

Present: Councillors;

A Fleming, S Leverett, R Lewis, A Payne, D Thomas (Chair), M Took, D Wollweber

In Attendance: N Rees (Town Clerk), District Cllr T Goldson, one member of the public.

Minutes

1. **Apologies:** Cllr A Baldwin
2. **Declarations of interest:** To receive declarations for pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held on the 16th May, 2016 was accepted as a true record after the following corrections; formerly to formally (item 10), CEO Stephen Baler corrected to Baker (item 7) and insert 'Ref' before Takeaways (item 16).
4. **Matters arising from the minutes.**
5. **Communication:** It was noted that progress on the media screen in the Library had been very slow and Cllr Payne offered to speak to the Manager of the Library and to the Friends of Halesworth County Library to see if he could move it forward.
6. **Parking:** The Committee received and noted the report of the meeting with the Halesworth businesses held on the 8th June (attached). It was reported that business owners had stated that Cllr Law was offering a significantly different deal to the one previously relayed to HTC. Cllr Goldson had since had open and frank discussions with Cllr Law and Cllr Ardley and was now looking for agreement from HTC to confirm this offer in writing to Cllr Law. The offer would be £10k for the first year (up to 31st March 2017 it was assumed) with WDC reprogramming the ticket machines at their cost with no obligation to continue after year one. The second, third and any subsequent years would be negotiated at a later date, probably in September.
Cllr Lewis (Chair of the Finance Committee) was pleased that progress had been made but was unhappy that the 10k was for effectively 9 months rather than a full 12 months. WDC had made some £12k already from the one hour parking charges in the Thoroughfare car park since it was reintroduced in April. Cllr Lewis asked Cllr Goldson whether it was possible to get this first year on pro rata basis. Cllr Goldson thought this was unlikely but would see what he could do. The Chair agreed that this would be ideal but recognised that this deal was a major step forward and that HTC should accept it as it was vital for the town. It was agreed that it was important that Cllr Goldson manages to get the agreement in writing. It was noted that HTC should ask the businesses and the local parish councils to contribute towards the costs instead of HTC and Council Tax payers footing the whole bill. It was then proposed and RESOLVED that Cllr Goldson writes an email to Cllr Law to be sent later that evening. This would state that *'I have put the following proposal to HTC this evening, WDC will introduce the one hour free parking within the two weeks upon agreeing to the payment of ten thousand pounds for year one. WDC will cover the costs of changing the parking machines as a sign of good faith. This is a deal for one year with no obligation to continue thereafter. WDC will agree to meet with HTC around September time to discuss the continuation of the one hour free parking in an amicable way to find a way of resolving this for the long term. WDC will supply a copy of parking figures for all Halesworth car parks on a monthly basis for their information.'*

It was further agreed to call an extraordinary meeting for the 14th June at 6.45pm and invite the businesses to attend. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss the potential

means to retain the free one hour parking and hopefully in the meantime Cllr Law would confirm the offer in writing.

7. **WDC local plan consultation:** The Clerk confirmed that the consultation deadline had now been extended to the 27th June.
8. **London Road Building:** The Clerk confirmed that WDC had again been asking for HTC to sign the licence agreement for Halesworth Town Council's portion of the London Rd Building. The committee generally were of the opinion this was not necessary since there had not been an agreement in place prior to WDC closing their customer services desk. It was noted that the rates had been paid by HTC for the first 6 months of the financial year, i.e. April – September 2016.
9. **Divisional Parishes: Safe - Speed System.** The committee received and noted the information on the Safe Speed System. This system recorded registration plates and serial offenders were reported to the Police. It was agreed that this was an expensive system and probably not something the committee felt was justifiable at this stage. The system would be reviewed at the next Parish Divisional meeting and more information would be forthcoming.
10. **Pedestrian crossing at the Railway Station:** It was noted that a public meeting would be held at the New Cut Arts Centre at 6.30pm on the 14th July.
11. **Divestment of WDC services, Public Toilets:** It was noted that the cost of maintaining the three public toilets had been confirmed (see HTC June monthly minutes item 16c). The Clerk was asked to clarify with WDC as to whether there was any rates payable on these toilets and to chase the register of interest in acquiring the toilets.
12. **Maintenance:** To receive a report on any maintenance issues.
 - a) Pest Control: It was noted that Millennium Pest Control had confirmed that after the 7th inspection of bait boxes on the 9th June, 2016 it appeared that the rat problem was now under control. There may still be rat sightings in the town as it was impossible to eradicate them completely.
 - b) Town cleaning in preparation of Anglia in Bloom judging: SCC had confirmed that the thoroughfare had been sprayed in April. The pulling up of weeds would be an additional cost. This was then deferred to the Finance Committee.
 - c) Station building: Painting of exterior woodwork. The Clerk explained that a company from Ilford (SEE Contractors) had visited the station and expressed a keen interest in pricing the work but had since failed to produce a quotation despite numerous calls and emails. The Clerk asked the committee to consider employing a local contractor. It was agreed that this would be deferred to the Finance Committee.
 - d) Verge cutting: The Clerk confirmed that verge cutting was scheduled for early July just before the HIB judging took place.
 - e) Tourist information board on Angel Hotel corner refurbishing by HIB: It was noted that HIB had contacted EPS to refurbish the Tourist information board. It was noted that there were other tourist information points in the town. This would be deferred to the Finance Committee.
 - f) Town Sign, Holton Rd and Bramfield Rd to consider adding 'Best Small Town Gold Award' sign approximately £80 for the two. This was deferred to the Finance Committee.
13. **Aviva Women's Cycle Race:** It was noted that the race was due to arrive at 10.32am. The Council had been donated a bicycle for painting in red, white and blue colours and this would be displayed along the route.
14. **Correspondence:**
 - a) Alistair Macfarlane's letter to Inspector Jackson – This letter would be circulated.

The Clerk reported that the bunting on the Saxon Way Bridge had been either stolen or taken down. It was agreed to report this to the Police.

The meeting was closed 7.53pm