

**HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**  
held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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Present: Councillors: Free (Town Mayor), Angland, Byrne, Cook, Fraser, Haines, Haylock, Shearly-Sanders, Whiting, Wilson, Wiltshire and Young

In attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Fraser and Babergh District Councillors Campbell, Dr. Dawson and Grandon and 27 members of the public.

The Mayor requested a Minutes Silence be observed to mark the passing of Ex-Councillor Mrs Deirdre Munson.

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**107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Monks and Sheldrick due to work commitments and Matthews due to illness. These apologies were accepted.

**108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Cook declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No: 120 – Aldham Common Charity as she is Chair of the Charity. She left the room for the item.

Councillor Shearly-Sanders declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute No: 121 – Grievance Panel – due to his involvement with this matter. This declaration of interest was made at the time it was raised on the Agenda.

**109. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book were taken as read, subject to changing the word 'Feoffee' to 'Trustee' in Minute No. 93 - Matters Arising, were confirmed and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Minute No: 94 – Police

The Clerk read the response received from Mr. Tim Passmore advising that he would be discussing Suffolk constabulary's financial planning process with the Chief Constable in due course and will await out settlement from government in December before deciding how we meet the financial challenges we face. Whilst Suffolk Constabulary collaborate with Norfolk and have saved £26m since 2010 through this successful collaboration local policing is not collaborated so decisions made in Norfolk do not affect local policing in Suffolk.

*At this point the meeting was adjourned for members of the public to speak on highway questions for Suffolk County Councillor Fraser; grant made to Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau, parking in Hadleigh and what is happening with the Neighbourhood Plan.*

**110. POLICE**

The Clerk advised that no information had been received from the Police.

The Clerk reported on incidents which had occurred recently on Corks Lane Playground to which the Police have been informed. The Police have advised that this will be one of the areas they will regularly patrol. The Clerk requested that if members of the public become aware of any incidents please could they advise the Council accordingly.

**111. REPORTS OF THE COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Written reports had been received from Babergh District Councillors Campbell, Dr. Dawson and Grandon.

Councillor Grandon advised that Babergh District Council Officers may attend the December Town Council meeting to make a presentation on the future of the building on Corks Lane. Information was given by Councillor Grandon and Councillor Byrne following the meeting held at Babergh District Council to meet with the architects and Officers involved in the future use of the building.

Councillor Haylock reported that she had been made aware of a resident who had incurred a 50 mile journey following advice that the form that was required was at Ipswich, it wasn't, and had to go to Sudbury to collect it. This is one of the impacts the closure of Corks Lane has had on residents. It had taken fifteen minutes for Councillor Haylock to have a telephone call answered which, again, is unacceptable.

Suffolk County Councillor Fraser had provided detailed drawings of eight highway proposals for Benton Street and replied to a number of questions raised. He would be presenting these documents to the public on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December between 7pm and 8pm in the Guildhall assisted by Suffolk County Council Officers. A request was made that the Town Council staff assist in publicising this event.

Councillor Young asked Councillor Fraser if there could be weight restrictions imposed on Toppesfield Bridge. She had raised concerns previously over the traffic using the bridge especially at the time of the May Show. Councillor Fraser agreed to provide Councillor Young with a written reply.

Councillor Whiting requested that Suffolk County Council consider providing a traffic plan for the whole town and not just Benton Street especially as new developments were being considered and traffic is increasing everywhere.

#### 112. **MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor thanked all those who supported her at the Remembrance Day event in the town.

The Clerk reported a temporary road closure of part of the C724 Ivy Tree Land and C724 Hadleigh Road, Hadleigh and Kersey from the 21<sup>st</sup> November to the 23<sup>rd</sup> November for carriageway patching.

#### 113. **STANDING ORDER NO. 40**

Councillor Cook asked if the Town Clerk is aware that finally on November 27<sup>th</sup> work is to begin on remedial works at Queen Street and Church Street which I understand is to be more than the patching which has gone on previously.

The Clerk advised that to date no information on this work had been received.

**114. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was **RESOLVED** that accounts amounting to £23,088.44 including HMRC, Utilities, SCC Pension Fund and staff salaries, details of which are listed in the Schedule contained in the Minute Book, be approved for payment.

**115. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, were noted.

Minute No: 46 – Babergh & Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan: Consultation Document – August 2017 – The Chair advised that Hadleigh Town Council's submission had been made.

**116. SPORTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

The Report of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, was received and accepted.

**117. REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Shearly-Sanders reported that following representations made by Parish Councils there is new constitution for the Babergh Alliance of Parish and Town Councils. Hadleigh Town Council had voted not to sign the previous constitution presented. The group is working on the local plan and had submitted an extensive report.

**118. HADLEIGH TOWN FORUM**

Councillor Young reported that everything was on track. There was only one problem which is that it would appear that lighting up of the main tree is to take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November to coincide with the event happening in Long Bessels and could this be postponed.

Councillor Young was advised that the main tree is being erected on the 25<sup>th</sup> November in line with the trees being erected along the High Street and had nothing at all to do with the event in Long Bessels. The electricians would be on site and switching the lights on to test that they work.

There were a number of options put forward – that the lights are left on; the lights be switched off prior to the event; that the tree remains unlit until the 9<sup>th</sup> December, although this was felt a waste as the Council were paying over £1,000 for the tree. As there was no agreement made it was agreed that Councillor Young arrange to meet with the Mayor and the Office Administrator who was arranging the main tree to finalise arrangements for lighting the tree.

**119. BUDGET BIDS**

The Town Clerk asked that any final budget bids be made at this meeting.

Councillor Haylock requested that there be enough money to fund Tourism booklets.

Councillor Wilson requested £5,000 be included in the budget to be used for events for the next twelve months. Councillor Young hoped that the tourist working group would be able to work with the Town Forum and the Environment & General Purposes Committee in organising events. Councillor Cook pointed out that there was already an amount of £5,000 budgeted for the Battle's Over Event in 2018.

Councillor Byrne requested that an amount of money be included in the budget to employ a contractor to help with the watering of the High Street hanging baskets.

**120. ALDHAM COMMON CHARITY**

It was agreed that Mr. Keith Grimsey remain as a Nominative Trustee of this Charity for a further four years.

**121. GRIEVANCE PANEL HEARING**

Following Councillor Shearly-Sanders declaring a non-pecuniary interest in this item Councillor Angland advised that, as Chair of the Grievance Panel, she wanted to make a statement.

At this point Councillors Shearly-Sanders, Wilson and Young stated that this was unlawful and left the room.

The Town Clerk made a formal complaint against one of the Town Councillors for '*bullying, harassment and intimidation*'.

The Council's Grievance Panel held a meeting on the 30th October, the outcome of which was that the complaint was upheld.

The decision of the Panel was that a written and public verbal apology should be made to the Town Clerk. Also, with immediate effect, all communications, by letter or email, from the Councillor to the Clerk will be directed to the Town Mayor who will forward to the Clerk if deemed necessary. This sanction will be reviewed in May 2018.

Would the relevant councillor like to make a public apology?

No apology was made.

**122. TOWN MATTERS**

There were no Town Matters.

**123. CIRCULARS AND REPORTS**

The following were received:

- a) Hadleigh Community News – November 2017
- b) Local Councils Update – October 2017

124. Confidential Item – In pursuance of Section 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Press and the Public shall be excluded for the next item of business on the grounds that it is likely to be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings.

**125. SPORTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – PART 2**

The Report of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 was received and accepted.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm