



BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council Monday 16th September 2024 immediately following The Planning & Payments Committee Meeting Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Hawley Green GU17 9BW

Present – Councillors:

Terry Hunt
Dave Lister
Trish Monks (Chair)

In attendance:

Jo Shaw, Town Clerk

C5489 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bob Harward, Daisy Khepar, Hobib Ali, Sara Usher and Alex Worrall.

C5490 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

C5491 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

There were no questions from Councillors.

C5492 DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES

There were no items for discussion.

C5493 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th July 2024, were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

b) Matters Arising

C5483 Tesco Flowers – Councillors requested that be added as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

C5460 Town Plan - Councillors requested that be added as an Agenda item for the next meeting.

C5494 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

The Chair had no items to report.

C5495 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES

Hart Standards Committee – Cllr Trish Monks reported that at the meeting on 15th August 2024, updates were made to Section 28(6) Arrangements for dealing with Allegations, a section of the Code of Conduct of a principle authority. It was noted that any member subject to a conduct complaint could not receive a sanction outside of the standards arrangements.

C5496 DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS

There were no District or County Reports.

C5497 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Councillors received the following minutes:

- Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 8th July 2024
- Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 29th July 2024
- Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 19th August 2024
- Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 2nd September 2024

C5498 FINANCE

1. Detailed Income and Expenditure Reports 31/08/2024

Councillors noted the contents of I&E report for period ended 31st August 2024.

2. Bank Reconciliation 31/08/2024

Councillors noted the contents of Rialtas bank reconciliation report and the Chair signed Bank statements for period ended 31st August 2024.

3. Notice of Conclusion of Audit (AGAR 2023/24)

Councillors received the external auditor's certificate and opinion regarding the completion of the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) for the year ended 31st March 2024.

4. Interim Internal Audit 2024/25

Councillors noted the interim internal audit findings following the visit from Mulberry Local Authority Services Ltd on 5th September 2024.

RESOLVED to confirm that Mulberry Local Authority Services is independent from the Council.

5. Projects 2024/25 – Update on Progress

Councillors received a report on progress to date on projects planned for 2024/25.

6. Electricity Contracts

1. Councillors noted the renewal of the Council electricity contracts for three years from 8th March 2025 with YGP (Yorkshire Power & Gas) via UAC (Utility Advice Company Ltd) – the Council's previous contract was with British Gas Lite.

2. Councillors also noted that the Opus Energy, Council gas contracts had transferred to EDF Energy with effect from 1st September 2024.

7. Coffee Shop – Commercial Dishwasher

Due to the demise of two domestic dishwashers in the Coffee Shop, and to comply with required temperatures for commercial dishwashing, following research, a commercial dishwasher was purchased and fitted in-house for use in the Coffee Shop on the Green.

RESOLVED that Councillors retrospectively approve the purchase of CATERWASH CK1543AA at a cost of £2,000 + VAT.

Signed Chair

C5499 COUNTRYSIDE ENGAGEMENT PLAN – HAWLEY PARK FARM SANG

Correspondence from the Countryside Manager at Hart District Council indicated that Hart DC will shortly adopt Hawley Park Farm SANG from the developers. Councillors noted the contents of the Countryside Engagement Plan which indicated that where Hart’s Countryside Service managed SANG land, regular engagement with local parish councils was undertaken. A meeting would be arranged once the land transfer was complete at the beginning of 2025.

C5500 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Following correspondence, Councillors noted that Hart Electoral Registration Office clarified the process for a possible increase in the number of Town Councillors and indicating that a Community Governance Review would be undertaken in 2025.

RESOLVED that Councillors await the governance review process and requested the Town Clerk obtain further information.

C5501 PREMISES LICENCE COMPLIANCE CHECK

Councillors noted that, following a visit on Thursday 8th August 2024, the Licencing Officer from Shared Licensing Services (Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council and Hart District Council) carried out a premises licence health check. It was reported that both the bars (Leisure Centre and Memorial Hall) were well managed and that licensing activities were conducted responsibly.

C5502 INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1.1 Councillors noted the contents of the Estates Report dated September 2024 provided by the Town Clerk.
- 1.2 Councillors noted Buzz Articles for August and September 2024

C5503 OTHER BUSINESS – NOT FOR DECISION

Neighbourhood Policing – The Town Clerk informed Councillors that updated community priorities for Yateley, Blackwater and Hawley were antisocial behaviour in Yateley particularly around the village centre and Yateley Green and theft from motor vehicles in Blackwater and Hawley.

C5504 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS

RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was advised that the public and press were temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw for remaining items on the Agenda.

C5505 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

C5506 MATTERS ARISING

C5507 BLACKWATER CENTRE

C5508 OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS - NOT FOR DECISION

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed Chair