

HEDNESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7:30 pm ON TUESDAY 5 JANUARY 2016

AT PYE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, HEDNESFORD

PRESENT: Cllrs. A Pearson (Chairman), B Gamble (Vice-Chairman), G Adamson, Mrs S Cartwright, D J Davis, Mrs D Grice, B Hardman, Mrs S Hardman, C Mitchell and Mrs L Whitehouse

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Harrison (Town Council Manager/Clerk) L Aitchison (The Marketing Room) Chief Inspector G Knight and 9 members of the public

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting there was a period of public questions and discussion with the following matters being raised:

Town Centre Car Parking

Concern was expressed that spaces on the car park at the rear of the Co-op were being occupied by rail commuters and were not available to shoppers and visitors to Hednesford. Consideration was being given as to how the car park could be controlled more effectively bearing in mind displacement parking problems that would be likely to arise in adjacent streets and other town centre car parks not under the control of the local authority

Hednesford Park – Signal Box

It was noted that measures had been taken to secure the fabric of the signal box and endeavours were being made to identify funding to carry out a full renovation

Food is Free

The Town Council was requested to consider this project

Police Issues

Town centre traders referred to incidents of anti-social behaviour including petty vandalism and, more seriously, a number of plate glass windows being smashed. Reference was also made to drug related crime and the absence of patrols by beat officers and PCSO's

In addition there had been a spike in household burglaries. The effectiveness of town centre CCTV was queried and mention was made of the need to make available advice to householders on preventative measures that could be taken to avoid burglaries and the need to re-establish neighbourhood watch in communities

Traders were encouraged to collaborate on initiatives such as "Shopwatch" to protect their businesses

CI Knight gave information on the limited policing resources he had available and stressed that it was important that members of the public reported any incidents of crime so that the intelligence gathered could be used to ensure that officers were deployed appropriately. He stated that due to resourcing issues it was unlikely that traditional beat patrols could continue. He also advised on the continuing pilot scheme being carried out in the Cannock Policing area with a view to improving the service

The situation regarding CCTV monitoring would be pursued

The Chief Inspector reiterated his intention to ensure that the Police were aware of the need to communicate with the public and that wherever possible a Police representative would be available at town and parish council meetings to answer questions and receive comments from the public

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2015 were approved as a correct record

2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman had laid a poppy wreath on behalf of the Town Council at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and was pleased to see the large turnout of people

Regimental Silver

The Chairman had hosted representatives of the Hednesford Branch of the Staffordshire Regiment Association and had received 2 items of Regimental Silver that had now been placed on public display for the first time at the Pye Green Community Centre

He also report that he had attended the Association dinner on 9 December

Hednesford In Partnership

The Chairman advised that, along with other members, he had attended the Charter signing ceremony to mark the official launch of the Partnership. The event had been well attended by all town organisations and this had received coverage in the local media

He reminded members that it had been agreed to make a small financial contribution to the Partnership in recognition of the contribution to the Christmas Event a letter expressing appreciation had been received from the Partnership Chairman

Hednesford Park Play Area

The Chairman had attended the opening of this new facility on 3 December and had seen this being used and enjoyed by children from local schools

Christmas Events

Once again the town centre event on 4 December had been a great example of the community coming together. The Chairman thanked all those who had participated or helped in any way with the organisation

He also report that the raffle held on the night raised £65 and the Fair Operator had donated £80.00 which would be donated to charities

Letters of thanks had been received from the Heart of Hednesford Restoration Project, Rotary Club of Burntwood and District and Staffordshire University Academy in respect of the financial contributions made to them by the Town Council

The Chairman had represented the Town Council at the Carol Service at St. Luke's Cannock which had been hosted by the Chairman of Cannock Chase Council

3. FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of a meeting of this committee held on 15 December 2015. In addition the Town Council Manager/Clerk reported on the implications of the changes to the Financial Compensation Scheme

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report and recommendations therein be approved and confirmed and arising therefrom a precept in the sum of £130,000 be demanded from Cannock Chase District Council to contribute towards estimated expenditure in 2016-17
- b) That the Town Council Manager/Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee review the Council's investments in light of changes to the Financial Compensation Scheme and report back to the Council proposed alterations to the arrangements
- c) That in respect of the budget for the Pye Green Community Centre approval be given to enhancement of the CCTV system in the light of recent acts of vandalism
- d) That Mrs L Bowman be thanked for all the work undertaken in connection with the preparation for the budget and accounting records

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Steering Group held on 8 December 2015 be approved

5. REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MANAGER/CLERK

RESOLVED:

a) Planning

That the action of the Town Council Manager/Clerk in consultation with the principal speaker in submitting observations on planning Applications shown at Annex 1 be confirmed

b) Hednesford in Partnership

That it be noted that a successful Charter signing ceremony had been held on 26 November and that the first business meeting of the Partnership was scheduled for 14 January 2016

c) Heart of Hednesford Restoration Project

That the notes of a meeting of the Group held on 15 September 2015 be received

d) **Community Spirit Partnership**

That the notes of a meeting of the Partnership held on 9 November 2015 be received

e) **SPCA - AGM**

That it be noted that the Association's Annual General Meeting on 7th December received and unanimously approved the following motion, as submitted by Hednesford Town Council and seconded by Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council.

"The Strategic Transport Plan issued by the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority calls on efforts to be made to increase the use of the M6 Toll from Laney Green to Coleshill. In order to achieve this ambition the Association calls on the Government to abolish the charging regime for the M6 Toll; making it available free of charge to all users. This will have the effect of easing traffic congestion on the entire length of the M6 through Staffordshire and the West Midlands and will take pressure off key trunk roads such as the A5 and A34. It will also have the effect of reducing the financial burden on hauliers and keeping transport costs down for them and members of the general public"

and, further, It had been agreed that a letter would be sent to the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority calling for appropriate action. It was also determined that the matter should be drawn to the attention of all Staffordshire MP's and made the subject of discussions with Staffordshire County Council.

f) **Library Update**

That it be noted that confirmation was awaited from the County Council regarding stakeholder consultation meetings in respect of the future of the Library

g) **Staffordshire County Council Review of Future Management of Countryside Parks and Green Spaces**

That the Town Council strongly recommend that County Council adopt option "A" (maintain council ownership and seek opportunities to increase income from existing sites by working with volunteers, community, third sector and private parties) and the public be encouraged to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 24 January 2016

h) **Hednesford Dementia Friendly Community Process Update 2015**

That the update required as part of retaining dementia friendly status be noted

i) **CCTV Monitoring**

That the monitoring statements for October and November 2015 be noted

j) **The Future of Audit Procurement and the Sector Led Body**

That the Council agree to opt in to the Sector Led Body Audit procurement arrangements

k) **Finance**

That income received be noted and payments made up to 30 November 2015 be confirmed

6. MEMBERS ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND NEXT MEETING

World War I Presentation

Cllr D J Davis advised that arrangements were being made for Sam Morris to give a presentation on his findings on life in Hednesford during World War 1. Members would be provided with further details in due course

Food is Free Project

This would be included on the agenda for consideration at the next meeting

Public Footpaths

Cllr Mrs L Whitehouse requested that this be included on the agenda for the next meeting

The meeting ended at 9:05 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Annex 1

Council Meeting 5 January 2016 – List of Planning Applications

15/0465	New Canopy – EDS Couriers, Wimblebury Road	No Objection
15/0438	Replacement of Plant Machinery etc – Co-op Filling Station – Uxbridge Street	No Objection
15/0429	Garage & Gym – 6 Hewston Croft	No Objection
15/0422	Replacement Antennas etc. – BT Tower, Broadhurst Green	No Objection
15/0418	Extension – 24 View Street	No Objection