



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 23rd July 2026. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2HG.

Mayor	*Cllr Keen
Deputy Mayor	*Cllr Nicholson
Councillors	Arrick, *Aslam, *Austin, *Banfield, Bayliss, *Bridge, Carroll, *Carter, Davidson, *Leach, Matthes, *Miller, Morrison, *Waters, *Weatherburn, *Weldon

* present

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Keen and clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O'Sullivan.

57/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Arrick, Bayliss, Carroll, Matthes, Morrison as all are away.

Cllr Davidson did not attend and did not send apologies.

58/26 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None disclosed.

59/26 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held 14th May 2026 and ECM held 12th June 2026 are adopted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

*Item 12 was brought forward as two members of This is Haslemere were present.

60/26 SMALL GRANT APPLICATION – THIS IS HASLEMERE - £1000

This is Haslemere gave an overview of the project and its benefits. This is phase one of a website enhancement project to provide a simplified homepage, better mobile experience, improved events filtering etc. Several councillors spoke in support of this community website.

RESOLVED: That the full grant of £1000 be awarded to This is Haslemere.

61/26 REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC

There were no representations from members of the public.

62/26 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Weldon (Surrey / Waverley):

- Had previously circulated an email update; please can councillors use his county email addresses going forward.
- Has two funding pots to allocate:
 - Community fund: amount TBC; already received multiple requests including This is Haslemere

- Highways fund: £10,500 for items such as grit bins, new bins, or Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS/speed monitoring)
- Capital road maintenance fund already allocated this year: Hindhead Road/Critchmere Hill junction improvements.
- He will be raising the installation of a footpath at the hospital with stakeholder manager and NHS Properties contact.
- Wey Hill parking issue: long-stay car park still filling early, but workers not able to use short-stay all day. The Mayor reported that she and the Town Clerk would meet with Waverley urgently and report back.

Cllr Leach (Waverley / W Surrey):

- Has had a meeting with Caroline Wallis at the Youth Hub regarding their lease renewal. All councillors are invited to attend the Haslemere Youth Hub "Meet the Business" event on Wednesday 16th September at 6:30pm, hosted by Chamber of Commerce.
- Waverley is investing in playground upgrades at Border Road and Oak Cottage, he and Cllr Keen have asked to be involved in the detail.
- West Surrey full council meeting next Thursday; there is a name change proposal (West Surrey and South Middlesex), he is leaning towards supporting this due to the high number of people in the unitary area who live in S. Middlesex .

The Town Clerk stated that she was disappointed to see that the Surrey CC induction material that Cllr Weldon circulated spoke of a two-tier local government system in Surrey and did not mention the role of Towns and Parishes. So much work has been done recently to try and raise the profile of T&P councils with Surrey and the new West Surrey councils.

Cllr Weldon said he would check the original document he had been given as it did contain a reference to T&Ps. Cllr Carter suggested the Town Council write to the leader of Surrey / West Surrey and the MP regarding the three-tier local government structure being misrepresented. Cllr Leach confirmed that W Surrey council was strongly supportive to the role of TP councils.

63/26 MAYOR'S UPDATE

The Mayor gave an overview of the engagements she had attended since the last meeting , the highlights of which were the opening of the signal box museum at the station, opening of the Link, Haslemere Society summer party, Haslemere museum summer fair, Camelsdale Primary School leavers lunch and the Vine Church 60th anniversary celebrations.

64/26 CLERKS REPORT

The report, previously circulated, was noted.

65/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 2 & 3 and any variances in the Council's accounts and any reported overspends and virements are approved.

66/26 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE ACTIONS REQUIRED

Cllr Waters gave an overview of the recommendations put forward. These are partly due to the ongoing review of financial governance undertaken by the F&G committee and partly due to the resignation of the Town Clerk which has prompted consideration of transitional arrangements.

The Clerk confirmed that continuity will be maintained as the Deputy Clerk is qualified and able to act in the Clerk's absence.

RESOLVED:

- I. That the recommendations for finance and governance actions as contained in the paper provided with the Agenda are approved.
- II. That the Clerk's Delegation schedule, as amended, is approved.

67/26 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES / WORKING PARTIES / EXTERNAL BODIES

RESOLVED:

- I. That Cllr Miller joins the Amenities and Cil committee.
- II. That Cllr Leach is added to the Budget working party, having served on it for all of this term.
- III. That Cllr Morrison is added to the Amenities and Cil and Finance and Governance committees.

68/26 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that decisions made under delegated authority are noted and any additional recommendations to council are approved.

69/26 COUNCIL CHAMBER REDESIGN

The working party had put considerable effort into selecting the correct design for the chamber. The Mayor noted that more people were attending meetings and the chamber was being used by more groups and that this meant that a better fit for purpose design was needed. The table will hopefully be bought at auction by a local person who will look after it.

RESOLVED:

- I. That the Modulo U Shaped Table – Seats 20, with panel legs in Amber is purchased from Office Reality at a cost of £3,115 ex VAT.
- II. That 20 Premium Cantilever meeting chairs are purchased at a cost of £1,775.20 ex VAT
- III. That the existing furniture in the council chamber is sold at auction. Nicholsons auctioneers have agreed to sell it and Lambers removals will take it from the building to the auctioneers for no charge.
- IV. Money raised from the sale of the existing tables is to be used to fund new curtains and more of the same meeting chairs for visitor use.

70/26 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE

Noted.

71/26 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Austin reported that Love Haslemere Hate Waste is now collecting surplus food from the new M&S in Godalming. A significant amount is being collected and is becoming difficult to manage. Visitor numbers to the community fridge have dwindled and so volunteers are actively taking food to places like the fire station, hospitals, schools, Hunter Centre.

Cllr Austin asked that the council actively promotes the service amongst contacts and correct the misconception that it is a food bank.

The Clerk asked for a flyer and / or website link for ease of promotion.

Cllr Leach will speak to Chamber of Commerce about local businesses taking and distributing surplus.

Cllr Carter suggested that schools and Methodist Church might be additional recipients.

72/26 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for item 4 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act in that it involves discussion around sensitive legal advice / commercial terms.

73/26 FUNDING FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Cllr Leach reported that there would be very little discretionary funding for local organisations from the new West Surrey council. A number of local organisations are already finding that their funding has been cut or are using reserves to supplement their income. The council is likely to be approached for help.

Council acknowledged that any significant precept increase would possibly require public consultation. It was also agreed that the town council's role is to help organisations unlock external funding, not solely to fund them directly. Putting them in touch with people such as Ian Ross (VAWS) who do this for a job would be a good first step.

Funding decisions must flow through the Budget Working Party, however council agreed to form a small working group (Leach, Waters, Banfield, Miller, Carter, Weldon, Weatherburn). to meet with organisations before making any recommendations to the budget WP.

Cllr Leach to circulate dates.

74/26 STAFFING UPDATE

Cllr Carter reported that the advert for the Clerk's replacement closes 24th July. A low application number expected as this is a specialist role.

Interview panel: Cllrs Carter, Keen, Leach and Waters; Lisa and Pippa to observe

Councillors Bayliss and Nicholson to greet candidates before interview.

The new Clerk is unlikely to start before end of November (three-month notice period likely).

Meeting finished at 20:30

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of Meeting