



BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.00pm The Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Hawley Green GU17 9BW

Present – Councillors:

Adrian Collett	Dave Lister
Brian Blewett	Trish Monks
Bob Harward	Andy Tarbet
Terry Hunt	Sara Usher

In attendance:

Jo Shaw (Town Clerk)

C4828 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND TO RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S SIGNED DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR 2021/22

The outgoing Chair, Councillor Adrian Collett, addressed the Council and said that he had very much enjoyed the last fourteen years as part of the Council and considered that much progress had been achieved over the last two years and he thanked Councillors for their support.

The outgoing Chair called for nominations for the office of Chair of the Council for 2021/22. One nomination was received and after being duly proposed and seconded it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Councillor Trish Monks be elected to the Office of Chair of the Council for the ensuing municipal year. Councillor Trish Monks signed her Acceptance of Office for 2021/22.

C4829 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

The newly elected Chair asked for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Council for 2021/22. One nomination was proposed and seconded and following a unanimous vote, it was

RESOLVED that Councillor Sara Usher be elected Vice Chair of the Council for the municipal year 2021/22.

C4830 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

C4831 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) To receive declarations of interest for any item on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest received for any item on the agenda.

b) To request completion of Member's Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests forms (attached)

All Councillors agreed to complete and return the updated 'Member's Notification of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest' form to the Town Clerk.

C4832 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

No questions were raised.

C4832 DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES

No questions or comments were received from members of the public.

C4833 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 22nd and 31st March 2021 were confirmed as a true record and will be signed at a future meeting.

b) Matters Arising

C4809 / Lidl Pothole – Cllr Tarbet highlighted that following the A30 resurfacing works, a number of signs remained and Cllr Collett agreed to raise this with Hampshire CC Highway Department.

C4811 / Blackbushe Airport – Cllr Collett reported that Blackbushe Airport had made it known that they would be pursuing a final appeal to the Supreme Court following the rejection of their bid to remove Common Land status from the whole of the airport land. He also reported that Hampshire County Council were committed to continuing to fight this bid at the Supreme Court.

C4834 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Councillor Trish Monks reported that she was pleased to be elected Chair of the Council.

C4835 STANDING COMMITTEES

a) To agree the following committees shall continue for 2021/22, the number of seats and to appoint Members:

i) Planning & Payments Committee

RESOLVED that all Councillors be Members of the Planning and Payments Committee

ii) Finance Committee

RESOLVED that all Councillors be Members of the Finance Committee

iii) Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Councillors Adrian Collett, Bob Harward, Trish Monks and Sara Usher be Members of the Staffing Committee

b) Chairs of Standing Committees

i) Planning & Payments Committee

RESOLVED that Councillor Terry Hunt be appointed Chair, with Councillor Bob Harward as Vice Chair of the Planning and Payments Committee

ii) Finance Committee

Signed Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Brian Blewett be appointed Chair, with Councillor Dave Lister as Vice Chair of the Finance Committee

iii) Staffing Committee

RESOLVED that Councillor Sara Usher be appointed Chair, with Councillor Bob Harward as Vice Chair of the Staffing Committee

C4836 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES

The following Council representatives were appointed to outside bodies:

Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)
Councillors Trish Monks and Sara Usher

Hart District Association of Parish/Town Councils (HDAPTC)
Councillors Trish Monks and Sara Usher

Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee
Councillor Terry Hunt (with Councillor Bob Harward as reserve)

Transport Local Representation
Councillor Brian Blewett

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP)
Councillors Andy Tarbet and Dave Lister (with Councillor Brian Blewett as reserve)

Yateley & Hawley Welfare Trust
Councillor Brian Blewett

Hawley Fayre Steering Committee
Councillors Terry Hunt and Brian Blewett (with Councillor Trish Monks as reserve)

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE)
Councillor Terry Hunt

Neighbourhood Plan Committee
Appointments postponed for further discussion

C4837 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES

There were no reports from outside bodies.

C4838 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS AND MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 22nd March 2021 were received.
- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 12th April 2021 were received.
- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 26th April 2021 were received.

C4839 FINANCE

a) Detailed Income and Expenditure Reports 31/03/20

Signed Chair

Councillors noted the contents of the year end Income and Expenditure Reports for 2020/21 and thanked staff for their hard work which had resulted in better than anticipated results despite the difficulties of Covid lockdowns. Councillors particularly noted the success of the Coffee Shop on the Green since it opened in late August 2020 and of the Inn on the Green despite lockdown closures.

b) Interim Internal Audit Report

Councillors noted the contents of the interim internal audit report held remotely on 25th March 2021 together with the recommendations suggesting improvements to website accessibility and uploading council policies to the website.

c) Accountants End of Year Financial Report

Councillors noted the explanations contained within the Accountants end of year financial report for 2020/21.

C4840 ESTATES REPORT

Coffee Shop on the Green

The Town Clerk reported that the combination of poor weather and the easing of lockdown, had substantially reduced trade. From 17th May Customers were once again able to use the inside facilities in groups of 6 or two households whilst adhering to the Covid regulations.

Inn on the Green

The opening of the bar had proved successful in line with good weather and as above, from 17th May Customers are able to use inside facilities. Two new picnic benches have been ordered following the collapse of one of the old picnic benches.

Leisure Centre

In line with Covid guidance, the Leisure Centre also opens on 17th May for squash, adult group sports and exercise classes. Opening hours are from 9am until 9.30pm. All returning groups have been provided with a risk assessment, and must also provide their own, to show they are adhering to covid regulations.

Memorial Hall

The Memorial Hall also opens for bookings for adult sports and exercise groups to meet until the end of October 2021 when renovations to the toilets and bar will, hopefully, be completed and functions can resume.

Sports Pitch Work (inc S106 application & Leisure Improvement Strategy)

The sports pitch has benefited from a further fertilizer application and is expected to be operational by mid June when Frimley Phoenix Cricket Club matches and training will take place.

Councillors considered the contents of the Blackwater and Hawley Town Council Leisure Improvement Strategy (2021-23), a list of improvement tasks the Council would like to work toward implementing (funding allowing) over the next three years. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Leisure Improvement Strategy be adopted and updated on a regular basis.

Signed Chair

Councillors considered making a request for the £32,290 S106 funding associated with the Planning Application 17/0771/FUL – Land at Sun Park Phase 2 set aside for ‘Sports Ground Contribution’ and it was unanimously

RESOLVED to request the full amount from Hart District Council toward the on-going sports pitch work and associated projects highlighted in the Leisure Improvement Strategy. The Town Clerk agreed to liaise with Hart DC on the request.

Hawley Primary School Maintenance Contract

Work continued at Hawley Primary School with the grass being cut and running track being marked.

Town Centre Planters

The Town Clerk reported that bedding plants for the planters had been received and were maturing, with greenhouse space at a premium a further free greenhouse had been obtained and a concrete base would be laid shortly.

Councillors considered the purchase of secondhand planters from Amethyst Horticulture, who had previously provided planters for the Council, and it was

RESOLVED that an amount c£1,500 could be spent on the purchase of secondhand planters from Amethyst.

C4841 ARTISAN MARKET

Councillors considered the proposal from the Town Clerk for an Artisan Market at Hawley Leisure Centre to be held on a Wednesday morning between 9am and 2pm on the multipurpose area. Following discussion Councillors

RESOLVED that they were in favour of an Artisan Market at the Hawley Leisure Centre Site.

C4842 BLACKWATER BUZZ

Councillors noted the contents of the article submitted by the Town Clerk for the May 2021 edition of the Blackwater Buzz (previously attached).

C4843 OTHER BUSINESS – NOT FOR DECISION

Councillor Brian Blewett thanked staff for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm especially during and after the recent traveller incursion.

C4844 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS

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

C4845 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

C4846 MATTERS ARISING

The meeting ended at ??

Signed Chair