



## **BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Town Council Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.15pm Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Hawley Green GU17 9BW**

#### **Present – Councillors:**

Terry Hunt  
Daisy Khepar  
Dave Lister  
Trish Monks  
Alex Worrall

#### **In attendance:**

Jo Shaw - Town Clerk, Cllr Andy Brown – Hart District Council

#### **C5908 ELECTION OF CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL AND TO RECEIVE THE CHAIR'S SIGNED DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR 2026/27**

- 1. To receive nominations and to elect a Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year.**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Trish Monks proposed by Cllr Terry Hunt and seconded by Cllr Alex Worrall was duly elected Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year.

- 2. To receive the Chairs signed Declaration of Acceptance for 2026/27.**  
The signed Declaration of Acceptance for 2026/27 was received.

#### **C5909 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

**To receive nominations and to elect a Vice Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year.**

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Daisy Khepar proposed by Cllr Dave Lister and seconded by Cllr Terry Hunt was duly elected Vice Chair for the 2026/27 municipal year.

#### **C5910 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sara Usher.

#### **C5911 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1. There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda.
2. The Town Clerk received a number of Member's completed Disclosable Pecuniary Interests Forms for 2026/27, the remainder not requiring alteration.

#### **C5912 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

There were no questions from Councillors.

#### **C5913 DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES**

There were no items for discussion.

## **C5914 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

### **a) To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, were confirmed as a true record with one alteration at minute C5891 (C5874) Monkey Woods where the word 'over' is replaced with the word 'after'. The minutes were then duly signed.

### **b) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

## **C5915 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

**Hawley FC Presentation Evening** – The Chair reported the successful evening and thanked Councillors and staff who were involved for their help.

**Storage Container** – The Chair reported that a new container had been purchased and was now in-situ in the Memorial Hall car park and would be used for Council storage.

**Blackwater Planters** – The Chair noted that the planters were now full of flowers and looked lovely.

## **C5916 STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **1. To agree the following committees shall continue for 2026/27, the number of seats and to appoint Members (in accordance with Scheme of Delegation)**

**RESOLVED** that the following committees would continue for 2026/27 in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation:

- Planning and Payments Committee (all Councillors to be members)
- Finance Committee (all Councillors to be members)
- Staffing Committee (four Councillors to be members - Cllrs Sara Usher, Trish Monks, Daisy Khepar and Alex Worrall)

### **2. Chairs of Standing Committees**

To agree the appointment of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Standing Committees for 2026/27:

**RESOLVED** Chairs and Vice Chairs as follows:

- **Planning and Payments Committee**  
Chair – Cllr Terry Hunt  
Vice Chair – Cllr Hobib Ali
- **Finance Committee**  
Chair – Cllr Alex Worrall  
Vice Chair – Cllr Dave Lister
- **Staffing Committee**  
Chair – Cllr Sara Usher  
Vice Chair – Cllr Alex Worrall

## **C5917 POLICY REVIEWS**

### **1. Scheme of Delegation**

Councillors reviewed the Scheme of Delegation and **RESOLVED** to adopt for the 2026/27 municipal year.

Signed Chair .....

## **2. Standing Orders**

Councillors noted that Standing Orders required updating in line with the Financial Regulations and

**RESOLVED** to defer review until a future meeting.

## **3. Financial Regulations**

Councillors reviewed the Financial Regulations and

**RESOLVED** to adopt for the 2026/27 municipal year.

## **4. Annual Town Plan**

Councillors noted that the Annual Town Plan required updating with regard to completion of projects during 2025/26 and

**RESOLVED** to defer review of the Town Plan until a future meeting

## **5. Reserves Policy**

Councillors reviewed the Reserves Policy and noted that current total reserves stood at £178,696 and earmarked reserves accounted for £70,000 of the total reserves.

**RESOLVED** to adopt the Reserves Policy updated as follows for the 2026/27 municipal year:

- Six months precept £151,250
- 3 months NRE £107,591 (essential operating expenses only)
- One quarter of annual budgeted expenditure £192,389

## **C5918 COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES**

**RESOLVED** the appointment of Council Members to serve on outside and other bodies as follows:

- a) **Blackbushe Airport Consultative Committee**  
Cllr Terry Hunt  
Cllr Alex Worrall (reserve)
- b) **Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP)**  
Cllr Dave Lister  
Cllr Alex Worrall  
Cllr Daisy Khepar (reserve)
- c) **Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC)**  
Cllr Trish Monks  
Cllr Sara Usher
- d) **Hart District Association of Parish/Town Councils (HDAPTC)**  
Cllr Trish Monks  
Cllr Daisy Khepar
- e) **Hawley Community Events Committee**  
Cllr Terry Hunt  
Cllr Hobib Ali
- f) **Neighbourhood Plan Committee – decision deferred**
- g) **Transport Local Representation**  
Cllr Alex Worrall  
Cllr Trish Monks (reserve)

Signed Chair .....

- h) **Yateley & Hawley Welfare Trust**  
Cllr Trish Monks

**C5919 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES**

**Community Speedwatch** – Cllr Alex Worrall reported that the Blackwater and Hawley Speedwatch group had had held a meeting and were awaiting confirmation of the sites for siting the SID (speed indicator device). Research on funding for a new SID device was being investigated.

**C5920 DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS**

Cllr Andy Brown, Hart District Council reported the following:

**LGR (Local Government Reorganisation)** – a body has been created to start work on the new Hampshire North unitary council which includes representatives from Hampshire County Council and the current district councils. A shadow authority will commence from May 2027.

**Hart DC Local Plan** – progress continues to incorporate new planning rules with training available for councillors.

**Countryside Community Grants** – closes to applications on 17<sup>th</sup> July

**C5921 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Councillors received the following minutes:

- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April
- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April

**C5922 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2025/26**

**1. Conflict of Interest**

**RESOLVED** that there were no conflicts of interest with BDO LLT (External Auditors)

**Internal Audit**

- i) Councillors noted the AGAR (Annual Governance and Accountability Return) Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26
- ii) Councillors noted the contents of the Internal Auditors Year End 2025/26 Audit Report

**2. End of Year Financial Report 2025/26**

Councillors noted the contents of the I&E report for period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**3. Review of Inventory of Land and Assets**

**RESOLVED** that Councillors accept the contents of the Asset (Fixed Assets) Register as at 31/03/2026, as evidence supporting AGAR Section 2.

**4. To Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26**

Members reviewed 'Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26'

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign 'Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025/26'

Signed Chair .....

**5. To Approve the Accounting Statements 2025/26**

Members reviewed 'Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26'

**RESOLVED** to approve and sign Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025/26

**6. Exercise of Public Rights**

Councillors noted the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights would be Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 to Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025, and that the date of the announcement would be Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

**C5923 EARMARKED RESERVES 2026/27**

**RESOLVED** that the following earmarked reserves be agreed for 2026/27.

	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Agreed 2026/27</b>
Election Costs	£1,500	£0	£1,500
Kingsway Flooding	£5,000	-£5,000	£0
Memorial Hall Refurb	£29,000	£11,000	£40,000
Coffee Shop Kitchen Refurb	£20,000	-£10,000	£10,000
Leisure Centre CCTV Upgrade	£5,000	£0	£5,000
Leisure Centre Asbestos Works	£10,000	£0	£10,000
Tree Works (Tree Survey)	£0	£8,000	£8,000
Leisure Centre LED/PIR Works	£0	£4,500	£4,500
	<b>£70,500</b>	<b>£8,500</b>	<b>£79,000</b>
<b>General Reserves</b>			<b>£99,696</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES C/F 2026/27</b>			<b>£178,696</b>

**C5924 INFORMATION ITEMS**

Councillors noted the following:

1. Town Clerk's Estates Report May 2026
2. Buzz Article May 2026

**C5925 OTHER BUSINESS – NOT FOR DECISION**

There was no further business for discussion.

The meeting ended at 08.55 pm

Signed Chair .....