



24.10.01

## Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Present:** Cllrs. Joyce Moseley (Chair), Alison Cackett (Vice-Chair), Annette Dunning, Keith Greenberg and Rachel Kellett, ESC Cllr Geoff Wakeling (until Item 6), one member of the public and the Town Clerk.

1. **Welcome.** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and confirmed that no recording was taking place.
2. **Apologies** - received from **Cllrs Fosdike** (business), **Pattison** (holiday), **Sibanda** (illness) and **Wagner** (other meeting) and **APPROVED**.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on **September 2nd, 2024**, were **APPROVED** as a true and accurate record.
4. **Public Forum** – Mr Gray (HACT) highlighted the upcoming Halesworth Business Connections meeting, and prompted further discussion about the benefits of a town transport hub, with bus driver rest facilities (currently informally provided by the Angel Hotel) and electric vehicle charging points. It was emphasised the Council is supportive of the concept but mindful of its cost and complexity.
5. **District & County Councillor Reports:**

**ESC Cllr. Wakeling** outlined the new “Twin Stream” recycling scheme which will incorporate the additional collection of food waste and glass, reducing the frequency of general ‘black bin’ collections to a three-week cycle, all due by Spring 2026. Geoff also reported an ESC community safety survey was now open for residents via <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/7DY9B8B> or through ESC Customer Services on 0333 016 2000 or at local libraries.  
*Also in the report - £777,903 has been awarded for the expansion of Cutler’s Hill surgery, Halesworth for four new consultation rooms, improved patient access, a new healthcare assistant room and improved welfare facilities.*

**SCC Cllr. Dunning** provided a report for October which was **NOTED**. White Bridge delays caused by ‘flora and fauna’ but work shortly to continue. Annette also spoke about SCC’s role in the recycling processes, requiring considerable forward planning and investment, and expressed her admiration for the Thoroughfare bollards project.
6. **Town Councillor Reports:**

**Cllr. Dunning** reported on the September Town Twinning visit to Eitorf, at which HTC was very successfully represented by **Cllr. Gugue Sibanda**. There was strong interest from Germany in coming to Suffolk for youth sports and other events.

**Cllr. Cackett** briefed the Council about the recent East Suffolk Transport Group – explanatory ‘drop-in’ sessions and examples of successful bids for funding to be provided by SCC to assist councils seeking additional bus services.

**Cllr. Greenberg** and the SCC officer Hub Working Group representative met with ESC officers to discuss preparation for a joint CIL funding bid to finance the new Community Hub, although it is unlikely to be in time for the upcoming round. Separately, HTC’s project consultants had suggested innovative ideas on the concept of a Community Hub, inviting HWG members to consider them as a potential refocus on its features.

**Cllr. Moseley reported** on eight matters

  - A closer relationship between the Tourism and Marketing Stakeholder Groups, with a workshop planned next year
  - Her attendance at the ESC Marketing Workshop in September
  - Halesworth Volunteers – expected to relocate before year-end/ long-term fundraising strategy discussed
  - Battle of Britain Service in Beccles with Cllr. Cackett
  - Support for the Youth Outreach initiative at the church via an award of £1,000 from the L&E Committee
  - ESC Cultural Sector workshop – a new strategy/new officer post, with event creation a core feature
  - Conservation Appraisal Review – modest changes, including a small extension, being proposed
  - Four-year Plan – quarterly report to residents imminent for publication
- 6a) **Cllr. Kellett** gave a summary of the very successful Climate Conference, including a very focussed Land & Food exhibition, the sold-out “Wilding” film at The Cut, the Farming Maze Panel discussions, the well-supported Saturday Conference (attended by Adrian Ramsey MP) and the more ‘restrained’ Sunday events. Representatives from five other towns came to observe the event with a view to holding something similar in their communities. Outcome and ideas were then discussed by the Council, finally followed by a vote of thanks - led by the Chair - to Rachel and the Climate Conference team for their sterling efforts. More details to be found at [halesworthash.com](http://halesworthash.com) .



# Halesworth Town Council

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## 24.10.02

7. **NOTED** - draft Committee minutes for information <https://halesworthtowncouncil.org.uk/the-council/past-meeting-minutes/>
- a) **Finance & Governance Committee** (16<sup>th</sup> September).
  - b) **Assets & Services Committee** (18<sup>th</sup> September).
  - c) **Leisure & Environment Committee** (24<sup>th</sup> September).
  - d) **Planning and Highways Committee** (3<sup>rd</sup> September).
8. **RECEIVE and NOTED** - the **External Auditor's Report for FY 2023/24**. Thanks were extended to the Clerk/RFO and Council Staff for the successful completion of the Annual Accounts and Audit.
9. **Clerk's Report**
- a) To **CONSIDER** any applications for co-option as a member of the Town Council - **NONE**
  - b) **NOTED** - the **Clerk's Report** as an update and further instruction on matters outstanding from previous meetings. The revised **Standing Orders** (previously circulated with changes annotated) were reviewed and **APPROVED**
  - c) **RECEIVED** - an update the East Suffolk Council Asset Transfer proposal, with limited progress noted. It was **AGREED** to provide a synopsis of the situation to date for ESC Ward Councillors to support their efforts in helping to bring the Asset Transfer process to a rapid and satisfactory conclusion.
  - d) To **REVIEW** any correspondence not previously circulated - **NONE**
  - e) The appointment of the Personnel Committee Chair was **DEFERRED**, and it was **AGREED** that the Finance & Governance Committee would look after personnel matters *pro tem* in light of the impending budget process.
  - f) **NOTED** - the resignation of Paul Widdowson as one of the Council's representative Trustees on the Unappropriated Estates and Halesworth United Charities and **APPROVED** – the appointment of Dinah Morley as a new HTC-appointed trustee of both charities.
- 10 **RFO Reports** (to follow)
- a. **NOTED** - a monthly report of income and expenditure (year to date) against the budget and a bank reconciliation.
  - b. **AUTHORISED** - accounts for payment (previously circulated for collective scrutiny) – Councillors Dunning and Moseley to authorise.

### Halesworth Town Council PAYMENTS LIST

2 October 2024 (2024-2025)

Vouche Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
236	High Street Imp. Wayfinding, B	19/09/2024	1 Unity Trust Current		Bolard Project	New Cut Arts	E	2,100.00		2,100.00
239	London Rd Imp. Reserves	24/09/2024	1 Unity Trust Current		contractor	DUNCAN AND SON	S	4,483.24	896.65	5,379.89
240	External Audit	24/09/2024	1 Unity Trust Current		Audit	PFJ Littlejohn LLP	S	840.00	168.00	1,008.00
<b>Total</b>								<b>7,423.24</b>	<b>1,064.65</b>	<b>8,487.89</b>

- c. **NOTED** - the Reserves and CIL report, with a new ear-marked Business Continuity Reserve, representing the approved 25% target of the Council's Precept.

**The Chair closed the meeting at 8.37pm**

**Date of next meeting – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**