

**Present:** Councillors;

Anne Fleming (Chair), Ann Baldwin, Peter Dutton, Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Leverett, Andrew Payne, David Thomas (Vice Chair), Maureen Took, Paul Widdowson, Iona Winton, David Wollweber

**In Attendance:** Nick Rees (Clerk), Polly Grice (Beccles & Bungay), PC Simon Green, PC Richard Warne, 8 members of the public

## Minutes

1. **Apologies:** District Councillor Letitia Smith

The Chair informed the Council that Cllr J Wagner had sent her resignation in earlier in the day but had not offered any specific reasons. RESOLVED that the Council sends a letter thanking Cllr Wagner for her 22 years on the Council. The Clerk confirmed that WDC had been notified and a notice of a casual vacancy would be displayed once it had been received.

2. **Declarations of interest:** Non-pecuniary interests; Cllr A Baldwin for 11, Cllr P Dutton for 10, 11 & 13 Cllr A Fleming for 9, 10, 11 & 17, Cllr S Leverett for 9, 10, 11 & 12, Cllr R Lewis for 10, Cllr A Payne for 11, Cllr D Thomas for 9, 10 & 11, Cllr M Took for 11 & 12, Cllr P Widdowson for 13 & 14, Cllr I Winton for 11 & 13, Cllr D Wollweber for 11.

3. **Minutes:** RESOLVED that the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 were accepted as a true record with the amendment that under item 4 (Chair's report) Peter Aldous title to be amended to MP not Cllr and insert 'annual' before contribution. The Clerk would amend the minutes for signing later.

4. **Matter Arising:** There were no matters arising.

5. **Chair's Report:** The Chair reported on the Halesworth in Bloom AGM on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 and handed out many certificates for Allotment and Garden awards. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December the Chair attended the HPFA AGM and on the same day also met with representatives from WDC about the future of the London Rd Building. There is another meeting planned on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. On the 4<sup>th</sup> December the Chair presented a cheque to Nsafe for £780 raised from the Civic Dinner. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December representatives from Halesworth Business Connections met to discuss the potential loss of the 1hr free Car Parking. This was not a Council meeting and there were no decisions made but it was useful to have ideas from the Business community. On the 9<sup>th</sup> December, Suffolk County Council held a consultation on the Bus Hub in the Old Print Works. The team were without Simon Barnet's technical expertise but took questions and feedback from the members of public to take back with them. On the 12<sup>th</sup> December the Chair attended the Halesworth Divisional Parish meeting and one of the villages (Spexhall) had provided photographic evidence of maintenance issues around their area. Mr Mark Kerridge of SCC had noted how useful this was and the Chair suggested that this should be discussed at the next Town Development Committee meeting to try and organise something similar in Halesworth. On the 17<sup>th</sup> December the Chair, members of the Council, District Councillor Tony Goldson and Mr E Leverett of Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership met with Mr Andrew Jarvis (Head of Strategic Planning for WDC) to put forward a proposal to retain the 1hr Free Parking by altering the rates for the other parking periods. This proposal has since been rejected by WDC and the Chair read out the response from Cllr Colin Law (WDC Leader). The Chair commended District Councillor Tony Goldson on his hard work to try and get WDC to change their minds. Another meeting with Cllr Goldson on the matter took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> December to try and plan a way forward. On the 18<sup>th</sup> December there was a meeting on

Halesworth becoming a Fair Trade Town, this would now be discussed further at the next Town Development meeting.

6. **Police:** To receive a monthly report. PC Simon Green accompanied by PC Richard Warne attended the meeting and then read out the report (attached). PC Simon Green explained the situation with the PCSO's. The number of PCSO in the area were being drastically reduced but it was expected that there would be one PC and two PCSO's based in Halesworth although they would be expected to cover a much larger area.
7. **Public Session:** [15 minutes on agenda items] there were no questions from the members of the public. The Chair reminded everyone that the next Town Meeting was on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at the Edgar Sewter School at 7pm.
8. **Planning Committee:** The Chair of the Committee, Cllr Peter Dutton reported on two applications reviewed earlier in the evening, Change of use to 15A Thoroughfare & trimming back trees at the Halesworth Delivery Office, Norwich Road, both applications were approved. Cllr Dutton also advised that currently the planning authority had a more relaxed view of applications for building behind your own house and it was now more likely to be approved.
9. **Car Park update:** The meeting was opened. District Councillor Tony Goldson reported that the proposal made by Halesworth Town Council to retain the 1hr Free parking by altering the rates for the other time periods had been rejected by Waveney District Council. There had not been an explanation as to why this proposal had been rejected but Cllr Goldson would be requesting clarification. Cllr Goldson also reported that there had been a major incident alert at James Paget Hospital as there were not enough beds available and consequently two beds had been opened at the Patrick Stead Hospital and nine more in Beccles. Cllr Thomas was incredulous and said it was perfect example why the CCG shouldn't close any local hospitals.
10. **London Rd Building:** The Chair explained that following an earlier meeting with Simon Eades and Gayle Hart, which discussed the closure of the building, there had been a meeting arranged with Nicole Rickard, Head of Communities at WDC to discuss the options under the Localism Act 2011. By registering the building as a Community Asset it would effectively give the Town Council a 6 month period to consider all the options, starting from the date that the application was accepted. RESOLVED that HTC register the London Rd Building as Community Asset under the Localism Act of 2011. It was also noted that the Clerk could not find any documents relating to the ownership of the building and furthermore it did not appear to be filed under the Land Registry records. It was RESOLVED that HTC register the building with the Land Registry office. The cost of this would be negligible but the Clerk would liaise with the Chair of Finance.
11. **Town Development Committee:** The Council received the draft minutes from the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2015. Cllr Andrew Payne reported that he was currently awaiting feedback from Cllrs on the revised compact version of the Town Plan. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase Richard Woolnough for his contribution on the Wildlife section which was the only section that still needed content. The Chair of the Committee, Cllr David Thomas suggested that this document, once complete, should be sent to the Tourism Group. Cllr Peter Dutton was concerned that the Council had not submitted any possible sites for future development under the 'Call for Sites' from WDC. Cllr Dutton would circulate his suggestions and would appreciate feedback from the Council as the deadline was the 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.
12. **GAPPA:** There was no further news to report.
13. **Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives:** To receive any reports on meetings or events attended by Councillors. The Council received and noted the reports from Cllr Payne for **Halesworth Events Management** and for the **Friends of Halesworth County Library**. Cllr Payne reported that it was a very worrying time for the Library and some of the financial load may fall on the Friends of Halesworth County Library. Cllr Lewis provided a written report on the **Campus** meeting where she stood in for Cllr Baldwin. Cllr Widdowson explained that there was no Rifle Hall minutes this month but that he and the Clerk had attempted to help the Rifle Hall resolve the graffiti still on the South

wall of the Rifle Hall. Unfortunately Waveney Norse would not undertake the work due to the height that the graffiti was located.

14. **District & County Reports:** Cllr Goldson had reported under item 8 of the agenda. Cllr Letitia Smith was not present at the meeting but it was noted that Cllr Leverett was still awaiting a response to the question raised at the last meeting (referring to the London Rd Building) regarding WDC's duty of care to the Day Centre.

15. **Financial Matters:**

- a) Report. RESOLVED that the report of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> December was accepted as a true record.
- b) To confirm the date for setting the Precept. It was noted that there were negotiations pending with WDC and therefore it may be necessary to hold an Extraordinary meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January to set the Precept as the deadline as the 22<sup>nd</sup> January.
- c) Station Building update. The Clerk reported he had spoken to Abellio Anglia (Mr David Rose, head of Leasing) and subsequently they had agreed to reinstate the slates on both sides of the roof and would also investigate the damp problems again. There were no additional costs expected from this action.

16. **Correspondence:**

- a) Elizabeth Hospice. The Chair read out the letter which was in response to her letter to the Mr Mark Millar Chief Executive of the Elizabeth Hospice regarding the Patrick Stead Hospital.

17. **Accounts for Payment:** RESOLVED that the following accounts for payment was approved.

<u>3743.</u>	Viking	122.67 + vat
<u>3744.</u>	Anne Fleming (Chair's allowance and stationary/copying as bills attached)	251.45

**DD/Standing Orders**

<u>3745.</u>	EDF Market Place 2 Electricity	17.89
<u>3746.</u>	EDF Market Place 1 Electricity	15.13
<u>3747.</u>	Salaries	1626.15
<u>3748.</u>	Bank Charges	81.64

**Bank & Cash Balances at 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2016**

Current 728	£96,451.54
Community A/c	£5,267.44
Business Reserves 017	£92,196.63

The meeting was closed at 8.04 pm