies.

38/25 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

39/25 TOWN MEADOW REMEDIAL WORK

RESOLVED: That Commercial Groundscare are engaged to carry out the remedial works, as set out in the report to council circulated with the agenda, at a cost of £2,130 to be paid from the deferred projects earmarked reserve.

40/25 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.

41/25 YOUTH CENTRE WORKING PARTY

The Mayor explained that the Youth Centre working party had been meeting to discuss the proposed youth centre which Waverley Borough Council is proposing to build due to the redevelopment of the Fairground Carpark (FGCP). Cllr Robini, who chaired the working party, stated that the project is a different proposition now to the one first considered by the working party. Originally it had been thought that HTC could add value to the project by providing additional youth services to those provided by the Haslemere Youth Hub, however the Hub has now expanded with more staff and services such as after school drop in sessions and APTB youth club. The Scouts and other youth groups are to be accommodated elsewhere, meaning that the new facility does not need to be the large size initially envisaged.

Cllr Waters joined the meeting.

Cllr Leach further explained that WBC had suggested that the process of taking the project forward would be much easier if HTC were to stand aside and let WBC and the Youth Hub negotiate, what is essentially, a like for like arrangement. This process needs to be well underway before the Local Government reorganization takes place.

It was discussed that HTC should not be taking on liability for the costs associated with the running of the building if they are not involvement in running the youth services.

Cllr Bayliss raised concerns about the project and felt that HTC was being unduly pressured into making decisions regarding the FGCP redevelopment, which is in his opinion flawed. Cllr Bridge suggested that the youth centre should remain on its current site.

The Mayor commented that decisions regarding HTC's involvement with the new Youth Centre were a different matter from the plans to develop the FGCP, and in fact having less involvement with the Youth Centre meant the council was freer to scrutinise and comment on plans as they came through.

Cllr Keen noted that any new Youth Centre would have to have planning permission, so the Town Council would have a chance to comment on it.

Cllr Carter raised concerns about car parking and suggested that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with Network Rail to see if they would consider an additional level being put in place on the current multistorey car park.

Councillors voted on the recommendations in the previously circulated paper to Council.

RESOLVED:

- I. HTC will stand aside and allow WBC and Haslemere Youth Hub to take the new youth centre project without HTC involvement in any lease of the building.
- II. HTC will not take on the management of the new youth centre building or any liability associated with running the facility.
- III. HTC has no objection to the size of the proposed youth hub, noting that this saves 20 car parking spaces from being lost in WRCP.
- IV. HTC is open to providing some CIL money towards the project, which it will consider on receipt of a clear financial business case from WBC. Any CIL money provided will be solely to pay towards any additional floorspace over and above that which the Youth Hub currently occupies at the Wey Centre.
- V. HTC notes that the prospect of the current local government reorganization presents uncertainty for the youth centre and would ask that they are granted a watertight lease which cannot be revoked by any new organisation.
- VI. No new parking survey is required at this time, although we will accept the offer of having the parking survey firm present to HTC councillors. The clerk is to make arrangements for that presentation to happen.
- VII. HTC will not be requesting to have a trustee on the HYH board, but will offer a councillor representative to the organisation, if requested.

Meeting finished at 19:04

Signed.....
Chair of Meeting

Date.....15.5.25.....