



## HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL Environment Committee Meeting

Waveney Local Office  
London Road  
Halesworth

**Present:** Cllr Jill Reece (in the Chair), Cllr David Wollweber, Cllr David Thomas, Lisa Simmonds and Martin Dominic.

**In Attendance:** Chris Hart from Plastic Free Halesworth and Phillippa Welby (Assistant Clerk)

### MINUTES

- 1. Apologies** – Gabrielle Maughan.
- 2. Declaration of Interests** – There were none.
- 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** – The minutes of the meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were agreed.
- 4. Introduction of new Members** – Cllr Reece has had interest from another member of the public who is hoping to attend the next meeting. If any other members of the public would like to join the Committee, they should contact a Committee member directly or the Clerk's Office.
- 5. Plastic Free Halesworth** – Chris Hart introduced the concept of Plastic Free Halesworth to the Committee. The initiative was started in Cornwall by Surfers Against Sewage which is a non political environmental group. The Committee agreed to ask Full Council to 'To consider supporting the Plastic Free Halesworth initiative'. More details of this scheme can be found in the literature given to Committee members with these minutes.
- 6. Town River** – Cllr Thomas reported that the Town Council had commissioned a report from a civil engineer with a specialism in flood risk and drainage on the Town River. This report was to be made available to Councillors at the next full Council meeting. Cllr Thomas will provide a guide to the report and an update on any Council decisions at the next Committee meeting.
- 7. Energy projects in East Suffolk** – There a currently a raft of energy projects proposed for East Suffolk that may well have detrimental effects on the County that outweigh the positive effects of large infrastructure being sited here. SZC has yet to put in a planning application and the National Grid Interconnector project is its infancy so the Council could still put in representations for these. However, the Scottish Power substation project has already reached the Planning Inspectorate stage. Cllr Thomas agreed to be the Committee's representative and attend meetings regarding these projects and update the Committee with reports.
- 8. Individual special interest areas** – The Committee agreed to publish their areas of special interests in the public folder in the library, which are as follows:
  - Cllr Wollweber – development of cycle paths in the town
  - Cllr Reece – development of open spaces in the town
  - Cllr Thomas – the Town River and energy projects in the region
  - Lisa Simmonds – Trees and Halesworth in Bloom
  - Martin Dominic – TrafficCllr Reece has made contact with the East Suffolk Council (ESC) arboriculturist who like to liaise with Lisa regarding heritage trees in Halesworth.

Cllr Reece would like to investigate the open spaces in Halesworth currently owned by ESC to see whether improvements can be made. She would like to survey the residents closest to the open spaces and find out what changes they would like to see in the areas. Cllr Wollweber suggested that the project was put on hold pending discussions with ESC.

Martin Dominic will undertake a traffic survey of the Thoroughfare to compare to Cllr Reece's survey done two years previous. They will liaise over the details of the survey. The Clerk's Office has hand held tally counters if needed.

**9. News Items/website/social media** – The Clerk will publicise the event for Plastic Free Halesworth.

**10. Correspondence** – None.

**11. Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 11am.