



# HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The meeting was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, GU27 2HG.

<b>Mayor</b>	*Cllr Arrick
<b>Deputy Mayor</b>	*Cllr Keen
<b>Councillors</b>	Aslam, *Austin, Banfield, *Bayliss, Bridge, *Carroll, *Carter, *Davidson, *Keen, *Leach *Matthes, *Miller, *Nicholson, Robini, *Waters, *Weatherburn, *Weldon

\* present

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Arrick, clerked by the Town Clerk, Lisa O’Sullivan and minuted by Jo Cork. Paul Ferguson (Haslemere Herald) was in attendance.

## **22/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**RESOLVED:** Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Aslam, Bridge, Banfield Work) and Cllr Robini (unwell).

## **23/26 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None

## **24/26 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026 and Extraordinary Council meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 are adopted as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

## **25/26 REPRESENTATION BY THE PUBLIC**

Ken Griffiths presented a proposal for Haslemere to develop a town-wide Community Arts Festival, with the longer-term ambition of Haslemere seeking recognition as a Town of Culture 2028. He advised that delivery would require collaboration between the Town Council and a number of key organisations across the town. An expression of interest would need to be submitted by 28 March 2026 if the project is to proceed to the next stage.

### **Resolved:**

That the Council notes Ken Griffiths’ ‘presentation and supports in principle the development of a town-wide Community Arts Festival for Haslemere and recognises the potential cultural, social and economic benefits of a collaborative approach across the town.

Cllr Keen proposed that a working party be formed alongside Ken Griffiths and other organisations to deliver the expression of Interest and to explore how the Festival will be delivered. The working party to consist of Cllrs Leach, Matthes, Bayliss, Weldon, and Keen. Cllr Leach to organise the initial meeting.

## **26/26 UPDATES FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Nicholson confirmed that the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) proposal has been officially accepted through parliament by the Government.

Cllr Weldon reported that he had met with a representative from Surrey County Council regarding the confusing signage at High Street Car Park. It was confirmed that the signage will be reviewed and amended to make it clearer for users.

## **27/26 MAYOR'S UPDATE**

In addition to the Mayor's report, the Mayor confirmed that the Beacon Hill Speed Survey is being circulated to local residents. The survey is available on the Town Council website.

The Mayor also reminded Councillors that the Annual Town Meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 March, and encouraged Councillors to attend.

## **28/26 CLERK'S UPDATE**

The Town Clerk reported that they are seeking representation from Waverley Borough Council at the Annual Town Meeting to provide an update regarding the plans for Wey Hill Car Park.

The Town Clerk reported that she had attended a meeting regarding the outstanding asset transfers; It was noted that discussions concerning the land at Church Meadow are now looking more positive. However, there remain some unresolved issues relating to Woolmer Hill, and it is anticipated that a decision will be made by 2 June.

The Land transfer for Beacon Hill Recreation Ground is scheduled due to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

Cllr Davidson asked who would be responsible for the maintenance of the new assets. It was confirmed that Commercial Groundscare has been contracted to carry out the maintenance.

Cllr Weldon commented on the ongoing drainage issues at High Lane. Cllr Keen asked whether Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding could be used to address the problem. It was agreed that Cllr Keen will raise the matter at the next Amenities Committee meeting for further discussion.

## **29/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Cllr Davidson queried the level of cash reserves currently held by the Council and whether these funds could be used to support additional projects. The Town Clerk advised that any proposed projects would need to be presented to Council with a costed proposal for consideration and approval.

### **RESOLVED:**

- I. That the schedule of payments as detailed in the Cashbook printouts for months 10 & 11 and any variances in the Council's accounts and any reported overspends and virements are approved.
- II. That the recommendations in the year-end report are approved.

## **30/26 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Committees with delegated decision making:**

- Planning and Highways – 12<sup>th</sup> Feb and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- CIL & Amenities – 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026
- Finance and Governance 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings, where committees hold delegated decision-making powers, are noted.

**Committees with no or limited decision making:**

None held since the last Full Council meeting.

**31/26 PLAYGROUND SURFACING**

Cllr Carroll commented that the playpark at Lion Green is looking tired and may require replacement. Cllr Leach but noted that existing surfacing should first be maintained and repaired from a health and safety perspective.

It was agreed that the potential replacement of the playpark will be discussed further at the next Amenities Committee meeting, with Cllr Leach to raise the matter.

**RESOLVED:**

- I. To proceed with the new rotating arm swing, which includes purchase and installation for £1,647 to be funded from the playground equipment maintenance budget.
  
- II. That the clerk and Chair of Amenities have delegated authority to instruct a contractor to do the required surfacing once three like for like quotes have been obtained, up to a value of £5,000 to be funded from the playground equipment maintenance budget.

**32/26 COUNCIL ASSET REGISTER 2026**

Each year the Council must review its asset register, this has been reviewed and updated by the Deputy Clerk for 2026.

**RESOLVED:** That the asset register is approved.

**33/26 WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Leach confirmed that the disabled toilet is now usable with for radar key holders. There are no public toilets at the recreation ground. Council agreed that public toilets need to be provided once they have taken possession of freehold.

**34/26 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY UPDATE**

An update was noted. Cllr Keen commented that Cllr Robini has been attempting to improve the safety of the footpath by the Health Centre for a number of years without success. Cllr Carter asked whether the local Member of Parliament may be able to assist in progressing the issue.

**35/26 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES**

Cllr Davidson stated that the Penny Ha'penny Trust is struggling to get applications for funding, if any Cllrs know of any projects up to £5k to contact the trust directly.

Cllr Leach commented that the Haslemere Youth Hub have only 14 months left on their building lease, they are working to extend this lease as future building plans are unclear.

Cllr Leach confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce are launching the Disc crime information-sharing system in April.

**36/26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the discussion of the following item(s) due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted."

**37/26 STAFFING MATTERS**

Cllr Keen gave an update and Council noted the minutes. Council would like to thank Amelia King for the work that she has done in particularly with the newsletter.

Meeting finished at 20:05

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of Meeting