



## **BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 immediately following the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting Council Chamber, Memorial Hall, Hawley Green GU17 9BW**

#### **Present – Councillors:**

Brian Blewett  
Bob Harward  
Terry Hunt  
Daisy Khepar  
Trish Monks (Chair)  
Sara Usher  
Alex Worrall

#### **In attendance:**

Jo Shaw and one resident

#### **C5261 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave Lister.

#### **C5262 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made for any item on the agenda.

#### **C5263 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

There were no Councillors questions.

#### **C5264 DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES**

There were no items for discussion.

#### **C5265 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023, were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

##### **b) Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

#### **C5266 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL**

**Blackwater Centre Hanging Baskets** - Cllr Trish Monks noted the removal of the hanging baskets from Blackwater town centre.

**Borders Cadet Corp** – The Chair reported that a meeting had been held with Borders Cadet Corp and that safeguarding policies had been supplied in connection with their use of the site.

**Vision4Youth** – The Chair reported that a meeting with Vision4Youth had taken place and it was hoped this would lead to an evening Youth Club to be held at the Leisure Centre if further funding could be sourced.

**C5267 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES**  
**Police Liaison Meeting** – The Town Clerk and Cllr Daisy Khepar attended the meeting at Yateley Police Station to discuss local issues.

**C5268 DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS**

**Hart District Council Reports**

Cllr Brian Blewett reported that August was a quiet month for the District Council and there were no items to report.

**Hampshire County Council Report**

Cllr Adrian Collett highlighted the following:

**Lidl** – Cllr Collett reported that the repositioning repositioning/shielding of the green traffic light on the exit from Lidl from Lidl onto Green Lane, Blackwater had now been implemented. Additional 'Give Way' signs, and a slight phasing of the lights to avoid opposite lanes of traffic meeting simultaneously would take place in the future.

**Consultation on the Future of Adult Care in Hampshire** – Cllr Collet outlined consultation on plans to create capacity for specialist need spaces by closing existing care homes to prevent bed blocking in hospitals. Cllr Collett suggested the Town Council may wish to comment on the consultation before the closing date of 12th November 2023.

**Consultation on County Council Budget** Cllr Collett noted the conclusion of the recent consultation and that responses indicated that cuts in service or increases in council tax were particularly unpopular.

**Local Bus Services** – Cllr Collett highlighted that no buses run from Blackwater or Yateley to Fleet, (for Hart DC and mainline trains to London). Fleet residents have no direct bus to Frimley Park Hospital. A campaign group known as 'Buses in Fleet' have linked with Blackwater and Yateley to press for an extension of the No 3 bus to Fleet, where it would turn round and come back, solving both problems at a stroke. Councillors and residents were urged to visit the website at [www.busesinfleet.org.uk](http://www.busesinfleet.org.uk) to complete "My Ideal Bus Journey" to help provide evidence of the demand for this change.

**Wenceslas** – Yateley Lions, in conjunction with the Citizens Advice Bureau have created a fund to help local families struggling with energy costs and have asked whether those with stable financial circumstances would consider foregoing their annual Winter Fuel Allowance to help a local family struggling with fuel poverty paying their water bill.

**C5269 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROMM OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023 were received.
- The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were received.

**C5270 FINANCE 2023/24**

**1. Detailed Income and Expenditure Reports 31/08/2023**

Councillors noted the contents of the I&E Report for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

Signed Chair .....

**2. Bank – Cash Investment Reconciliation as at 31/08/2023**

Councillors noted the contents of the bank reconciliation report dated 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

**3. To Appoint Internal Auditors for 2023/24  
RESOLVED**

- a) to appoint Mulberry & Co as internal auditors for 2023/24 period
- b) to appoint Mulberry & Co as internal auditors for a three year fixed price period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

**C5271 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**1. Estates Report**

Councillors noted the contents of the Estates Report September 2023 previously circulated by the Town Clerk

**2. Buzz Article September 2023**

Councillors noted the contents of the article submitted by the Town Clerk for the September 2023 edition of the Blackwater Buzz.

**3. Electrical Recycling Bank – Hawley Memorial Hall Car Park**

Councillors noted the additional Hart DC electrical recycling bank which had been situated in Hawley Memorial Hall car park without prior notification.

**C5272 COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2024**

**RESOLVED**

- a) To agree the council meeting dates 2024 at Appendix 1
- b) To agree that the Annual Town Meeting be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**C5273 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**

**RESOLVED**

- a) That the Remembrance Service be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023
- b) That the Order of Service (starting at 10.20am in Memorial Hall car park) and finishing at Holy Trinity Church at 11.00am be altered to accommodate new groups wishing to participate.

**C5274 OTHER BUSINESS – NOT FOR DECISION**

There was no further business for discussion.

**C5275 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.

**C5276 BLACKWATER CENTRE**

**C5277 OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS - NOT FOR DECISION**

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

Signed Chair .....