

Present: Councillors;

Peter Dutton (Chair), Anne Fleming, Keith Forster, Rosemary Lewis, Karen Prime, Jill Reece, David Thomas, David Wollweber (Vice Chair). Late arrivals: Tony Allen, Maureen Took, Karen Prime, Paul Widdowson.

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Clerk), Louise Thomas (WDC), 18 members of the public.

The Chair asked the Council and members of public to stand and respect a one minutes silence for Mr Ezra Leverett, ex Chair of Halesworth Town Council, long term Town Councillor, former Urban District Councillor, former Waveney District Councillor, founder member of Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership and Halesworth Football Club, who had recently passed away after a long battle with cancer.

Minutes

1. Apologies: Cllr Keith Greenberg (away), Cllr Paul Widdowson (for arriving late due to prior meeting), Cllr Allen (for arriving late), Cllr Prime (for arriving late), Cllr Took (for arriving late). District Cllr Tony Goldson (unwell).
2. Declarations of interest: To receive declarations for non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Thomas for 11, 16 & 17, Cllr Lewis for 11 & 16, Cllr Widdowson for 17. Requests accepted for dispensation for 18c; Cllr Thomas, Cllr Wollweber, Cllr Took, Cllr Widdowson.

7.04pm Cllrs Prime and Took joined the meeting.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 7th January 2019 was accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: Cllr Fleming reported that Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership had registered the Patrick Stead Hospital as an Asset of Community Value. However the Partnership was not in a position to take this any further and would instead make a public announcement in the Community News asking if any residents wished to form a new group to investigate whether a bid could be made for the building. It was noted that the refund for the free parking spaces used by Lloyds Mobile Banking had still not been received it was agreed that the Clerk would inform WDC that the refund, calculated on the correct figures, would be deducted from the payment for the free parking for 2019-2020.
5. Chair's Report: The Chair reported that January had been a very busy time and he had attended 15 meetings during the month. These included meeting Badger Homes regarding the Dairy Farm site, CCTV meetings, Suffolk County Council regarding surface water concerns on new developments in the town and free parking discussions with WDC and District Cllr Tony Goldson. Cllr Goldson had since confirmed that it was 99% certain that WDC would agree to an alternative option (see item 17) but HTC were still waiting for written confirmation.
6. Police Report: There was no Police Report.

- 7.12pm Cllr Allen joined the meeting.
7. Public Session [15 minutes on agenda items]: Several members of the public expressed their grave concerns over the announcement by Konnect Bus that the Southwold and Norwich services would be withdrawn in March 2019. The perception by many residents and Cllrs alike was that Halesworth was in danger of becoming increasingly isolated. A resident reported that District Cllr Tony Goldson had been receiving up to 200 emails per day on this subject. Another matter of concern was whether the remaining bus services would meet the needs of the Bungay High School students. It was noted that all those residents that did not own a car were now facing a bleak future. Residents urged the Council to make the strongest possible objection – see item 11.

A resident asked whether the Council would take any action over the decision by EDF not to hold a 3rd public consultation in Halesworth. This matter was discussed under item 9.

A resident expressed concerns over the increase in heavy site traffic at the Hill Farm Rd development. The Chair advised that the resident should write to WDC's planning department.

8. Elections: The Council received and noted the information and important dates for the elections in May 2019. The Clerk explained some background information behind the period leading up to the elections known as 'Purdah'. In the Clerk's opinion this was largely irrelevant for the current Council members as it was meant to restrict campaigning for individuals or parties whilst in office. This was normally associated with political parties and therefore was not likely to be an issue as long as the Council avoided certain actions such as consultations, particularly if they may be controversial.
9. Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives: To receive any reports on meetings or events attended by Councillors: Cllr Fleming reported that she had attended the WDC's budget review meeting together with Cllr Lewis. Points of interest included; Council tax is likely to rise following recent Government policy changes, District Councils are currently moving towards retaining 100% of business rates to bolster their income. Changes of use from retail to residential are likely to be made easier reflecting the changes to the High Streets. Stephen Baker, CEO for East Suffolk confirmed that the different parking policies in operation in Waveney and Suffolk Coastal would be made uniform but not for another two years or so. District Councillors would be reduced in number from 98 to 55 and this would mean they would be less likely to attend parish meetings. Superintendent Paul Sharp confirmed that the Police viewed CCTV as a useful deterrent against anti-social behaviour.

7.35pm Cllr Widdowson joined the meeting.

Cllr Lewis reported on attending the Campus Exhibition at the Library and had brought leaflets for distribution to the Council members.

The Chair reported that he and Cllr Greenberg had attended the Suffolk County Council's consultation on Sizewell C held at Hinton. The Chair accepted that there were some serious concerns over increased traffic, although allegedly around 85% of deliveries would be coming from the South, the remaining 15% would still be substantial as the project was much larger than the previous A and B power stations. Other concerns were that experienced staff from the Hinkley plant may be looking to relocate to work at Sizewell (which could run for 20 years) and this may push up the prices of houses and rents in the area. It was disappointing to discover that after considering the three main methods of getting materials on to site; by sea, by rail and by road, it looked as if the bulk of materials would be delivered by road. The Council had until the 29th March to respond in writing and if was then RESOLVED that a working group of three Cllrs; Thomas, Fleming and Forster, together with any interested residents would meet no more than twice to prepare a response. The Chair made it clear that this was not an anti-nuclear working group it was specifically set up for responding to the impact of the project on Halesworth.

The Chair reported on the recent meeting that he and Cllr Greenberg attended with Matt Williams of SCC to discuss surface water drainage and in particular the effectiveness of SuDS systems which had featured in all of the large planning proposals in the town. Mr Williams shared the Chair's concerns over the fact that every site had SuDS built into slopes and the Council only had meaningless calculations to substantiate whether the systems would be effective. Currently the design of the Suds at Hill Farm Rd had not been approved by SCC. There were also concerns over the management of the SuDS, the contractor would hand over responsibility to a third party, this could be a group of residents, a management company or in some cases a local authority but this was less likely.

10. District & County Reports: There were no reports.
11. Bus Services: To consider the recent news that bus services to Southwold and Norwich are being withdrawn by the current provider. After hearing from residents the Council considered a course of action. Cllr Widdowson explained that Wales which had similarities with East Anglia in respect of remoteness and poor infrastructure had obtained 'Transport for Wales' a similar concept to 'Transport for London' which ensured a public bus service would be retained regardless of costs or profits and he would propose that part of the response should include this suggestion, i.e 'Transport for East Anglia'. The Council also felt that a more immediate action was also required to ensure there would be a bus service for Norwich and Southwold after March 2019. It was then RESOLVED that the Clerk would liaise with Cllr Widdowson to write a letter to the MPs, Cllr Goldson, Suffolk County Council, WDC & SCDC. This letter would be posted on the website and Facebook with the addressees details for residents to respond themselves.
Cllr Lewis would be attending the ESTA meeting on Saturday and would relay any further information.
12. Road closure for Mansion House roof repairs: To consider the arrangements by Suffolk County Council for the road closure adjacent to Mansion House, Chediston Street. The Clerk explained the arrangements regarding the road closure and had provided a plan for further clarification. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with Peter Langford, the coordinator for 'Halesworth Recovery Team' to discuss longer terms issues and suggestions during the rebuilding process as the Chair and other members felt that the Town Council had been left out when arrangements were being made.
13. Communications Committee: There were no updates as the next meeting would be on Wednesday 13th February.
14. Community Centre Working Group: To receive any updates. The Chair reported that the next stage would be a meeting with WDC.
15. Community Infrastructure Working Group: To receive a report of the informal meeting held on the 25th January, 2019. It was noted that this had been an unofficial meeting for discussion purposes only due to the unavailability of the Clerks at that time. No proposals from the meeting could be considered but the Council noted the report.
16. CCTV Working Group: To receive the report and proposal from the meeting held on the 30th January. The Council appreciated Cllr Forster's in depth analysis and conclusions in his report. The Council considered several different views from members on the effectiveness of CCTV and whether the costs were justified against the level of crime in the town. Cllr Widdowson also had additional concerns over controlling the use of the equipment in the future and whether third parties would be allowed access by future councils. Other views were that the Police were in favour and would use the equipment and although Halesworth did not suffer from serious crime there were 67 reported crimes between December 2017 and November 2018 largely within the proposed CCTV area and it was hoped this would prove to be an effective deterrent. After further debate it was then RESOLVED [9 in favour 3 against] that the CCTV Working Group recommends that the Council considers approval to engage

the services of the preferred supplier (full details contained in Cllr Forster report) via a letter of intent subject to a short period (10 days)) of public engagement via the usual media sources available. To include the full extent of the CCTV coverage, namely the Thoroughfare, Market Place, Arboretum, Park entrances and London Rd (North). The group have obtained written police support and will write a policy initially restricting the use for police related incidents with a crime number and to obtain a blanket agreement for the Police to access the recordings remotely if technically possible. The funding will be subject to discussion but currently the Council has the necessary CIL funds available. It was further agreed that the system would be reviewed in 12 months after its installation.

17. Free Parking: To review if there have been any updates or acknowledgements of the discussion between Cllr Goldson and WDC Cabinet members and if not whether to make a formal offer to WDC in writing. It was RESOLVED that since there had not been any written confirmation from WDC the Council would chose the option below and would put this in writing to WDC, copies to the Cabinet member Cllr Graham Catchpole and the Mr Kerry Blair – Head of Operations as follows:-
Based upon the current pricing structure across all the car parks, HTC proposes the following compensation package to WDC for car parking in Halesworth:-
- 1-Hour free parking in: - Angel Link North car park.
Angel Link South car park
Post Office car park
Station Road car park
 - Full charges in the Thoroughfare car park with no free first hour parking.
 - Reinstatement of the 11 x ½ hour free parking spaces where they were previously sited in the Thoroughfare car park.
 - Review the tariffs for the Station Road car park to encourage its use by train passengers by a pricing structure which permits overnight parking.
 - HTC will compensate WDC with a payment of £15,000 per annum for the next two years.
18. Financial Matters:
- a) Report: The Council received and noted the report on the Finance and Personnel meeting held on the 21st January, 2019.
 - b) Budget: To consider any amendments to the budget for 2019/2020 approved at the monthly meeting held January 7th, 2019. It was RESOLVED that the current budget would remain as previously agreed at the last meeting in January. The Council's contribution to the free parking would come directly from reserves. It was hoped that the businesses and parishes would also contribute as they had previously.
 - c) Precept: To consider any amendments to the precept for 2019/2020 of £115,000 approved at the monthly meeting held January 7th, 2019 pending information of the free parking. It was RESOLVED that the Council agreed the Precept at £115,000 for April 2019 – March 2020.
19. Planning Committee:
- a) The Council received and noted the report of the meeting held on the 14th January, 2019
 - b) The report of the extraordinary meeting held on the 14th January, 2019 was accepted as a true record.
20. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 16th January 2019

21. Maintenance: There were no maintenance matters.
22. Correspondence: No other correspondence was considered.
23. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library. As previously noted the letter regarding the buses would be posted and information on the CCTV and Road Closures would also be posted.
24. Accounts for Payment: The following accounts for payment were approved.

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| <u>4175.</u> | Go Geronimo – Youth summer activities – approved at the Finance meeting 21 st January 2019 (LG (Misc. Provisions) Act 1976 s19) | 800.00 |
| <u>4176.</u> | Keith Greenberg – travelling to SCC – Flood control in planning meeting LGA 1972 s174 (Annual subscription for two computers) | 36.00 |
| <u>4177.</u> | N Rees payment online for Acronis cloud backup (LGA1972 s111) | £46.66 + vat |
| <u>4178.</u> | EPS Transfers - N-Plan Banner | 90.00 + vat |
| <u>4179.</u> | Community News – N-Plan Survey acknowledgement (Localism Act 2011 sch9) | 60.00 + vat |

DD/Standing Orders:

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| <u>4180.</u> | Barclays Bank charges (LGA1972 s111) | 13.00 |
| <u>4181.</u> | Salaries - (LGA1972 s112) | 2,382.35 |
| <u>4182.</u> | Nest – Pension - (LGA1972 s112) | 130.96 |
| <u>4183.</u> | EDF Energy – Market Place No 3 Electricity (Food Act 1984 s 50) | 13.65 CR |
| <u>4184.</u> | EDF Energy – Market Place No 2 Electricity (Food Act 1984 s 50) | 29.52 + vat |

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| S106/CIL Receipts noted | |
| s106/s111 Payments received 01/02/19 | 3329.05 |

Bank & Cash Balances at 1st February, 2019

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| Current 728 | £145,214.34 |
| Community A/c | £5,281.52 |
| Business Reserves 017 | £92,442.93 |
| Petty Cash | £66.40 |

25. Staff Matters:

- Neighbourhood Plan secretarial hours. This would be considered at a later meeting when the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group was present.
- Pensions. The Personnel group needed to obtain further information before this matter could be considered, Cllr Lewis advised the Council that there may need to be some allowance made in future budgets depending on the advice obtained.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm (after an approved suspension of Standing Orders prior to 9pm).