



**MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**

In accordance with (The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020)

Present: Councillors;

Ben Chadwick (after item 7), Tony Allen, Annette Dunning, Peter Dutton, Anne Fleming, Rosemary Lewis, Karen Prime, Jill Reece, David Thomas, Maureen Took, Jackie Wagner, David Wollweber (Chair).

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Town Clerk) County & District Cllr Tony Goldson, six members of the public.

## Minutes

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of interest: Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Dunning for item 15
3. Minutes: The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2021 was accepted as a true record.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: The Clerk and Cllr Thomas were still investigating the ownership of the Basley Ground gym equipment. Cllr Reece confirmed that the species of trees for the Swan lane Open space were as follows; three Rowan, three Wild Cherry and three Crab Apple. Cllr Dutton requested that Cllrs should be referred to Cllr & surname rather than first names, but this was already the case so no action was required.
5. Chair's Report: The Chair reported that he had recently received a vaccination for Covid-19 and wished to commend all the volunteers for their hard work at the Sole Bay Health Centre, the vaccination process had all been very easy and efficient.
6. Public Session: [15 minutes on matters relating to the town] A resident asked about the road closure signs not currently being used in the Thoroughfare. The Clerk had asked Highways why this was the case but was still awaiting a response. The same resident asked when the road repairs that had been cancelled would take place in Rectory Street. The Clerk would endeavour to find out. A resident who had been present at the last meeting had sent his questions relating to Sizewell and the Bramfield Road signs in writing to the Council and wondered if there was any response. Cllr Dunning confirmed that HTC had responded on the proposed Sizewell C and Cllr Dutton confirmed that there had been discussion with Highways about the signage over a number of years but so far they had not recognised the need for any changes to the junction or to the existing signage. Another resident had written in about keeping roadside verges wild and that the existing wild flowers should be preserved if possible. This was referred to the Environment Committee but in the meantime the Clerk would inform Waveney Norse.
7. To receive written reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives: Cllr Thomas had circulated a draft questionnaire with the intention that this would represent the Council's response to East Suffolk Council for the People and Places project. It was important to get as many response to the questionnaire as possible and

councillors could also send their responses if they hadn't done so already. Cllr Dutton asked that the Working Group should be involved with collating all the responses. It was then RESOLVED that councillors should respond to the Clerk by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March in order for the Working Group to collate the response to ESC.

Cllr Chadwick joined the meeting at 18.57pm

8. District & County Reports: The Council had received and noted the written report from Cllr Goldson
9. Financial Matters: To consider the following: The Council accepted the report of the meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2021
10. ABP Committee:
  1. The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February.
  2. To receive a verbal report of the meeting with Angus Williams held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February and to consider any matters arising. Cllr Fleming updated the Council on the latest discussions with Angus Williams, the key points were that ESC were not willing to upgrade the Wallgate washing facilities in the public toilets but would hand them over in a serviceable condition. Cllrs; Wollweber, Fleming and Lewis had proposed that ESC pays £13k for the demolition costs and that ESC provides a tapered relief for the Open Spaces maintenance totalling £24,066 over four years. This revised proposal would be discussed by senior management and whether it was likely to be approved by ESC's Cabinet and they would report back.
11. Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February. Cllr Allen confirmed that the group were also conducting research into the play equipment in the Open Spaces, but for different reasons than the Environment Committee. Cllr Allen confirmed that the meeting with the Seckford Trust had been postponed and that the group was also undertaking a study of artists which was part of the fact finding process.
12. Planning Committee: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Council; held on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, for determining the CMC & Campus planning applications, was accepted as a true record. The Council thanked Cllr Dutton for his detailed response to Castle Meadow Care's Architect and for all his work on these applications.
13. Environment Committee: The Council received and noted the minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2021. Cllr Reece confirmed that she would circulate a summary of the responses to the Open Spaces as soon as it had been compiled.
14. Communications Committee: Cllr Dunning confirmed that the Committee would be meeting again next week following the judging of the Tamsyn Imison Award which would be taking place on Tuesday. The Chair of the Council was normally on the panel but he was surprised by this news, as he had not received an invitation. Cllr Dunning apologised and explained that this must have been an oversight.
15. Community Partnership Funding: Cllr Dunning asked the Council to consider supporting the proposals from the Community Partnership which had been explained in the presentation circulated entitled 'Mental Health Friendly Town'. Cllr Dunning explained that this was a very important project to support individuals suffering from mental health issues as we came out of lockdown, through a training and support package. Cllr Dunning answered questions on the project and then it was RESOLVED that the Council approved this project for the Community funding allocation for Halesworth.
16. Youth Provision in the town: Cllr Allen presented his proposal for a forum to the Council. Cllr Thomas suggested a Working group would be the best method to start off the process but Cllr Allen felt that this should not be seen as another Council Committee and what was important to him was to establish a commitment first and then sort out the methods later.

Whilst there were different views on this subject, Cllr Chadwick made the point that even he may be out of touch with exactly what provisions younger people may wish for in Halesworth. The Chair stressed the importance of contacting Eric Sewell and drew attention to the fact that there had already been a group established with similar motives but this had also included the Police and East Suffolk Council. After further discussion the Chair asked Cllr Allen to repeat his proposal and it was then RESOLVED that this Council takes the lead in bringing together, in a forum, all interested parties and stakeholders with the aim of exploring the needs of and improving provision for the young people of Halesworth and to present its recommendations to the Town Council for its consideration and action.

Cllr Allen agreed to contact Eric Sewell

Cllr Lewis enquired about the Apollo Youth Centre and wished to know the size of the plot and whether it could be moved elsewhere on the Campus site. Cllr Allen said he would ask the Chair of Campus to write to Cllr Lewis to explain this further. Cllr Allen added that he expected this would be sorted out later on in phase 1 but he understood that Campus was only required to allocate a plot. Cllr Lewis asked that the answers be sent to the Clerk.

17. Correspondence: The Clerk reported that the White Bridge in Millennium Green was in need of repair, but SCC had confirmed that it was currently safe for pedestrians but no other form of traffic. The Clerk confirmed various groups would be discussing with SCC about ensuring the bridge is repaired and capable of taking cyclists and the Millennium Green Trust also required access for their mowers. The Clerk would provide further updates as he received them.

The Clerk reported that a resident had requested speed calming measures in Wissett Road, the Clerk proposed a post be installed in the grass bank so a VAS sign (Vehicle Activated Speed) could be located to calm the traffic but that the Council should be aware that the signs were shared with other parishes and other locations. It was RESOLVED that the Council approved the additional post.

18. Maintenance: The Clerk had circulated the Swan Lane Play area refurbishment costs and the two dog bins requests at Swan lane and Mill Road. The Clerk confirmed that the costs of the dog bins would be approximately £300 each and £54 per annum to empty by Waveney Norse. At the Clerk's suggestion the Council agreed that an audit of dog bins in the town should be carried out to ensure that there was a logical network of bins and subject to this being the case that the Council approved the costs.

19. Items for the Website/Noticeboard/Newsletters/Library. Awards

20. Accounts for Payment: The following accounts were approved for payment:

<u>4569.</u>	N Rees – Zoom monthly subscription (November) (LGA 1972 s111)	11.99 + vat
<u>4570.</u>	Keith Snowden Town Centre website design (funding from ESC received)	399.50
<u>4571.</u>	Waveney Norse – HTC Boiler repairs (LGA 1972 s111)	114.05 + vat

DD/Standing Orders:

<u>4572.</u>	Monthly salaries (LGA 1972 s112)	2623.39
<u>4573.</u>	Barclays Bank charges (LGA 1972 s111)	8.10

Bank & Cash Balances at 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

Current 728	£128,859.67
Unity Trust	£79,295.39
Community A/c	£5,296.20
Business Reserves 017	£92,699.93
Petty Cash	£71.83

21. Staff Matters: Annual review and recommendations from the Personnel Working Group – This item was held in camera. The Clerk and members of the public left the meeting. The Chair confirmed that the Council had agreed one additional salary point for both Clerks, currently based on the NALC pay scales April 2020.