

**HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**  
held on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017

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Present: Councillors: Free (Town Mayor), Angland, Byrne, Cook, Fraser, Haines, Haylock, Matthews, Monks, Sheldrick, Whiting, Wiltshire and Young

In attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Fraser and Babergh District Councillor Dr. Dawson and 8 members of the public.

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**126. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Shearly-Sanders for personal reasons and Wilson who is on holiday. These apologies were accepted.

**127. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**128. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book were taken as read, were confirmed and signed.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Minute No: 111 – Reports of the County & District Councillors

Councillor Young requested that the word ‘traffic’ be changed to ‘heavy vehicles’ however the minutes had already been confirmed as a true record. Councillor Byrne advised that however this was worded the bridge had been heavily reinforced a few years ago.

*At this point the meeting was adjourned for members of the public to speak on the accuracy of the Town Council's accounts.*

**129. POLICE**

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

Councillor Cook reported on the recent crime statistics which had been reported in the press recently for the year October 2016 to September 2017. It was interesting to note from the figures that the figures for Hadleigh South were 87 whereas in Hadleigh North they were 392. Councillor Cook requested that a letter be sent to Inspector Kevin Horton requesting police presence at the next Town Council meeting in order that these figures can be discussed and receive an explanation regarding this disparity.

Councillor Haylock reported that because of the recent ram raiding crimes in the County the local Co-op have placed a large bollard at the rear of the shop by the ATM machine.

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

Written reports had been received from Suffolk County Council Fraser and Babergh District Councillor Campbell. Babergh District Councillors Campbell and Grandon had tendered their apologies.

Babergh District Councillor Dr. Dawson provided a verbal report. She provided information from the Council meeting held on Tuesday evening and advised that she was one of the Tory Councillors who voted with the opposition and had ousted Councillor Jenny Jenkins from her position of Council Leader. She went on to explain that this was because of the handling of the merger, the move of the staff to Ipswich and because she felt that this Councillor had been in the position for far too long – ten years' service. She answered questions on the referendum.

Councillor Angland raised a matter from Councillor Campbell's report regarding the recruitment of staff in the Planning Department and why vacant posts cannot be filled.

Councillor Fraser answered question on business rates.

**131. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor wished all Councillors a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanked all those that attended her drinks evening on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

132. **STANDING ORDER NO. 40**

Councillor Young asked does the Town Council have an obligation that all work carried out on its own property and land using public money to ensure meets British Standards and Government guidelines?

It was not possible for the Clerk to provide a Yes or No answer to this question.

Councillor Young asked the Mayor if she could have a reply to the message sent to her on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

The Mayor apologised but advised that she had replied that Councillor Young's comments had been noted.

Councillor Fraser asked why he did not appear on the list of Councillors on the bottom of the Agenda and the website?

Councillor Young asked if the money had been applied for from the Public Works Loan Board for the cemetery extension?

The Clerk replied No.

133. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

It was **RESOLVED** that accounts amounting to £43,343.44 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.

Councillor Cook advised how pleased she was to see the clock at St. Mary's returned in all its splendour and how many residents had commented to her how clear the chiming was.

134. **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, were noted.

135. **FINANCE & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

The Report of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, was received and accepted including the recommendation to make grants of:

- i) £50 to Visit Hadleigh Website
- ii) £200 to Hadleigh Star Gymnastics
- iii) £170 to Visit Hadleigh Walking Tours
- iv) £200 to HADS

136. **ENVIRONMENT & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

The Report of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017, a copy of which is included in the Minute Book, was received and accepted.

Councillor Young requested wording be changed to the report:

Item 3        The Chair be changed to The Clerk

Item 4        rubbish to be changed to commercial waste

Councillor Monks advised that she had sent her apologies to the Chair and was disappointed that these had not been tendered.

137. **BUDGET 2018/19**

The Clerk advised that she had nothing further to report since the last Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting. The precept figures will be set at the January meeting. It may be necessary to arrange a Finance & Personnel Committee meeting prior to the full Council meeting.

Councillor Young asked if the mediation costs had been budgeted for. The Clerk advised that to date no costs had been received so this was not possible.

138. **REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Free advised that the Hadleigh Elderly People's Welfare Committee had had their Christmas Party at the White Hart.

139. **HADLEIGH TOWN FORUM**

Councillor Sheldrick gave a verbal report on the Christmas event held on the 9<sup>th</sup> December which he felt went very well. It was a simple event but a number of children took part in the lantern parade and made their own lanterns. He hoped that the event could be built on for next year.

He also gave a personal thank you to Kieron Ruddy and his friend who had helped.

140. **SUFFOLK HOME TO SCHOOL AND POST-16 TRAVEL CONSULTATION**

Councillor Cook provided information on the consultation being carried out by Suffolk County Council on future plans for school transport and how this could affect some Hadleigh pupils.

It was agreed that this would be an item on the February Town Council meeting and Councillors were requested to bring their written recommendations in order that Hadleigh Town Council can comment on the consultation.

**141. TOWN MATTERS**

The Clerk had not been notified of any Town Matters.

Councillor Young asked if the letter received from the Chief Executive Officer of Babergh District Council pertaining to the mediation process should be reported. The Clerk advised that this was a Town Council matter and not a Town Matter.

**142. CIRCULARS AND REPORTS**

The following were received:

- a) Hadleigh Community News – December 2017
- b) Local Councils Update – November 2017
- c) The Clerk – November 2017
- d) Open Space – Autumn 2017
- e) Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 4 2017
- f) Suffolk View – Autumn 2017
- g) Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2017
- h) In Touch – October 2017

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm

CONFIRMED

TOWN MAYOR