



Present: Councillors;

Mrs L Smith; Mrs J Berry; Mr N Bocking; Mrs M Took; Cllr Mr J Wagner; Mr P Widdowson

In Attendance: Mr N Rees (Acting Clerk), 20 members of the public

Minutes

In the absence of Cllr Annette Dunning the Vice Chair, Letitia Smith took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Mrs L Cooke – due to illness, Cllr Mrs J Wagner – illness, Cllr Mrs A Dunning – work commitments. All apologies were accepted.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr P Widdowson for 7, 8, 9. Dispensations were received by the Clerk for item 9b from Councillors; Mrs J Berry, Mrs M Took, Mr J Wagner & Mr P Widdowson. No dispensation was required from Cllrs Mrs L Smith and Mr N Bocking as they were not residents of Halesworth.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.08pm

3. **Presentation by the Campus Group:** Mr Erik Wilcock and Mr Simon Weeks presented an update on the Campus project. The sale of the Dairy Hill field was still being finalised but it was anticipated that this would generate £2.5 million. Further funding was being sought from Sport England, the F.A. and the RFU. The group were also applying to the Local Enterprise Partnership for a donation towards the cost of the new access road. A handout outlining the whole presentation was given to all the Councillors present (attached). It was expected that work would commence in January 2016 and that it would be open by January 2017 with some pitches available before. There was also an ongoing survey being conducted and Councillors were asked to fill in the questionnaire.

The Chair thanked Mr Erik Wilcock and Simon Weeks for their presentation and invited questions from Councillors and members of the public. From a request from Cllr Nat Bocking, Mr Simon Weeks agreed to put a map of the complex online. Cllr M Took asked if there was any possibility that there would be less pitches than were previously in place. Mr Weeks confirmed that there would be more pitches available. Cllr P Widdowson expressed concern that a Swimming Pool may not be part of the building works and that the town expected a replacement for the original open air pool on Dairy Hill. The Campus Group acknowledges that a pool is often at the top of resident's lists when asked, however research would indicate that pools are not commercially sustainable. There was no funding available for pools as opposed to other sports facilities such as pitches, courts and indoor sports. Mrs Sue Allenby asked why indoor activities could not be catered for in the Rifle Hall. Mr Weeks replied that the Campus project would not be in competition to the Rifle Hall, which could offer complimentary sports such as carpet bowls or other similar activities. However the Rifle Hall would not be suitable for many other indoor sports that require more space. Mr Malcom Smith asked whether the public would have general access to any of the playing fields other than the organised pitches. Mr Weeks confirmed that there would be access but the details were not known at this stage.

4. **Minutes:** RESOLVED; It was agreed that the minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 1st December 2014 be accepted as a true record with the following amendments, Page 2 item 6, [remove 'Cllr Nat Bocking'] and replace with 'Mr Nat Bocking' volunteered...', page 2 item 6, , Cllr Paul Widdowson [remove 'read out'] and replace with 'presented' his report.
5. **Police Report:** The Vice Chair read out the monthly police report (attached). Cllr Nat Bocking asked whether the Acting Clerk could find out if the police had been aware of an accident involving the roundabout opposite the Angel Link. It was confirmed that the next SNT meeting was on Wednesday 7th January at the Apollo Centre. Cllr Paul Widdowson asked if an update could be obtained from the speed guns.
6. **Public Session:** Mr Andrew Jones requested that the Chair reminds Councillors to stand when speaking, Mr Richard Trim asked whether the question of the Mayor could be advertised in the Library and other public areas. The Chair confirmed that the details of the survey were on the Town notice

board. Mrs Ann Fleming suggested that the Council should consider putting out boxes for voting. Cllr Nat Bocking confirmed that members of the public without computer access could write to the Acting Clerk to register their vote. It was also possible for members of the public to request a referendum, however it was noted that this would involve a cost and it had been previously stated that the change from Chairman to Mayor would not involve any cost to the residents of Halesworth. The Acting Clerk confirmed to Mr Andrew Jones that the Friends of Halesworth County Library would be invited to the next Finance Committee meeting when their grant application would be reviewed. Mrs Sue Allenby requested an independent scrutiny of the Mayorship survey. Mrs Smith wished it known that she felt it was a waste of money to hold a referendum on this subject and that a change to a Mayor was not necessary.

7. **Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives:** The report from Cllr P Widdowson on the Rifle Hall was received and noted. The report from Cllr Nat Bocking on Transport was received and noted.
8. **District & County Reports:** To receive any reports from County Cllr T Goldson and District Cllr L Smith. The report from Cllr T Goldson was received and noted. District Councillor Letitia Smith read out her report.
9. **Financial Matters:**
 - a) **Report:** RESOLVED that the report of the meeting held on the 17th December 2014 was accepted as a true record.
 - b) **Precept:** It was proposed and agreed that the budget for 'Grants and Donations' be increased by £2,000 and the budget for Professional Fees be reduced by £2,000, with these amendments it was RESOLVED that the Precept for 2015/2016 remain at £80,000, unchanged from the preceding year.
10. **Town Revitalisation Committee:** RESOLVED that the Town Plan document which included the updated chapters was approved. It was agreed that the following chapters; 8, 9, 12 & 16 would be updated jointly by all Councillors for discussion and review at the next TRC meeting on the 19th January.
11. **G.A.P.P.A:** Play partnership working group: There were no updates at this stage, the next meeting would be on the 28th January.
12. **Mayorship:** It was confirmed that the survey would end on January 29th and that this item will be deferred to the monthly meeting on the 2nd February. It was noted that there had not been any timescales agreed and that if it was agreed to change to a Mayor, the timescale had yet to be decided. However, it was generally agreed that this would most likely be after the elections in May 2015. It was noted again that there would not be any cost to the residents of Halesworth associated with the change to a Mayor.
13. **Planning:** It was noted that a Planning Meeting had been arranged for the 12th January. RESOLVED that devolved responsibility be given to the Planning Committee to formulate a response to the draft open spaces and draft green infrastructure strategy required by the 30th January 2015.
14. **VAS signs:** RESOLVED that the cost of the VAS (vehicle activated speed) sign at £1,062.04 was agreed and to sign the Memorandum of Agreement.
15. **Correspondence:** To receive any correspondence requiring action.
16. **Accounts for Payment:** RESOLVED that the accounts for payment was approved.

3636.	Salaries	1,210.00
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Standing Orders/DD

DD - EDF Electricity Market Place no1	12.56
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The meeting was closed at 8.45pm.