

Present: Councillors;

Ann Baldwin, Anne Fleming (Chair) David Thomas (Vice Chair), Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Leverett, Maureen Took, P Widdowson, D Wollweber

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Clerk), County Cllr T Goldson, 7 members of the public

Minutes

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Dutton, Cllr A Payne
2. **Declarations of interest:** All Cllrs declared an interest in items 3 & 4 in the respect that all Cllrs used the car park.
3. **To formally ratify the decision made on Tuesday 14th June to accept the offer from WDC to reinstate the free one hour parking in the Thoroughfare car park.** Cllr D Thomas read out a statement (attached) which thanked WDC and in particular, Cllr Ardley and District Cllr Tony Goldson in helping to resolve this issue to bring about the return of the free parking. Cllr Thomas hoped that the business will get behind the people of Halesworth, who were ultimately paying for the return of the free parking, by contributing themselves. Cllr Thomas proposed a plaque to be erected in the pedestrian area between the car park and the Thoroughfare thanking all those businesses which contributes financially to the cost of reinstating the car park.

The Chair then explained that there were four proposals to consider at this meeting and these were agreed as follows:-

First Resolution

It was RESOLVED that 'the Council formally ratifies the decision made on Tuesday 14th June to accept the offer from WDC to reinstate the free one hour parking in the Thoroughfare car park'.

Second Resolution

It then proposed and RESOLVED that 'To ensure the reinstatement of the one hour free car parking in the Thoroughfare car park, Halesworth Town Council will offer the sum of £10,000 to WDC for one year (or a pro rata figure which has been agreed) to be reviewed on an annual basis. Waveney District Council to absorb the cost of recalibration of the parking meters and to minimise the impact on Halesworth Council Tax payers, HTC will seek financial contributions from the business community, our local District Councillors and the local parishes'.

Third Resolution

It was further proposed and RESOLVED, after amendment, that a plaque thanking all those businesses that contribute to the cost of the one hour free parking is placed on the wall by the flower bed at the entrance to the car park alongside the White Hart and to include recognition for District Cllr Tony Goldson work in bringing about the reinstatement of the free one hour parking.

4. **To consider giving devolved powers to the Finance Committee to finalise the details of the agreement with WDC.**

Fourth Resolution

It was agreed that as the finer details of the deal with WDC were not known at the time of this Extraordinary meeting it was RESOLVED that 'the Council gives devolved powers to the Finance Committee to finalise the details of the agreement with WDC to reinstate the free parking for this one time only'.

The Chair confirmed that she had met with the two representatives of the Thoroughfare and Market Place businesses with Cllr Rosemary Lewis earlier in the evening. This had proved to be a very positive meeting and the representatives agreed to communicate the Council's decisions made at this 'Extraordinary' meeting back to the business community.

The official date of the reinstatement of the free parking and the resolutions made at this meeting would be conveyed to the Community News, Beccles & Bungay and the Lowestoft Journal once the date was known. In the meantime the Clerk would confirm the Council's resolutions to WDC.

The meeting was closed at 6.40pm