

Present: Councillors;

David Thomas (Vice Chair), Peter Dutton, Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Leverett, Andrew Payne, Maureen Took, Iona Winton, David Wollweber

In Attendance: Nick Rees (Clerk), Polly Grice (Beccles & Bungay), 12 members of the public

Minutes

1. **Apologies:** Cllr A Fleming, Cllr A Baldwin, Cllr P Widdowson.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Non Pecuniary Interests; Cllr D Thomas for 9, 11 & 12, Cllr P Dutton for 9, 11 & 12, Cllr M Took for 12, Cllr I Winton for 12 & 13, D Wollweber for 12, S Leverett for 12, R Lewis for 12
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on the 1st February, 2016 2016 were accepted as a true record.
4. **Chair's Report:** The Chair of the Council was absent and the Vice Chair did not feel it was appropriate to report on the Chair's functions but it would be put on the website when a written report was available.
5. **Police:** The Council received and noted the Police Report. There were no officers present at the meeting but the report would be available for anyone wishing to see it. On a suggestion from Cllr Leverett it was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to PCSO Edd Vincent who has successfully achieved selection as a Police Constable.
6. **Public Session:** [15 minutes on agenda items] Mr Doug Gray expressed his frustration regarding the response received to his written question about what actions Cllr Smith had taken to ensure the legality and fairness of the WDC Off Street Parking Places Order 2016. The response from Cllr Smith was read out at the meeting and the Council believed that this reply was a 'cut & paste' of a letter received from another resident by a different author. It was noted that this response did not answer or relate to Mr Gray's question. Cllr Payne wished to propose a motion of no confidence in Cllr Smith but this was deferred until the public session ended. Mr Malcom Smith wished it known that he did not believe HTC should subsidise WDC car parks. The Vice Chair confirmed that there was no intention for HTC to subsidise the car parks. The meeting was closed. On the subject of the content of Cllr Smith's letter to Mr Gray, it was agreed that the Clerk reminds WDC of the many inaccuracies in the reply, it was further noted that HTC had previously written to WDC on the content of this letter which, as stated above, had already been sent to another resident. The meeting was re-opened, Sue Allenby said that she had received a letter from WDC which suggested that HTC did have to subsidise the car parks. The Vice Chair asked to see a copy of the letter as he had received a response from WDC over the question of legality of using car park revenue to fill spaces in the budget. The reply he had received stated that WDC were not using car park revenues for this purpose. This was a contradiction to several other statements and letters received from WDC. Mr Stuart Gagg commented that he had received a similar unsatisfactory response from Cllr Smith to a question about the Green Bins, which in his opinion, showed a lack of understanding.

The Meeting was closed: RESOLVED It was proposed by Cllr Payne and the motion carried by 5 votes in favour and 3 abstentions *that HTC introduce a motion of no confidence in the*

performance of Cllr L Smith as a Waveney District Councillor in terms of her representation of the town's interests'

7. **Planning Committee:** The Chair of the Committee, Cllr Dutton reported on the meeting on the 19th February, 2016. There had also been a meeting earlier (7th March, 2016 at 6.30pm) but minutes would not be available until later.
8. **Town Development Committee:** Cllr Lewis reported on the meeting held on the 11th January, 2016. Cllr Leverett asked whether there was any further news on the runway lights in the Park. The Clerk reported that Pearce and Kemp and Waveney Norse had both been contacted but there was nothing to report so far.
9. **Barrow Crossing at Halesworth Station:** To receive any updates since Network Consultation at the Library on the 17th February, 2016. The Vice Chair reported on the meeting at the Library where Network Rail had disregarded advice to hold the meeting at a more suitable location due to the number of residents expected to attend. The Council had since written to Network rail pointing out that this was irresponsible and in the same letter had also summarised the many practical solutions offered as an alternative to closing the crossing by residents at the meeting. It was also noted that there had been new notices erected at the crossing. An action group SOCH (Save our crossing Halesworth) had been set up by residents to put pressure on Network Rail. It was noted that Network Rail had not responded to requests for the Risk Assessment and that there had been no formal replies to the many letters sent by Councillors, residents and the Clerk so far. Jill Reece and other residents had conducted a survey from 5.45am to 11pm on Friday 4th March which had been very revealing, it was clear that there were many more people using the crossing than Network Rail had estimated. It was then noted that it was possible to make an application for a public right of way to Suffolk County Council, the Clerk had obtained all the forms but it appeared that there was a cost involved with the application. It was agreed that this would be deferred to the Finance Committee. The Clerk would create a page on the Council's website to provide a central point for all the information obtained by the Council, residents and for the action group SOCH. The Vice Chair explained that he was currently investigating the various documents and evidence on the footpaths and rights of way since the road closure order of 1957.
10. **Rifle Hall: To consider the question raised at the monthly meeting on the 1st February, 2016 as follows, namely;** what is the current charitable status of the Rifle Hall? Mr Simon weeks was unable to attend the meeting but had been expecting a formal invitation. It was then proposed and agreed that Mr Weeks would be formally invited to the April monthly meeting. There followed a short history of the Trusteeship of the Rifle Hall by the Vice Chair and he explained that there may have been a clerical error by a WDC officer at a crucial point which led everyone to believe that WDC were the Trustees but in fact some documents indicated that it had never been transferred to WDC. The Clerk advised that this matter had been investigated before and there had been no conclusion at that time. The Council would need to consider if it wished to become the Trustees of the Rifle Hall bearing in mind the financial commitment of maintaining that building and the likelihood that it may also need to maintain the London Rd Building. However, it was agreed that any Councillor who wished to look into the history in more detail could do so.
11. **Car Parks:** To receive an update. It was noted that the only response from WDC on the car parks recently had been via a freedom of information request. It was agreed that Cllr Thomas, Cllr Dutton, Cllr Wollweber and the Clerk would formulate a freedom of information request on how Cllr Colin Law could make the decision to reject HTC's proposals without referring to the Council or Cabinet.
12. **London Rd Building:** To receive an update. It was noted that WDC was not providing the necessary information on this matter despite having sent several letters and requests. It was noted that a 'Holding document' had been sent to WDC whilst the Business Plan was being prepared. Although WDC's officer, Mr Eades had been helpful it was difficult for him as he was not being informed by WDC's Cabinet and could therefore not advise HTC as to what

WDC's plan were after March 31st 2016. It was noted that none of the users had received any official notice from WDC so far. RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed 'to contact WDC again to determine security of tenure for all the existing users groups from 1st April 2016 in the London Rd Building'.

13. **Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives:** To receive any reports on meetings or events attended by Councillors. Cllr Lewis reported on the ESTA meeting, it was noted thanks should be given to ESTA for their support against the recent proposal from Network Rail to close the Barrow Crossing. There were also concerns now about the other two pedestrian crossing in the town. Cllr Lewis also provided a report on the last Campus meeting. Cllr Winton reported on the Fair Trade meeting and the Day Centre. Cllr Lewis also provided a report on the last Twinning meeting and it was discussed whether it would be useful to have Twinning on the Town Development Committee as a regular item. However, it was agreed that this was not necessary but the Council and/or the TDC would consider any reports as and when they were received. Cllr Payne provided a report on the Halesworth Playing Fields Association and noted to the Council that the HPFA would be approaching the Council for a short term loan. Cllr Payne also provided a report on Halesworth Tourism Group meeting. All reports were provided in the Public Folder and would be available in the Library and from the Clerk.
14. **District & County Reports:** To receive any reports from the District & County Councillors. There were no District or County Councillors present at the meeting to provide a report.
15. **Queen's 90th Birthday:** To consider any arrangements. RESOLVED It was proposed and agreed that a working group be formed at the next Town Development Committee meeting to look at ideas for celebrating the Queen's birthday.
16. **Stocks Fair:** To consider WDC's request for Council approval for a fair on the Angel Link Car park between the dates of April 5th through to April 11th, 2016. RESOLVED it was agreed to confirm to WDC that HTC had no objections to the proposed Stocks Fair in April but it should be pointed out that it may not be possible in future years depending on whether there was a Bus Hub on the Angel Link car park.
17. **Financial Matters:**
 - a) The report of the Finance & Personnel Committee meeting held on the 15th February, 2016 was accepted as a true record.
 - b) To consider the three quotes for a new PC for an Assistant Clerk. RESOLVED that the Council would purchase the computer from Halesworth Computer & Photographic.
18. **Correspondence:** Mark Jolly, survey of river bank. It was noted that Mr Jolly had agreed to conduct a survey of the rat problem along the river. Following his advice it was agreed that the first step to controlling the problem was to deter residents from feeding the ducks, which was only serving to provide a food supply for the rats. RESOLVED that the Clerk produces a notice and sends it to all members of the Council to agree the exact wording prior to putting up the notices in the town.
19. **Accounts for Payment:** The following accounts for payment were approved.

3774.	Eon – Festive Lights Electricity	313.75
3775.	B & B Skip hire	175.00+vat
3776.	Waveney Norse – Dog Bin	303.49
3777.	SCC VAS Sign Contribution	1,265.28
3778.	Viking, Stationary, Lanyards & Name Plates	93.92+vat
3779.	Abellio Anglia – Station Bldg Rent	342.20+vat
3780.	Spexhall PC/Westcotec, Vas sign Brackets, 4 @ £50	200.00+vat
3781.	Community News – Fairtrade Advert	90.00 + vat
3782.	Suffolk County Council 2 x Road Closures (Antiques & Festive lights)	100.00

DD/Standing Orders

<u>3783.</u>	BT Phone & Broadband – Quarterly Bill	156.06
<u>3784.</u>	Salaries	1626.15

Bank & Cash Balances at 4th March, 2016

Current 728	£90,661.03
Community A/c	£5,267.44
Business Reserves 017	£92,196.63
Petty Cash	£103.91

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.