

Present: Councillors;

Peter Dutton (Chair), Anne Fleming, Sandra Leverett, Maureen Took, David Wollweber (Vice Chair), Keith Greenberg (first half of the meeting only).

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Clerk), District & County Cllr Tony Goldson and 21 members of the public

Under HTC Standing orders 6a, the meeting was quorate as there was one third of the total members of the Council (four members) present for the duration of the meeting.

The Chair asked the Council to consider items 14 & 18 at an earlier stage as Cllr Greenberg, who was presenting the items, had to leave early. Items 14 & 18 were then taken after item 6.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs; Tracy Gardner, Keith Forster, Rosemary Lewis, Andrew Payne, David Thomas, Paul Widdowson
2. **Register of Interests:** [Clerk's note] Cllr Took to be sent new login details.
3. **Declarations of interest:** To receive non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Fleming for item 7, Cllr Leverett for 16, 19 & 21
4. **Minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting of the Council held on 3rd July 2017 and the minutes of the Annual meeting held on the 8th May, 2017 and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on the 21st August 2017 were accepted as a true record.
5. **Chair's Report:** The Chair gave a report of his civic duties which included meeting the Anglia in Bloom judges and attending the Hooker House celebration. On the 12th July the Chair met with representatives from Waveney Norse to discuss maintenance issues. On the 17th July the Chair met with representatives from the Environment Agency along with several members of the Council to explore ways to reduce the risk of flooding.
6. **Police Report:** Sgt Mark Beresford attended the meeting at the request of the Council in the wake of several reports of anti-social behaviour in the park. Sgt Beresford explained that the Police were aware that drugs were starting to become an issue again in the park and they had also received a number of reports of anti-social behaviour. Recently there had been a report of damage to a tiled pillar and the Police had accepted an explanation that this had been accidental damage. Sgt Beresford appealed for any information as to who might be taking drugs to the park. Drugs were the priority for the Police, who were particularly concerned with the use of home grown varieties which tended to make the users aggressive. Although Cannabis was the most common problem, needles had been found recently at the Six Arches and Sgt Beresford asked that residents report any sightings of drug use. As regards to the Teen Shelter, Sgt Beresford stated that this was being used mainly by 12 – 13 year olds and it was impossible to keep children of that age quiet. He had approached a number of them about the prospect of moving the shelter further along the path and they had been enthusiastic about the idea and wanted to help. There were several age groups

using the park but it was most likely that the 18 – 19 year olds were causing the problems. Sgt Beresford advised that there was currently one Sgt and four police officers covering an area of 450 square miles which included, Rushmere at the top down to Aldeburgh and Snape, across to Framlingham, over to the A140 at Palgrave up to Bungay across to Beccles and back up to Rushmere. There is one PC assigned to Halesworth (PC Kevin Stollery) who was covering a much larger area, unfortunately he will be leaving soon and is due to be replaced. There was one PCSO assigned to Halesworth but he was on call to cover other areas such as Leiston and Eye. The Chair asked if a PCSO could be assigned for specific days in Halesworth. Sgt Beresford said that this was dependent on the work load. Recent cuts had reduced the hours of PCSOs (although this was being reviewed) and Sgt Beresford was now effectively doing the same job that five sergeants would have been assigned to do three years ago. In the case of the problems in the park, previously a force of five PCSOs and two PCs would have dealt with the issues over time. Nowadays the Police have to resort to short, sharp tactics but to be effective they needed to have information from residents. Sgt Beresford did reassure the Council that the majority of the time Halesworth was a lovely place to live, he was confident that the recent issues could be dealt with quickly. In comparison other towns were suffering from a far more serious problems such as drug gangs and child exploitation. Sgt Beresford urged residents to report any incidents (it was now possible to do this online as well as ringing 101) as this would raise the profile and enable the Police to respond accordingly. Cllr Goldson, who had received a lot of mail on this matter, expressed concerns that the drugs and trafficking problems reported in Ipswich, Lowestoft and other areas were heading this way, the incidents in the park needed to be dealt with quickly to avoid the problem spreading. Cllr Goldson informed the Council that there were a large number of ‘Specials’ some of whom were undercover and he requested that the Police use this resource to stamp out the problem in Halesworth now. Sgt Beresford confirmed that there were serious drug problems in other areas but he said that the problems in Halesworth was at the present time limited to local people. The Chair, mindful that many of the residents present were more concerned with anti-social behaviour, asked if some members of the Council could meet with the Police to try and coordinate a means to deal with it.

7. **Teen Shelter/Vandalism:** To review the future of the Teen Shelter and the recent incidents of vandalism in the town.
8. **Public Session:** [15 minutes on agenda items]

A member of the public enquired as to whether Cllr Payne planned to continue as a Town Councillor. The Chair confirmed that Cllr Payne had moved out of the area but he was currently working on a project for the Council and that he would attend Council meetings whenever possible.

A number of residents from Blyth Mews had written to the Council to highlight the problems they were experiencing from antisocial behaviour and many of them were also present at the meeting. The Council heard from representatives from Blyth Mews who were tired of the interruptions at night, the bad language, vandalism and general anti-social behaviour. One resident also reported an incident of racial abuse. The public had heard from the Police but it was clear that they were not offering a solution to the problem. The residents requested that the Council takes action and moves or removes the teen shelter from its present location. The Chair explained that currently the park belonged to WDC but the shelter was owned by HTC. Both groups would therefore have to agree a course of action. One resident suggested the Council could employ a Park attendant. Another suggestion was that the Council has a Facebook page to keep residents informed.

Cllr Leverett, referring to the teen shelter, proposed that HTC, as part of a larger group including WDC, get together to sort it out. It was RESOLVED that a meeting would be arranged to investigate moving the Shelter and Cllr Goldson, representatives for WDC, Sentinel Leisure, Waveney Norse, the Youth Club and the Police would be invited to attend.

9. **Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives:** There were no reports.
10. **Isolation Buster:** Emma Healey, manager of the Halesworth Volunteer Centre explained about the project called Isolation Buster. HVC had been successful in obtaining a grant for the Postcode Community Trust and were looking to recruit volunteers to provide companionship for Halesworth residents Cllr Wollweber offered to promote the project on the Council's various media outlets.
11. **Outside Bodies:** There were no amendments.
12. **District & County Reports:** District Cllr Tony Goldson expressed concern about the knife incident at the Cemetery and warned that the problems in Ipswich would inevitably head this way. Cllr Goldson also advised the Council that WDC's Local Plan would be concluded before HTC had a Neighbourhood Plan ready.
13. **Communications:** The Council received reports on the meetings held on the 10th July and 16th August. Cllr Wollweber reported that the Committee would be investigating the possibility of a Facebook page to provide information without comments enabled. Cllr Took asked why the Councillor's contact details were not shown on the website. The Clerk confirmed that residents could contact individual Councillors via the website but the message was routed via the Clerk. The Clerk would look at the rules regarding Councillor contact details.
14. **Town Forum Meeting:** It was RESOLVED that the Forum meeting agenda would comprise; Introduction, Local Plan by WDC, 40 minutes of questions, Planning process explained by WDC and finally Neighbourhood Plan options introduced by Cllr Greenberg. There would also be a short questionnaire on the Neighbourhood Plan.
15. **Town Development Committee:** The Council received a report on the Town Development Committee meeting held on the 10th July, 2017.
16. **Financial Matters:** The Council received the report of the meeting held on the 17th July, 2017.
17. **Planning:** The Council received the reports of the meetings held on the 17th July and the 18th August, 2017.
18. **Neighbourhood Plan Working Group:** The Council agreed that this item was brought forward and taken before item 7. Cllr Greenberg presented a report on the meeting held on the 14th August and highlighted the advantages and disadvantages of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan.
19. **Local Plan:** To consider the formal response to WDC's Local Plan. The Council received and noted the Chair's proposed response to WDC's Local Plan. It was RESOLVED that a meeting would be arranged to finalise the Chair's proposals after the Forum meeting but before WDC's deadline for receiving comments on the 22nd September.
20. **Review of Council, Committee and Working Groups:** To review the Clerk's proposals to streamline the decision making process. It was RESOLVED that the Chairs of Committees to work with the Clerk on his streamlining proposals and report back to the Council. Clerk would arrange a meeting in due course.
21. **Street Naming:** To consider a street name for the new development off Old Station Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the rules regarding street naming to the Council.

22. **Scarecrow Event:** It was RESOLVED that the Council agreed to pay £55 for the advert in the HCN for the event in October.
23. **Halesworth in Bloom:** The Council received a news update and the Council asked the Clerk to send flowers and a card to Tamsyn as she was currently unwell.
24. **Civic Function:** Cllr Fleming announced that the intention was for the Civic function to support Halesworth Area Community Transport but the details had not been formalised as yet.
25. **London Rd Building:** To consider the counter proposal from WDC. The Clerk reported that WDC had written to HTC with a counter proposal and that the Council now needed to consider the long term financial implications and consider the offer in more detail. The timescales and some of the costs were now different to HTC's Business Plan and therefore the Council needed to make certain that it could afford to accept the offer. The Chair highlighted that there were also details that needed clarifying such as boundaries and the condition of the various buildings. Cllr Took asked if HDC and HVC should be involved at this stage. The Chair said that the London Rd Building users would be kept informed but this was now a legal matter. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with members of the London Rd Business Plan Working Group and that Simon Eades, valuer for WDC's Asset Management would be invited to attend to offer clarification on the offer.
26. **Correspondence:** The Council had received several letters from residents on the subject of the Teen Shelter but this was discussed under item 8.
27. **Accounts for Payment:** The following accounts for payment were approved.

4002.	EPS Transfers – Litter Signs (Litter Act 1983 ss5,6)	140.00 +vat
4003.	Community News – Forum Advert (LGA 1972 s142)	50.00 +vat
4004.	SALC – Clerk's Training (LGA 1972 s111)	100.00 +vat
4005.	SALC – Finance Training (LGA 1972 s111)	30.00 +vat
4006.	P Welby Travelling expenses (LGA 1972 s111)	89.10
4007.	Sharprint – Service Charge 6/2/17 – 24/8/17	188.99
4008.	Vandijk Payroll services - (LGA1972 s111)	60.00 +vat
4009.	Trinity, damp proofing works Museum & HACT (50% with order) Mencap order now scheduled for March.	1,740 +vat

DD/Standing Orders:

4010.	Salaries (LGA1972 s111)	2216.24
4011.	Nest Pension (LGA1972 s111)	118.39
4012.	Barclays Bank Charges (LGA 1972 s111)	15.88
4013.	BT Phone and Broadband (LGA1972 s111)	137.36 + vat

Bank & Cash Balances at 4th September, 2017

Current 728	£91,249.09
Community A/c	£5,270.08
Business Reserves 017	£92,242.61
Petty Cash	£178.32

The meeting was closed at 8.47pm