

HTC AND REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Halesworth Town Council views good communication with organisations within the Town as being highly important: a two way process that means that the Town Council has good understanding about local organisations and that their needs, aims, and plans and these can be taken into account when developing the economic, social and leisure future of the Town.

With some of our local charities changing to Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO), and given the growth and changes in the role of the “third” or voluntary sector it was decided to review the relationship.

Traditionally the Town Council has provided Trustees to some of the Local Charities. The priority of the Councillor Trustee is to represent the needs of the charity even when it is a variance with the decisions of the Town Council and as a consequence is a source of potential conflicts of interest. On the other side of the coin it is important that organisations that carry out important needs for the Town have public representation and are open to scrutiny. It is also important that the Town Council is seen as neutral and is not over represented in any particular charity especially where various charities may be competing for resources.

It is of course up to individual organisations as to whether and how they liaise and communicate with the Town Council, but we hope that most will see the importance of a two way flow of information.

With this in mind the review has come up with the following proposals and types of representation that could be made with local organisations.

1. Councillor Trustee.

A Councillor Trustee is defined as an elected councillor who is nominated by the Town Council to be a Trustee. We propose that in the interests of neutrality that organisations that would like or need a Councillor Trustee have **no more than two** elected councillors on their board or committee. Where the organisation applies for funding or finance, the Councillor Trustees should abstain in any decision making process of the Town Council. As a Trustee the Councillors first duty is to that charity or organisation, but can be asked for information about that organisation by the Council or a member of the public as a public representative.

2. Council Nominated Trustee

Many of the older charities e.g. HPFA, the Museum and the Unappropriated Estates/United Charities have a constitution that states the need for a certain number of Council nominated trustees. Under the changes there will only be two Councillor Trustees. In order that these

charities do not need to rewrite their constitutions it is proposed that **Council Nominated Trustees continue for such organisations** and are used to make up the desired numbers of Council Trustees. These Trustees should be people strongly interested in remit of the charity and serve the Charity first. The Town Council has no requirements of them other than they can be asked for information by the Town Council about the organisation, although the Councillor Trustee would always be the first port of call for information.

3. Councillor Manager/ Committee Member

These are Councillors who will attend committee /management meetings of an organisation and are nominated by the Town Council. Their role is to be a two way conduit of information between the Town Council and the Organisation and will use their expertise to help in a decision making role in the running of the organisation. The Councillors first duty is to that charity or organisation, but can be asked for information about that organisation by the Council or a member of the public as a public representative. It is suggested that there is only one Councillor Manager/Committee Member per organisation

4. Councillor Representative

These are Councillors who will attend meetings and keep in touch with an organisation. Their role is to be a two way conduit of information between the Town Council and the Organisation. They will not take part in the formal decision making process of the organisation but can be asked for information by the Council about the organisation. It is suggested that there is a maximum of two Councillor Representatives per organisation

5. Council Nominated Representative

There may be cases where it is not possible to find a Councillor to fulfil the liaison role. In these cases the Council can nominate a member of the public with expertise or enthusiasm for the remit of the charity or organisation. The Town Council has no requirements of them other than they can be asked for information by the Town Council about the organisation. It is suggested that there is only one Councillor Representative per organisation

Amendments agreed at the May 2018 Annual and monthly meeting, minute ref 26.10

6. Any Councillor is able to make a statement on behalf of the group or charity they wished to represent, regardless of whether they were a trustee of that organisation
7. The legal position of members of the public that were appointed as trustees by the Council were subject to the same rules as though they were Councillors.
8. That on the matter of advertising for members of the public to take council appointed trustee positions, otherwise vacated by Councillors, necessary to fulfil the requirements of the charities' constitution, no Council members may put forward individuals (whether they be related or not) for those positions.