

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING
OF HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 2ND MARCH 2009
AT COUNCIL CHAMBERS LONDON ROAD
HALESWORTH AT 7PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J Wright - Chairman

Councillors: Mrs S Leverett – Vice Chair

Mrs A Dunning

Mr H A Holzer

Mrs P Flegg

Mr E Leverett

Mr J Wagner

Mrs J Wagner

Mr P Widdowson

Mr J Clayton

Mr T Goldson

Mr D Thomas

APOLOGIES: Full presence.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr's Mr M Ryland WDC, W Mawer SCC, PCSO J Adams, Mrs J Huckle, Mr D Mizon, Mr & Mrs A Macfarlane, Mrs J Berry, Mr & Mrs M Smith, Mr & Mrs M Fleming, other members of the public.

169. Philip Hayes: introduced himself as Chairman of SALC and Councillor for Wangford.

19.03- Cllr D Thomas left the meeting after handing his ballot vote to the Clerk.

P Hayes could not comment on WDC proposals for Community Boards but informed that Mid Suffolk implemented the Locality Boards with Parish and Town Cllrs nominating their own representatives. Non elected members were appointed from Police, District and PCT. It was agreed how the boards were made up and how they could vote. Only elected members could vote on public money, other members could only vote on grant money and they have run with reasonable success. Community Boards were countrywide and there was no set pattern to them. He then explained the importance of training in general but especially Power of Well-Being for Councillors and Clerks to achieve Quality Council status. A question and answer session followed and concerns were expressed that with the uncertainty of forthcoming changes within Suffolk, the question of ultimate responsibility for newly formed Boards was raised.

170. The Chairman: Opened the meeting and accepted the apologies.

171. Halesworth Town Council Vacancy: Applications and CV's had been received from Mr M Smith and Mr P Widdowson and circulated to members. The Chairman invited both candidates to give a short address, followed by questions from Councillors and then confirmed that the Council would co-opt a new member immediately, by secret ballot. On a proposition by Cllr Mr A Holzer Seconded by Cllr Mr J Wagner it was therefore resolved, by majority vote, on the first ballot that Mr P Widdowson be co-opted onto the Town Council. Cllr Widdowson then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, the Chairman formerly congratulated Cllr Widdowson, requested he join the meeting and thanked Mr Smith for his interest.

172. The Minutes of the monthly meeting on 2nd February 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

173. Matters Arising: Minute 157[b] Basley Park - the PFA had been awarded £10,000 from a NHS grant and Cllr Dunning as PFA representative was thanked for agreeing at short notice to attend a required training session on 7th March 2009. Minute 160 Twinning – A very good delegation at Cllr Ian Kerrisons funeral service, his college friend Andy Stewart said Ians parents appreciated the support they had received and the way Ian was honoured by the Town. The Chair thanked all Town Councillors for taking the time off work to attend.

174. Police Report: Noted. PCSO J Adams reported 10 reported crimes for the month of February 2009 compared to 26 for the same period in 2008. 2 Burglary other building, 1 Theft from a motor vehicle, 1 Theft from shop, 4 Criminal damage other building, 1 Theft of pedal cycle, 1 Possession of class 'B' Drugs. With reference to the Criminal damage [Graffiti] 2 persons are currently on Police Bail for these offences. It was thanks to the youth of the town that the offenders were caught. Jonathan Marshall is to do a report on removal of graffiti, which will be passed on.

Regarding the Wednesday Market Place parking problems on 18th February a Fixed Penalty Notice was issued, A Sign of the Fish volunteer asked to park and was reminded of the regulations and a Pet Shop customer got quite irate when told he could not park. Others looking to park drove off when they saw the uniform.

A letter of complaint about noise, anti-social behaviour and inadequate supervision at the HEART Foyer was read out. Funding issues have led to unacceptable levels of supervision, therefore an urgent meeting was suggested and councillors expressed a vote of no confidence by a majority of 8 to 2 with one abstention, in the management of the Foyer.

175. Suffolk County Councillor Report & Other SCC Matters: Noted.

[A] EDGAR SEWTER LIGHTING – with County contractors.

[B] OAK GREEN DRAINAGE – Northern Highways are looking at re-surfacing, order to be issued mid to late April 2009

[C] BOUNDARY REVIEW – It will be up to the new authority to take forward, or not. In a letter from SCC Jeremy Pembroke encouraged Cllrs 'to respond to further proposals as previously submitted proposals may not count so you could otherwise lose your voice.'

[D] COMMUNITY BOARDS – Cllr Mawer was asked to clarify with SCC legal team that decisions would not be rescinded on Local Government Reform even if there should be a change in elected Government.

[E] MARKET PLACE CAR PARKING – Clerk awaiting response from SCC re monitoring parking.

On a proposition it was agreed to bring forward agenda item 17[c] Schools Organisation Review and Halesworth Middle School – anger was expressed at the decision made on the 5th February by SCC Cabinet that Halesworth Middle School should close in July 2012 with a possibility that part of the site would be sold to fund building works at other schools. Clarification was needed with regard to Saxmundham Middle School being used as a transitional site for Key Stage 3 pupils and if this had been agreed then it is necessary to consider that Halesworth Middle School could be utilised in the same way. We understand that a further 6 weeks consultation period will take place. Concerns were also expressed re the protection of the existing playing fields. Cllr Mawer was asked to investigate the apparent lack of collaboration between County and Schools regarding School Transport issues. It was proposed that Cllr's S Leverett and A Dunning should formulate a report for County to consider how SOR will impact on Halesworth.

176. Waveney District Councillors' Report & Other WDC matters: reports noted.

[A] TOWN PARK – Removal of the pathway shrubs was agreed and Clerk to contact Lions and Gig in the Park to discuss alternative sites for new beds.

[B] RIFLE HALL – Concerns were expressed that WDC are not keeping elected members informed, request urgent meeting with WDC.

[C] NORWICH RD BUS SHELTER – still in discussion.

[D] NORWICH ROAD PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – request definitive answer from WDC.

Write to Chief Executive and invite A Charvonja to explain WDC enforcement of Purdah restrictions on Councillors.

Mrs J Macfarlane letter regarding Halesworth in Bloom to be an Agenda item next month and invite Town Centre sub-group to attend.

177. Business Connections: D Mizon reported a good visit to the Skill Centre where he was informed that they are trying to arrange adult evening classes. He was very impressed with the facilities. Town Notice Board Map needs updating.

178. Town Planning Applications – Special meeting called at 7pm on 5th March to consider DC/09/0128//FUL Anglia Regional Co-op Society Rainbow Foodstore, Saxon Way – Extension to Rainbow Co-op Foodstore including demolition of existing petrol filling Station.

179. Town Twinning: Matters of Report: Bouchain & Eitorf: - A big event in June in Bouchain.

180. Reports on meetings attended by council representatives on Outside Bodies: C Reeve reports noted - Youth Venue - Cllr James Wagner had a meeting with Hester Feld SCC Detached Youth Worker on 26th February to discuss plans, next meeting 16th March. Youth need to set up a body to get funding, Cllr James Wagner as Chair, Cllr Holzer and A Macfarlane to join the committee. The intention is for a venue to be open all day for refreshments, after school homework, in the evenings to 11pm for under 19's with TV's and computers. Clerk to ask C Reeve to follow up Market cover and Councillors support the EEDA Funding LAG objectives.

Cllr Tony Goldson was appointed Council representative for the Finance Committee.

Cllr Jacky Wagner was appointed Council representative for Tourism.

Cllr Paul Widdowson was appointed Council representative for Unappropriated Estates.

Cllr J Clayton has been appointed Treasurer of the Festive Lights Committee. HTC wish to continue to support but concerns were expressed regarding control and liability issues, Dudley Clarke is to write to explain Festive Lights committee relationship with HTC. It was suggested they look at insurance cost and HTC do the same.

181. Town Notice Board: The small area of land opposite Lloyds Bank and Centre car Park suggested.

182. Town Plan: Unsuccessful with funding bid therefore co-ordinator services to be curtailed until further discussion at next Finance meeting.

182. Standing Orders: Proposed and agreed to move to April meeting.

183. Financial Matters: Report on the Finance Committee meeting on 16th February 2009 was noted and agreed.

A two evening sessions bespoke training in Leadership and Charing Skills has been arranged for £300 on 25th March and 1st April with SALC, neighbouring parishes and the 4 Towns and Kessingland have been invited to attend to share costs. Approved.

BASLEY PARK – NHS Grant of £10,000 awarded Cllr A Dunning to attend 7th March budget management training day to secure funding on behalf of PFA.

184. Other Matters of Report:

[A] **Sport & Leisure, including the new sports project:** nothing to report.

[B] **Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership:** nothing to report. Minutes to be circulated.

[C] **School Organisation Review:** Covered in Agenda item 7. SCC letters to be scanned and emailed to Councillors. Cllr Jacky Wagner voiced concerns: that information received from elected Suffolk County Councillors differs from Suffolk County Officers. Also local school children are discriminated against by having to pay for transport to attend school in Bungay as well as for a variety of out of school activities because they do not have a say in where their high school educational needs are met. HTC need to look at discrimination Laws.

185. Correspondence: noted. Clerk reported that the Churchyard trees are to be lopped before the end April 2009.

186. Accounts for Payment

[1]	online	Salaries	1036.70
[2]	102927	Angel Hotel Childrens Hospice charity dinner	20.00
[3]	102928	Angel Hotel Childrens Hospice charity dinner guest	20.00
[4]	102929	Didy Ward Town Plan co-ordinator	510.00
[5]	102930	Pearce & Kemp Ltd Festive Lights	1761.98
[6]	102931	Network Rail Station Rent	366.83
[7]	102932	BT Telephone & Internet	175.69
[8]	102933	Essex & Suffolk Water Allotments	107.09
[9]	102934	Waveney Norse	184.00
[10]	102935	SALC Quality Status meeting	11.50
[11]	102936	Viking Direct Stationery	
	<u>156.95</u>		
			<u>4350.74</u>

Balances as at 2nd March 2009

C/A	728	1499.75
BRA	017	36281.83

BPA	964	735.17
Comm a/c	372	<u>3557.99</u>
Bal		<u>42074.74</u>

[The accounts were approved.....]

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.