



BLACKWATER AND HAWLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council Monday 19th June 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
Sara Usher

In attendance:

Jo Shaw (Town Clerk) and two residents.

C5226 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dave Lister and Alex Worrall.

C5227 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

C5228 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

Cllr Trish Monks requested that Councillors receive an update, at the forthcoming P&P Meeting, on the SLR (Speed Limit Reminder) signs that are situated around the parish as part of the Lengthsman Scheme.

C5229 DEMOCRATIC FIFTEEN MINUTES

1. A local resident attended the meeting to ask about plans for future maintenance at Hawley Cemetery.
2. A representative from Vision4Youth attended the meeting requesting that Councillors consider the possibility of hosting a regular youth club at the Hawley Leisure Centre site. Vision4Youth are keen to expand their reach in the Blackwater & Hawley area and Councillors agreed to undertake a feasibility study.

C5230 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

a) To Approve the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2023, were confirmed as a true record and duly signed.

b) Matters Arising

C5210 Hawley Fayre Steering Committee – Cllr Terry Hunt agreed to contact the Committee for further information on the possibility of hosting Hawley Fayre in July 2024

5210 Yateley & Hawley Welfare Trust – The Town Clerk agreed to obtain further details about the Trust.

C5218 Cadet Corps – Cllr Trish Monks had contacted the Cadet Corps who agreed to provide further information on their plans for clearance of the old play area/compound site.

C5231 REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Hawley FC Football Tournament – the Chair thanked Council staff for their hard work over the very busy tournament weekend of 10th/11th June.

Blackwater Town Centre Flowers – the Chair noted that hanging baskets, railing boxes and cubes in the Town Centre were looking good.

Walking & Cycling Consultation – Cllr Monks highlighted the Hart Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and urged Councillors and residents to respond:

[Hart LCWIP \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)

Councillors agreed to add this item to the next meeting of the Planning & Payments Committee for further discussion.

A30 Noise from motorcycles and cars – Cllr Monks asked whether the Town Council had received reports of noise following the recent complaints about cars/motorcycles racing along the main A30 through Blackwater. The Town Clerk confirmed that no complaints had been received.

C5232 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE AND OTHER BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside and other bodies.

C5233 DISTRICT & COUNTY REPORTS

Hart District Council Reports

Cllrs Bob Harward and Brian Blewett provided verbal reports on behalf of Hart DC.

Hampshire County Council Report

Cllr Adrian Collett highlighted HCC’s Budget Consultation 2023 which was open until 23rd July 2023. The consultation requested views on cuts of £132m to HCC’s budget which were required before April 2025 and encouraged Councillors and residents to respond.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/budgetconsultation>

Thornfield Green Footbridge

Currently, the railway line prevents access from Thornfield Green to the Hawley Meadows SANG and Cllr Collett had resurrected a bid for a footbridge over the railway line. It was highlighted that a capital receipt of £500,000 had been received by HCC (of which £37,000 had been passed to the Council) as part of the SANG agreement and Cllr Collett requested support from HDC Councillors under the Hart Green Grid proposals for the footbridge.

Minley Home Farm

Cllr Collett reported that the MOD had now stated that Home Farm was surplus to their requirements and the developers at Minley Mannor had expressed an interest in purchasing the property. It was noted that the outcome of the planning application/s for Minley Mannor were outstanding.

Kingsway Flooding

No recent updates had been received from Thames Water regarding the river blockage and flooding ditch (which had been cleared by the Town Council), however Cllr Collett urged Town Councillors to engage with future flood forums arranged by Hart DC to resolve the issues experienced by residents in Kingsway.

Signed Chair

C5234 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS, COMMITTEE MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The Minutes of the Planning & Payments Committee Meeting held on 22nd May 2023 were received.

C5235 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2022/23

1. **RESOLVED** that that there were no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP (External Auditors)
2. Councillors noted the contents of the Internal Auditor's Final Report for Year Ending 31st March 2023
3. Members reviewed 'Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23'
RESOLVED to approve and sign 'Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23'.
4. Members reviewed 'Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23'
RESOLVED to approve and sign Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022/23

C5236 FINANCE 2023/24

1. **Detailed Income and Expenditure Reports 31/05/2023**
Councillors noted the contents of the I&E Report for the period ended 31st May 2023.
2. **Bank – Cash Investment Reconciliation as at 31/05/2023**
Councillors noted the contents of the bank reconciliation report dated 31st May 2023.

C5237 POLICY REVIEWS AND COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. **To review and approve the Council's Standing Orders**
RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Standing Orders 2023 subject to the alterations discussed.
2. **To review and approve the Scheme of Delegation**
RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Scheme of Delegation 2023 subject to the alterations discussed.
3. **To review and approve Councillor Code of Conduct 2023**
RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Councillor Code of Conduct 2023.

C5238 HAWLEY CEMETERY

Councillors discussed the contents of the Town Clerks report dated 24th April 2023

RESOLVED

1. That the Town Clerk obtain a further quote for removal of the perimeter trees
2. That the Town Clerk suggest an affordable timetable for the removal/replacement of the trees over a number of years and the future development of the cemetery for the next meeting of the Council.

Signed Chair

C5239 INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Estates Report

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

RESOLVED

- i. To contribute £150 toward entertainment for the Fun on the Field event
- ii. First Aid Training for staff
- iii. To pay a contribution toward portable toilets for the Fun on the Field event if required
- iv. To add Blackwater Town Centre Planters to the next meeting of Planning & Payments Committee for further discussion

3. Buzz Article June 2023

Councillors noted the contents of the articles submitted by the Town Clerk for the June 2023 edition of the Blackwater Buzz.

4. Glass Banks – Hawley Memorial Hall Car Park

Councillors noted that glass recycling banks would be removed from all Hart District Council bring sites at the end May 2023 including those sited at Hawley Memorial Hall.

C5240 OTHER BUSINESS – NOT FOR DECISION

Grant Application Process – The Town Clerk reported that no process existed for outside organisations to apply for grants from the Council and agreed to bring a draft policy to a future meeting of the Council.

Booker Credit Account – The Town Clerk reported that a credit account for £2,000/week had been requested and accepted by Booker Group Ltd, Aldershot.

C5241 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.

C5242 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

C5243 MATTERS ARISING

C5244 OTHER CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS - NOT FOR DECISION

The meeting ended at 10.30pm

Signed Chair