

**Present:** Councillors;

Anne Fleming (Chair), Peter Dutton, T Gardner (from item 7 onwards) Keith Greenberg, Rosemary Lewis, Maureen Took, Paul Widdowson.

**In Attendance:** Nick Rees (Clerk), Polly Grice of the Beccles & Bungay Journal

## **Minutes**

1. **Apologies:** Cllr S Leverett, Cllr A Payne, Cllr David Wollweber, District Cllr Tony Goldson, Alistair Macfarlane (Police Report)
2. **Declarations of interest:** To receive declarations for pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 and the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 were accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** The Clerk was asked to chase Suffolk County Council again to find out the future plans of the Pathfinder bus service and whether it was going to be withdrawn.
5. **Chair's Report:** To receive a monthly report from the Chair of the Council: The Chair reminded the public that minutes of the Council and committees would be available on the website after they were approved at the next meeting. The Chair encouraged members of the public to attend the Finance and the Town Development committees as some subjects of interest to residents were discussed in more detail at these committee meetings. The Chair reported that she had attended a SALC training event on Village Halls with Cllr Dutton on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. On the 8<sup>th</sup> June the Council met with local traders to discuss how to get the free parking reinstated. The Queen's birthday celebrations in the park on the 11<sup>th</sup> June was very successful and the Chair congratulated the Farmhouse Bakery on making the impressive birthday cake. On the 14<sup>th</sup> June the Chair attended a briefing on 'Freedom of information' and 'Data protection' at the SALC offices. On the 15<sup>th</sup> June, the Chair, Clerks and many residents turned out to welcome the Aviva Women's cycle tour as it passed through the town. On the 18<sup>th</sup> June Halesworth in Bloom organised the open gardens event and on the 21<sup>st</sup> June the Chair, Cllrs; Lewis & Leverett met with County Cllr Tony Goldson and Mark Kerridge of Suffolk County Council to discuss the Thoroughfare and Chediston Street petition.
6. **Police:** There were no police officers present. Mr Alistair Macfarlane had sent his apologies for this meeting as he was unwell. The Clerk explained that Mr Macfarlane had agreed to attend the SNT meeting at Holton Village Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, which would be presented by Inspector Jackson and he would be happy to take along any questions from members of the public. The Clerk would forward any suggestions received from residents on to Mr Macfarlane. There was a general police report provided for the meeting but it was noted that this had no specific data for Halesworth and that the report noted that the police had no crime data available for individual towns in the months April to June, due to problems with their computer system. Cllr Thomas requested that the Clerk asks that this information is made available for future monthly meetings.

7. **Co-option of a Town Councillor:** To consider any applications and to welcome the new town Councillor Keith Greenberg. The Chair welcomed Cllr Greenberg to his first meeting. The Council then considered the application from Tracy Gardner. It was noted that the Council would greatly benefit from Tracy Gardner's experience and contacts in her role as Manager of the Halesworth Volunteer Centre and it was RESOLVED that the Council unanimously accepted the application. The 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' was then signed by Tracy Gardner and countersigned by the Clerk. Cllr Gardner then joined the meeting.
8. **Committees, working groups and reps on outside bodies:** The Council had now welcomed two new Cllrs which now meant that the Council had reached the maximum of 12 members, the list of Committees, working groups and reps on outside bodies was then reviewed and the following amendments were agreed:-

Cllr Greenberg would be added as a Halesworth & District Museum Trustee.

Cllr Greenberg would join the Planning Committee and the Town Development Committee

Cllr Gardner would join the Finance Committee and the Town Development Committee

Cllr Fleming, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Baldwin, Cllr Gardner and Cllr Widdowson would be the

Council appointed Trustees of the Unappropriated Estates.

9. **Public Session:** [15 minutes on agenda items]. A member of the public asked whether the Network Rail meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July was actually a public consultation. The Chair reported that she was informed that Network Rail intended to make a presentation of a number of different proposals which would then explain the pros and cons of each proposal. There would be an opportunity to ask questions but ultimately the decision would be made by Network Rail.  
Two residents expressed concerns about whether the costs of reinstating the free parking was being funded out of the precept. One resident felt that the Government's austerity measures should be adhered to and that Council Tax payers should not have to support local businesses. Cllr Thomas stated that whilst he agreed in principle, the Council was effectively caught in the middle and felt that it had no other choice but to step in and help the town. Businesses were under threat, employees were on reduced hours and facing unemployment and shops were closing. The Chair explained that this proposed payment to WDC to reinstate the one hour free parking was in joint collaboration with local businesses, our District Councillor and local parishes who would all contribute to the cost. The precept was not being raised to fund the free parking, the initial cost would be paid from the Council's reserves. The increase to the precept for 2016 – 2017 was primarily to retain the London Rd building for the Council, Day Centre and Volunteer Centre in order to serve the local community. Two members of the public expressed their support for the Council in attempting to reinstate the free parking.
10. **Network Rail:** Public Consultation meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2016 at the New Cut Arts Centre. This was noted and discussed in the Public Session.
11. **Planning Committee:** To receive a report on the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2016. The minutes were noted but would be reviewed at the next Planning Committee meeting. The Chair reported that she had spoken to Richard Amor, Chief Planning officer at WDC, and he had confirmed that there had been interest in the Thoroughfare Car Park site and the Dairy Farm site from a Supermarket chain back in December 2015. However, since that time there has been no further contact, discussions or any planning applications.
12. **Parking:** To receive any updates. It was confirmed that there were no dates from WDC as yet for the reinstatement of the free parking. The Clerk read out the latest update from Cllr Law (Leader of WDC) *'Thanks for your note, we are currently working on the points raised. When we have a full and comprehensive response which addresses all the matters we will write to you formally'*. It was noted that there was a photo shoot planned for the 17<sup>th</sup> June (TBC) which would be in celebration of the return of the free parking and would feature in the Halesworth Community News. It was agreed that it was vital that the free parking must be advertised as much as possible when it was reinstated.

13. **Town Development Committee:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2016 were accepted as a true record.
14. **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 on the Halesworth Playing Fields Association, Halesworth Events Management AGM, Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership.
15. **District & County Reports:** To receive any reports from the District & County Councillors. There were no reports to consider. The Chair reported that she would attend the next Parishes meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> July where any financial contributions from the local parishes would be discussed. It would not be a set figure as some parishes' precepts were very small but any contributions would be very welcome.
16. **Financial Matters:** The report of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2016 was accepted as a true record.
17. **Council Action Plan:** To consider agreeing an action plan to comply with the Local Council Awards Scheme. It was RESOLVED that the action plan would be agreed at the next Town Development Committee meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2016
18. **Civic Function:** To consider organising a Civic function. RESOLVED that the Council would not organise another Civic Function until next year (2017).
19. **Correspondence:** The Clerk read out the details of an organised litter pick on the 11<sup>th</sup> June, starting from Hammonds Mace shop at 11.00am.
20. **Accounts for Payment:** The Clerk drew attention to an item on the accounts (3779) which was for the cost of a new Grit Bin at the base of Queens Drive. The Clerk wished to point this out as it had not been officially approved at a prior meeting and he was therefore asking for the Council's approval to purchase the bin which would replace an unsightly pile of sand. This had been previously requested by Halesworth in Bloom and a resident of queens Drive. RESOLVED that the Council approved the purchase of the Grit Bin and the following list of accounts for payment.

<b>3774.</b>	SALC Village Hall Briefing	30.00 + vat
<b>3775.</b>	Mustard Creative	30.00 + vat
<b>3776.</b>	Salaries	501.00
<b>3777.</b>	HMRC Payroll liabilities April - June	1740.68
<b>3778.</b>	Community News advert	10.00 + vat
<b>3779.</b>	Grit Bin 400ltr for Queens Drive	147.00 + vat

**DD/Standing Orders:**

<b>3780.</b>	Barclays Bank	23.81
<b>3781.</b>	Salaries	1628.69
<b>3782.</b>	Corporate Finance	130.05 + vat

**Bank & Cash Balances at 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2016**

Current 728	£120,957.23
Community A/c	£5,268.76
Business Reserves 017	£92,208.61

The meeting was closed at 7.57pm