

**Present:** Councillors;  
A Fleming, T Gardner, P Dutton, R Lewis, S Leverett, D Thomas (Chair), M Took

**In Attendance:** N Rees (Town Clerk)

## Minutes

The Chair explained that due to the recent news that the Patrick Stead Hospital (PSH) was being temporarily closed from October the 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 and that a decision whether to close the Rayner Green Resource Centre was being taken at the end of September, 2016, the meeting would concentrate on these issues. The agenda would have to be shortened from the original format (noted below). Representatives for the PSH and Rayner Green Resource Centre had been invited to the meeting.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr K Greenberg, Cllr A Payne, Cllr D Wollweber.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Non-pecuniary interests: Cllr Thomas for 6, 10 7 11, Cllr Fleming for 6, 10 & 11, Cllr Lewis for 6, 10 & 11, Cllr Took for 6, 10 & 11 Cllr Gardner for 11, Cllr Leverett for 6, 10, 11 & 15, Cllr Dutton for 6, 10 & 11
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the last meeting held on the 11th July, 2016 was accepted as a true record.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes.** There were no matters arising but the Chair requested that in future the item 'matters arising' would precede approval of the minutes.
5. **Heritage Trail:** Mr Simon Raven accompanied by Mr Vic Gray presented plans for a Malt Trail through Halesworth. The proposal included a Malt experience at the Cut and a Heritage Trail which would be signposted at strategic locations through the town. This would show the importance of that the Malt and Brewing industry had been to Halesworth and would show the various buildings, history, techniques and transport systems used at the time. Mr Raven explained that they had secured £65,500 from the Lottery fund to finance the project. There were four handouts; an example of an information board, a map of the information boards, a key to the locations of the boards and a drawing of a proposed footprint of the transport vessels used at the time. This would be made from railway sleepers and located in the park. Mr Raven explained that this Malt trail and experience would be unique to Halesworth, there were no other similar projects in the country. The Chair asked what the Council could do to support the project and Mr Raven explained that aside from a website all costs had been covered, Mr Raven was looking for a letter of support and some assistance with gaining the required permissions. It was noted that permission had been obtained for about three of the locations but permissions were needed for private properties, Waveney District Council for the park and possibly the Highways Dept for some of the signage. **RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed that Halesworth Town Council would support the project in any way that it can. It was noted that a letter of support would be needed.
6. **Communication:**
  - a) To consider any updates - **Deferred to the next meeting**
  - b) To review the management of the posters on the Saxon Way bridge - **Deferred to the next meeting**

- c) To consider including items for the website on all agendas: Cllr Dutton wished to ensure that website was continually kept up to date. It was agreed that all committees and working groups should have an agenda item 'News items for the website'
  - d) Update on the Safety information for the Barrow Crossing. It was noted that the Chair would arrange a meeting with Mr Daniel Fiske of Network Rail to discuss the public safety information for notices and posters.
7. **Parking:**
- a) To consider the formal offer from WDC (if received). It was noted that the formal offer had not been received - **Deferred to Finance or whenever the offer is received.**
  - b) To review the parking for the next Antiques Fair and other Town events - **Deferred to the next meeting**
8. **Town Tourist information:** Update on the refurbishment of the tourist information boards and maps with input from the Traders and the Tourism Group – **Deferred to the next meeting**
9. **Council Action Plan:** Update on an action plan to comply with the Local Council Awards Scheme (deferred from the last two meetings) - **Deferred to the next meeting**
10. **Town Plan:** Update on the Town Plan booklets. It was agreed to print the booklets.
11. **London Road Building:** To review any updates, to review the Structural survey and valuation and to consider the proposal made at the monthly meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> September. The committee received and noted the Structural survey and the valuation. It was noted that there was approximately £57,500 of refurbishment work required to get the building to current building regulations standards. It had previously been agreed that 'Halesworth Town Council, subject to the market valuation, make a financial offer to Waveney District Council to purchase the London Road Building'. It was noted that the offer may or may not be based on a valuation figure less the cost of repairs identified in the survey or indeed could be any amount. RESOLVED that this was deferred to the Finance Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> September and to be discussed by the London Rd Building Business Plan Working Group. The Working group were also scheduled to meet Hannah Reid of Community Action Suffolk on the 20<sup>th</sup> September.
12. **Speed Data:** To review the VAS speed data for August - **Deferred to the next meeting**
13. **Byelaws:** To review any progress. The Chair read out the current list of byelaws identified by Mr Macfarlane and noted that with the exception of 'overnight camping in the park' all were currently covered by existing laws. It was proposed that this did not preclude the Council from displaying notices just as if they were byelaws. It was then RESOLVED that the Clerk would obtain costs for erecting these notices which would list the offences and relevant laws and furthermore the Clerk would suggest locations for these notices and obtain permissions from WDC.
14. **Maintenance:** To receive a report on any maintenance issues.
- a) Town Park Runway Lighting: The Clerk and the Chair of the Council, Cllr Anne Fleming both explained that the removal of the existing lighting had not been requested by the Council, that the Council did not agree to having the runway lights replaced by street lights and that Waveney Norse and Pearce and Kemp had been asked to explore options to replace the runway lights with more reliable units. The clerk confirmed that a sample would be offered and costs provided and it was agreed that this would be deferred to the Finance Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2016. It was noted that the holes had now been filled with asphalt but this would have been a temporary measure to ensure safety as the temporary foam filling Waveney Norse had used had left a trip hazard.
  - b) Town Park Litter Bins. It was noted that additional bins were needed in the park, particularly by the Skateboard park and the new play facilities. The Clerk would obtain costs for consideration by the Finance Committee.
  - c) Teen Shelter. The Clerk would obtain costs for painting and an alternative for graffiti removal for consideration by the Finance Committee.

- d) It was noted that rats had been seen under the Thoroughfare bridge, it was thought that their main food supply was coming from the bird feeder outside the window of flat 65a, Thoroughfare. Cllr Fleming had experience with this problem in the past and advised that it was possible that the resident could be fined. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes a strong letter in the first instance asking the resident to remove the bird feeder and desist in feeding the duck and/or rats. If this was not successful the Council would refer the matter to Environmental Health.
15. **Correspondence:** Entry for the Great British High Street Competition. It was noted that the application had to be amended at the last minute when the Cllr Fleming and the Clerk were submitting the document online. The revised version had been distributed in the Cllrs packs. It was noted that this was the first attempt to enter the competition and there had been very little time to prepare the submission. Many lessons had been learned and it was hoped that the Council would receive some feedback for next year.

The Clerk also noted that the owner of the Black Dog Antiques had asked the Council to pay for the moving of the Festive lights sensor. The Chair was not convinced that this was the Town Council's responsibility and asked the Clerk to investigate further. It would then be deferred to the Finance Committee.

**The meeting was opened at 7.15pm to receive information and comment from the representatives of the Patrick Stead Hospital (PSH), Rayner Green Resource Centre (RGRC) and the Cutlers Hill Surgery, Patient Participation Group (PPG).**

Karen Kerridge, Chair of the League of Friends of the Patrick Stead Hospital, read out the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) regarding the importance of retaining the Rayner Green Resource Centre.

Mr Paddy Cox, President of the Dementia Carers Fund, read out a letter to Mr Andy Evans of the CCG highlighting the importance of the Rayner Green Resource Centre.

Mr Malcom Ballatine (PPG) stressed the importance of the innovative work of the RGRC and that the Centre was known and respected at a National level. Mr Ballantine also advised the committee that the Annual General Meeting of the Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG will be held on Thursday 29 September 2016 at 6.30pm in Beccles House and urged as many people as possible to attend.

Dr Bill Pagan, President of the League of Friends of the Patrick Stead Hospital, advised that he had calculated that there would be no saving by closing the Centre, in fact the cost would be increased but would be met by Social Services instead of the CCG, which is why they may be considering this option. Dr Pagan felt that although the emotional arguments were very strong and well-founded it may be that the financial arguments could be the best option in trying to save the Centre from closing.

After further discussion the Chair proposed and it was RESOLVED to form a Rayner Green/PSH Support Group as a sub-committee/working group of the Town Development Committee. This was to enable a single united group to join the campaign to prevent the closure of both units. The Chair explained that this did not in any way restrict individual groups in also conducting their own campaigns.

The Council representatives would be Cllr Dutton, Cllr Fleming, Cllr Thomas and District Cllr Tony Goldson. Representatives from other organisations would be invited and would include, Dr Bill Pagan, Dr Richard Kell, Nicki Sawkins, Karen Kerridge, Malcom Ballantine, Paddy Cox, Paddy Flegg and Josie Dutton.

The first meeting would be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the Day Centre.

**The meeting was closed at 8.03pm**