

**Present:** Councillors;

Anne Fleming (Chair), Tracy Gardner, Peter Dutton, Keith Greenberg, Rosemary Lewis, Sandra Leverett, Andrew Payne, David Thomas, Maureen Took, David Wollweber.

**In Attendance:** Nick Rees (Clerk) and 15 members of the public

## **Minutes**

The Vice Chair, Cllr Thomas, chaired the meeting as the Chair, Cllr Anne Fleming, was currently suffering from a heavy cold and had difficulties in speaking. Cllr Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this was a Council meeting not a public meeting. Members of the public could ask questions on agenda items only during the public session (item 7). Cllr Thomas also wished to apologise if he had caused any offence at the last monthly meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Widdowson, District Cllr Tony Goldson, District Cllr Letitia Smith
2. **Declarations of interest:** Declarations for non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Payne for 9, 10 & 15, Cllr Took for 15, Cllr A Fleming for 8, 10, 11, 13 & 15, Cllr Leverett for 8, 10, 11, 13 & 15, Cllr Gardner for 10 & 15, Cllr Greenberg for 13, Cllr Wollweber for 8 & 13, Cllr Lewis for 10 & 15, Cllr Dutton 8, 9 & 15, Cllr Thomas, 8, 9 10 & 15
3. **Minutes:** The monthly minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 were accepted as a true record with the amendment that under item 13, after the sentence 'Cllr Goldson then made an accusation that the Town Councillors would be seen to be responsible for the closing of the Patrick Stead Hospital' the following sentence was corrected as 'Several members of the Council took exception to this rather than the original 'Cllr Wollweber took exception'.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes:** Cllr Dutton asked whether there had been any response from WDC over supplying the parking figures from August. The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response so far. Cllr Dutton asked whether the question raised about the process involved with the decision over the structural survey and valuation of the London Rd Building had been answered. The Clerk confirmed that he had explained the legality of the process in detail at the Finance meeting, this explanation was then minuted and a letter, with that explanation had been sent to the member of public who had raised the question. Cllr Leverett asked whether District Cllr Letitia Smith had responded to Cllr Leverett's question raised at the last meeting regarding, what was the latest situation with the London Rd Building? The Clerk confirmed that there had been no response. Cllr Payne, asked whether the public meeting of the HPFA, noted in the minutes, had taken place. Cllr Thomas, answering the question in his position as the Chair of the HPFA, confirmed that the other members of the HPFA had not agreed to his suggestion to hold a public meeting. However, Cllr Thomas informed the Council that the next HPFA meeting would be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> January and members of the public were welcome to attend. Cllr Lewis drew attention to some of the comments on social media regarding the HPFA and Campus and wished to correct some inaccuracies. Cllr Lewis confirmed that HTC had not given any grants to the HPFA for legal fees, HTC had in fact loaned the HPFA £5,000 which would be paid back in due course. This arrangement was in accordance with advice from SALC and complies with the regulations (Clerks note: LG Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, section 19

(3)). Cllr Lewis confirmed that HTC had granted Campus a grant of £5,000 for a water pump (bore hole) during 2016. Cllr Lewis had recently attended a Campus meeting and was told that the £5,000 had been ring fenced for the Bore hole project. Cllr Lewis also reported that HTC had paid CIL monies (Community Infrastructure Levy) to Campus (Clerk's note: Finance Report no 7 October 2016, totalling £2,584.39), the latest payment was made early (October 2016) instead of waiting for the end of the year in order to assist Campus with the preparation of the football pitches. In summary HTC have acted correctly and have supported all the organisations involved with this project.

5. **Chair's Report:** The Chair's monthly report would be available on the website.
6. **Police:** The Council received and noted the report from Alastair Macfarlane and there were no questions or other Police matters to consider.
7. **Public Session:** [15 minutes on agenda items]: A member of the public asked what the financial response had been from the business community to the request for contributions to the free parking. The Clerk confirmed that there had been a good response from the businesses as well as from the local parishes and our District Councillor and then proceeded to read out the current figures. Another member of the public asked whether (under item 16) if the HPFA should be included as one of the topics or would the Chair advise residents to go to the HPFA meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. The Vice Chair suggested that it would be better for residents to attend the HPFA meeting as the Council would not be able to answer questions directly on behalf of the HPFA. However, the Vice Chair explained that these Forum meetings were open meetings and this item on the agenda was included to get ideas for topics to discuss. It was not the intention to set an agenda and the public would also be asked for topics at the meeting. The Vice Chair suggested that any residents who wished to raise an item for discussion at the Forum meeting could write in to the Clerk. The Vice Chair explained that these open Forum meetings were introduced in the last two years by this Council and should not be confused with the Annual Parish meeting in April.
8. **Communications:** The Council received and noted the report of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. Cllr Wollweber reported that the Working Group were currently looking at management plans for advertising on the Saxon Way Bridge and street furniture in the Thoroughfare. Proposals were being considered for how to recognise the contributors to the free parking. Cllr Wollweber also reported that Network Rail had advised against the proposed safety notice as they felt it was inappropriate. There followed a discussion on 'A' boards in the Town and how this was quite a complicated matter to police effectively. Cllr Wollweber wished to make it clear that all these proposals were a matter for discussion and no decisions would be made without proper public consultation.
9. **Planning Committee:** The Council received and noted the report on the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. Cllr Dutton reported all the decisions made but in particular the recommendation to WDC to refuse the application for a car wash operation in the Angel link South car park which was totally inappropriate. Cllr Dutton advised the Council that the land known as Dairy Farm had been sold to Badger Building. Cllr Dutton also reported that on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> January, the Planning Committee would consider the application from Hopkins Homes for 160 houses off Hill Farm Road. It was also noted that on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> January there would be a meeting on the Sizewell Consultation at Wangford Village Hall (6 – 8pm) that Councillors could attend.
10. **Town Development Committee:** The minutes of the meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 were accepted as a true record with the amendment that Cllr Payne was noted as present. Cllr Dutton (on behalf of the Chair of TDC, Cllr Thomas) reported that the Clerk was engaged in trying to arrange another business plan meeting for the London Rd Building.
11. **Reports on meetings and events attended by Council representatives:** To receive any reports on meetings or events attended by Councillors. The Council received and noted the Tourism report.

12. **District & County Reports:** There were no reports from the District & County Councillors
13. **Museum:** Cllr Leverett explained that there was a clause in the 'Declaration of Trust' which restricted trustees in serving the Museum after the age of 70 years old, which the Council agreed was unreasonable. Cllr Leverett then proposed and it was RESOLVED that 'In agreement with the Halesworth and District Museum Trustees, that item 13, as stated in the Declaration of Trust, dated 8<sup>th</sup> January, 1991, prohibiting Trustees to serve beyond the age of 70, be rendered invalid by current age discrimination legislation.
14. **Road Name:** To consider names for the access road to the new development off Fairview Rd. Cllr Wollweber explained that there was a medieval fair close to the site, this fair was traditionally held on St Luke's day and therefore the road could be called St Lukes Way or similar. Cllr Wollweber had also discovered in the deeds of the fair that Richard Argentine paid King Richard two palfreys for the fair and so the road could be called Palfrey, palfrey was a term for a medieval horse. Cllr Thomas suggested Hyde-Clarke after the long serving Town Councillor, recently deceased, the Clerk reported that he had received a suggestion for Electric Avenue as there was a PYE electrical factory there for many years. Cllr Took suggested Hammond after the local business man, Mr Roy Hammond. It was then agreed that this would be taken to the Forum meeting and put to a public vote.
15. **Financial Matters:**
- Report: The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2016 was accepted as a true record.
  - Precept: It was RESOLVED that the Precept for the period April 2017 – March 2018 remain at £100,000.
  - Free Parking: It was RESOLVED to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to pay WDC £17,000 to retain the free parking for the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2018 out of the contributions from the businesses, parish councils, Cllr Goldson (SCC locality budget) and the balance from Halesworth Town Council's reserves.
16. **Forum Meeting:** To consider topics for the Forum meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2017: The following topics were proposed for the meeting: - 1) Future of the London Rd Building, 2) Future of the free parking and how to pay for it, 3) Greening of the town, in particular the preservation and improvement of the trees in the town, 4) Traffic flow through the town, to include pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, 5) Cyclists safety, 6) Thoroughfare car park; Vehicular egress and maintenance, 7) Pedestrian safety at the Angel Link North car park, 8) Re-designation of the Thoroughfare, 9) Thoroughfare Street furniture 10) Saxon Way bridge posters, 11) HPFA.
17. **Correspondence:** There was no correspondence to consider.
18. **Accounts for Payment:** The following list of accounts for payment were approved.

<b>3876.</b>	EPS Transfers, Free Parking banner (LGA 1972 s144)	78.00 + vat
<b>3877.</b>	Wissett Parish Council – Contribution to VAS insurance (Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, s.72)	7.34
<b>3878.</b>	Viking Direct – Stationary (LGA1972 s111)	76.89
<b>3879.</b>	Van Dijke – Payroll services (LGA1972 s112)	60.00 + vat

**DD/Standing Orders:**

<b>3880.</b>	Salaries (LGA1972 s112)	2,127.29
<b>3881.</b>	Barclays Account charges (LGA1972 s111)	29.05
<b>3882.</b>	CF Corporate Finance – Photocopier Lease (LGA1972 s111)	156.06

**Bank & Cash Balances at 16th December, 2016**

Current 728	£72,908.66
Community A/c	£5,270.08
Business Reserves 017	£92,242.61
Petty Cash	£61.18

The meeting was closed at 7.53pm