



HASLEMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, High Street, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 2HG
01428 654305 / town.clerk@haslemeretc.org

Minutes of the Extraordinary Haslemere Town Council Meeting held at 10.30am on Friday 12th June 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, *Waters, Weatherburn, *Weldon

* present

Cllr Bridge attended the meeting via Zoom so cannot be marked as present.

57/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: Apologies are accepted from Cllrs Bridge and Weatherburn (away).

58/26 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

None.

59/26 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: "That in accordance with the provisions of section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

60/26 CAT TRANSFER – WOOLMER HILL SPORTS PITCHES AND PAVILLION

The Clerk explained that an Extraordinary meeting had been called to decide HTC's position on the CAT transfer of Woolmer Hill Sports Pitches and Pavilion before Waverley's executive meeting on 7th July.

Waverley's officer recommendation is against the freehold transfer which they do not believe meets the CAT criteria; their preference is a long 110 year lease, (coterminous with school/Edge leases) either with HTC or directly with WHSA.

HTC has recently undertaken financial due diligence regarding the transfer. The outcome of which was that although WHSA has a reasonable business plan, some of its assumptions need further clarification before Council could make an informed decision. Any further work could delay a decision by Waverley. WHSA has a preference that this goes to the Executive as planned in July.

Councillors considered a number of arguments for and against HTC taking the lease of the site with Waverley then sub-letting it to WHSA.

The town council is better placed to raise money (no precept cap; can raise via referendum), and has stronger organisational resilience than a volunteer group. However, WHSA's finances seem solid and their constituent organisations have been on site for up to 100 years, so they can demonstrate longevity. Whether a lease is with HTC or WBC, WHSA would get the same level of local authority protection.

WHSA does represent a huge number of local residents and they should be supported by the Town Council, and some councillors did consider HTC to be best placed to hold the lease.

The argument against a tripartite arrangement was that it adds complexity and cost; with the burden of risk to reward very much in WHSA's favour. It wasn't clear what value HTC adds as a middleman in the arrangement and there could be considerable staff and time burden on a small council.

Council also has to consider that it is likely to face considerable financial pressure from other local organisations requiring increased funding from the council in the new unitary environment. Whilst there is room for HTC to increase its precept, there will be multiple competing demands on any increase and council needs to be cautious about giving significant support to any one organisation before the full extent of need is known.

RESOLVED: (Proposed by Cllr Waters, seconded by Cllr Leach)

That HTC does not, for the time being, actively pursue the freehold transfer but supports WHSA in obtaining a lease directly with WBC. HTC notes the great work that WHSA does and stands ready to support them.

The option of pursuing a freehold be kept on the table as a fallback if WHSA cannot secure a direct lease.

In addition to this:

HTC is willing to back WHSA as much as it can, in writing to Waverley if necessary, and happy to place a councillor on its board if required.

Since Waverley has confirmed it will not contribute to legal costs, the costs of WHSA's lease with Waverley will be covered by the town council to the amount it has already put aside for that purpose.

HTC will consider making a grant towards the upkeep of public areas at the site being leased, since it has budgeted for that in the 2026-27 budget.

Meeting finished at 11:15am

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman of Meeting