

Haslemere Town Council

Meeting of Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 3rd September 2009

Town Mayor: * Melanie Odell
Deputy Mayor: * Bill Douglas
Councillors * present

* Mrs P Blades	* Mr P Isherwood
Mrs M Borwick	* Mrs C King
* Mr M Dover	* Mr W King
* Mr J Edwards	* Mr R Knowles
Mrs F Foster	* Mrs C Lancaster
Mr M Foster	* Mr J Mackie
* Mrs B Hewett	Mr S Mulliner
* Mr B Howard	* Mrs J Stevens

Prior to the meeting prayers were led by Barbara Reverend Steel-Perkins from All Saints Church Grayswood.

Surrey County Councillor S Renshaw made reference to the St Bartholomew's School Child Centre proposal and explained the process in making the choice of site. He also explained that a community engagement meeting was being planned to explain publicly the proposals and seek comment. This will be held locally and the assistance of the HTC staff was sought in finding a suitable venue for up to 100 people.

Surrey County Councillor D Harmer was of the opinion that Beacon Hill School was a suitable location. He explained that head teachers for the area had concluded that St Bartholomew's School was the site. Beacon Hill had the space and there are no parking problems

Public presentations to Council from Mrs S Stathers explained that nursery schools in the area needed to have a view as to their involvement in the Children's Centre. There was also a need for a neutral chairman to manage the public meeting.

Councillor Edwards reported that Haslemere Border Athletic Club will be circulating details of their proposals for a 400m all weather athletics facility.

83/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors M Foster, F Foster, Borwick and Mulliner.

84/09 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Mr A Butter addressed Council and asked several questions concerning Clammer Hill Allotments. The Town Mayor explained that the Council was yet to determine the issue of fencing and car parking arrangements for the site. No sheds would be permitted for the first year but this would be reviewed. The site would be open on the 1st January 2010 with a start date 1st April 2010 in line with the beginning of the growing period.

85/09 **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Town Mayor Melanie Odell declared an interest in agenda item 13 Teddy Bears Picnic.

Councillor Edwards an interest in agenda item 10 Wey Hill in Bloom.

Councillor W King an interest in agenda item 10 Wey Hill in Bloom.

Councillor C King play area Lion Green raised under item 10.

86/09 **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2009 are agreed and signed.

87/09 **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillors noted the St Bartholemew's School extension seeking grant aid of £10,000 and agreed to leave this for the next grants panel 5th November 2010.

88/09 **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**

The following reports were made:-

The Town Mayor referenced the Restorative Justice meeting when three young people who damaged Lion green who have agreed to litter pick the area.

The Haslemere Food Festival event is set to occur on the following dates 5th to 20th September.

Networking tea party for Town / Parish Chairmen and their Clerks held in the Town Hall.

Eden Hairdressers who arranged a Charity event collected £1,500 for the Mayor's Charity.

New lighting to the Town Clock was now provided.

The services of a band for a New Year's Eve celebration at the Haslemere Hall was being considered and Councillors would be updated as to progress.

In addition the recent quote for safety works to the Lion green Play site would be discussed in the exempt section of the meeting.

Volunteers were being sought following the retirement of the Chairman of the Charter Fair Committee Chairman.

89/09 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Councillor Dover requested transfer from their approved grant of working capital so as to run the lawn mower operated by the Heavy Brigade. Councillor Isherwood who managed the accounts for the Heavy Brigade was of the opinion that there should be no exemption for the Heavy Brigade as to the requirement that all grant money is paid only upon receipt of invoices. Councillor Isherwood reported that his dealing with the office on such issues was always prompt and efficient.

RESOLVED that the schedule of accounts paid since the last meeting is approved and the variances within the management accounts giving detailed income and expenditure by budget heading were noted.

90/09 **CLAMMER HILL ALLOTMENTS**

Further to Council decision 18th June 2006 to open the above allotment a report was provided on the parking, access and costs. Note that there is no 2009/10 budget provision for this work.

RESOLVED that £6,000 be made available for Clammer Hill Allotment works, from the 2009/10 approved budget provision for Controlled Parking as this was unlikely to be spent within the current financial year.

Councillor Isherwood was of the opinion that deer fencing should be excluded from the works as an option may be for allotment holder to provide their own.

RESOLVED that the work proceeds as outlined in the report with the exclusion of deer fencing and that delegated power is given to the Town Mayor, Councillor Knowles and Town Clerk to progress the opening of Clammer Hill Allotments, agree the contract / quotes for works and instruct the contractors to implement.

91/09 **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the (previously circulated) minutes of the committees held on the following dates 03-06-09, 02-07-09 and 30-07-09 are agreed and implemented.

RESOLVED that Councillors M Foster and B Howard are nominated to sit on the Local Committee (Waverley): Haslemere and Western Villages Transportation Task Group.

Councillor Knowles was concerned that membership of the Local Committee (Waverley): Haslemere and Western Villages Transportation Group would not necessarily give any influence over the decision to spend money in the HTC area. The decision is made by another committee that has no Haslemere elected representatives.

RESOLVED that a letter is sent by the Town Mayor to Pat Frost Chairman of this group requesting representation at the meeting where highways expenditure is determined.

92/09 **WEYHILL IN BLOOM (Insurance Cover for Volunteers)**

Councillor Dover praised Councillor W King for the exceptional community work in connection with the Weyhill in Bloom and their volunteer work recently undertaken.

RESOLVED that HTC seeks insurance cover for Weyhill in Bloom volunteers.

RESOLVED that delegated power is given to the Town Mayor and Town Clerk and in their absence their deputies, to authorise properly supervised volunteers working on land in Weyhill.

RESOLVED that agreement to works is approved providing the Council's insurance is adequate for this purpose, a suitable written project risk assessment is in place, works are properly supervised by a Town Councillor and that at least 21 days notice is given to the Council prior to determining the matter.

93/09 **HASLEMERE HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd July 2009 were received and noted. Councillors congratulated the team.

RESOLVED that a Christmas edition newsletter is to be implemented.

94/09 **GRANTS**

Churt and Frensham Community First Responders

A grant of £705 was approved by Council on the 19th March 2009. An outstanding balance of this grant of £45.62p still remains for payment. They have asked for an extension in time to produce the invoices to conclude matters.

RESOLVED that the time is extended by a further three months.

Safer Waverley Partnership

At Council 18th June 2009 it was RESOLVED that a sub group consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Mackie should review this application and have delegated power to approve or refuse as required. The sub group considered the application and current information and decided to refuse the application. This was noted.

95/09 **TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC**

RESOLVED that Lion Green may be used for the Teddy Bears Picnic on 13th September during the Food Festival.

96/09 **TELEPHONE BOX BEACON HILL**

Councillor Dover reported on the adoption of the above telephone box. Council decision required on whether or not to adopt the telephone box for a charge of £1 and the cost of looking after it thereafter (painting it every few years). For clarification, BT will remove the phone. Vandalism has stopped since the heavy brigade restored Woodcock Green. This will need to be formalised and the application to purchase is part of the website <http://www.payphones.bt.com/adopt-a-kiosk/HTML/payphone/index.htm>

RESOLVED that should a notice for removal be placed on the Beacon Hill Woodcock Green telephone kiosk then HTC will seek to purchase for £1.

97/09 **HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT INTETREST**

It was reported that Councillor Borwick and the Town Clerk have been examining the depletion of interest rate and consulted other organisations for advice. The options were considered and the work of Councillor Borwick was praised. The current 'credit crunch' scenario had produced circumstances whereby business accounts in particular have few opportunities to obtain good interest returns particularly, when they have difficulty in investing their money up for set periods of time.

RESOLVED that the Council continues with the HSBC Haslemere Branch for their banking.

98/09 **QUALITY STATUS and THE POWER OF WELLBEING**

Haslemere achieved quality status in October 2005. This runs for 4 years and expires October 2009. There is a grace period for re accreditation of 4 months after which quality status is lost. Reaccreditation involves the submission of a brief portfolio for the main topic areas. Included in this is the Council's Newsletter, Freedom of Information criteria, Code of Conduct and Clerk's Qualification etc. HTC will need to publish out Council meetings on the web site and obtain an acceptable qualified audit report. The reaccreditation fee is £235.

Councillor Dover questioned what was to be gained from Quality Status as to date there had been no evidence of a benefit. His view was that it was a revenue source for NALC and little use to Councils.

The Town clerk explained that Quality Status is a requirement of the Power of Wellbeing that the Government was to introduce in 2008 but this has been delayed until this year. Examples of the benefits are that HTC will have the power to aid community post offices, bus services, grant aid local GP services to extend their service provision, provide affordable housing, grant aid institutions outside their area that impact locally, support village pub preventing closure thus enhancing the community, accept responsibility from SCC and WBC for services example highways maintenance and the discretionary S137 grant cap will be lifted.

Councillor Knowles reported that the power due to become statute was still not available but other Councillors thought that a new Government may wish to devolve responsibilities to lower tiers of Local Government.

Councillor Mackie was of the opinion that the relatively small cost to achieve reaccreditation.

RESOLVED that HTC pursue the reaccreditation of their current Quality Status recognition.

99/09 **BUDGETS 2010 /11**

Council considered next year's budget provision. The sums entered in the agenda were accepted but the sums entered for the Museum road crossing be removed as this was a SCC function.

100/09 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (8th November 2009)**

Councillors noted the notes of a meeting that took place on the 14th August 2009 and plans that were agreed.

101/09 **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Health Group report will be given by Councillor Knowles and is contained in the minute book.

RESOLVED that letter would be sent to Herald regarding PCT consultation bus visit to Haslemere.

Haslemere Hall and Museum report was given by Councillor Mackie and is contained in the minute book.

102/09 **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.

EXEMPT Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

1. Playsafe quote was examined in detail.

RESOLVED that a site meeting is arranged with Playsafe with Town Mayor, Councillors C King and Knowles and that delegated power is given to these Councillors and the Town Clerk to award the contract up to a sum of £1,500.

2. Clammer Hill quotes examined in detail.

RESOLVED that the work proceeds as outlined in the report with the exclusion of deer fencing and that delegated power is given to the Town Mayor, Councillor Knowles and Town Clerk to progress the opening of Clammer Hill Allotments, agree the contract / quotes for works and instruct the contractors to implement.

Chairman

Closed 9.45pm