

HEDNESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

HELD AT 7:30 pm ON TUESDAY 10 MAY 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) and 3 members of the public

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting reference was made to the timetable for electrification of the Chase Line Passenger Rail Service and the need for all agencies to collaborate with a view to ensuring that a scheme to improve Hednesford Station was carried out

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2016 were approved as a correct record

2 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Statutory Meeting of the Town Council

Elections

The Chairman referred to District Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections that had been held on 5 May 2016. Firstly he thanked the electors of Hednesford North for re-electing him as their district councillor. Secondly he expressed appreciation to Cllr Brian Gamble for his past service as district councillor for Hednesford South and welcomed Cllr Paul Woodhead as his successor

With regard to the Police and Crime Commissioner it was reported that Mr Matthew Ellis had been re-elected to that position

War Memorial

The name of Stephen Anderson who was killed by an IED in Northern Ireland in May 1984 was to be inscribed on the Memorial at a Dedication Service on Sunday 29 May

Hednesford Centennial Lions

The Chairman congratulated all those involved with the formulation of the Hednesford Centennial Lions which would receive its Charter on 13 May

Staffordshire Regiment Association

The Chairman had attended the Association's Annual Dinner

4 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016-17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Cllr A Pearson be elected Chairman of the Council for the 2016-17 Municipal Year
He thereupon completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

5 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2016-17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED:

That Cllr B. Gamble be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the 2016-17 Municipal Year
He thereupon completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

6 NOTICE OF MOTION

RESOLVED:

That the following motion submitted by Cllr B Gamble be approved:

“Hednesford Town Council is appalled to learn that our employees are going to be worse off as a result of the Chancellor’s recent changes to employees NI contributions. In it together?!”

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED:

- a) That a report of a meeting of the Steering Group held on 3 May 2016 be approved
- b) That the proposed logo and strapline “Tomorrow’s Plan, Today” be adopted
- c) That the indicative timetable be noted and circulated to members for information
- d) That it be noted that the Council had been awarded a grant of £6950 toward the costs of producing the Neighbourhood Plan and had received an offer of free technical assistance for undertaking a required strategic environmental assessment

8 REPORT OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MANAGER/CLERK

Consideration was given to this report:

RESOLVED:

- a) Meeting and Administrative Arrangements
 - i) Committees and Steering Group
That the following Committees be constituted for the forthcoming Municipal Year and the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and members thereof be as indicated:

Finance & General Purposes Committee
Chairman – Cllr. D J Davis, Vice-Chairman – Cllr C Mitchell and all other members of the Council)

Audit, Grants & Standards Committee

Chairman – Cllr Mrs S Cartwright, Vice-Chairman – Cllr Mrs D Grice and Cllrs. G Adamson, B Gamble, B Hardman, Mrs S Hardman and A Pearson

Pye Green Community Centre Management Committee

Chairman – Cllr. Mrs S Cartwright, Vice-Chairman – Cllr. Mrs D Grice and Cllrs. D J Davis, B Gamble, B Harding, A Pearson, Mrs L Whitehouse and representatives of users of the Community Centre

Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group

Chairman – Cllr B Gamble , Vice- Chairman – Cllr C Mitchell and Cllrs Mrs D Grice, B Hardman, A Pearson and Mrs L Whitehouse

(Any Member wishing to alter their membership was advised to contact the Town Council Manager/Clerk)

ii) Appointment of Principal Speakers

That the following be appointed as Principal Speakers on behalf of the Council:

Planning & Economic Development (*Cllrs B Gamble and B Hardman (Deputy)*)

Heritage (*Cllr D J Davis*)

Education & Youth Provision (*Cllr A Pearson*)

Transportation (including Highways) (*Cllr C Mitchell*)

Promotion/Publicity & Communications (*Cllr Mrs S Cartwright*)

Culture & Leisure (*Cllr G Adamson*)

iii) Submission of Planning Observations

That with regard to submission of observations on planning applications the Town Council Manager/Clerk consult the principal speaker on Planning & Economic Development and be authorised to submit observations on non contentious applications with the register of planning applications together with the comments made being submitted to the full Council for information and confirmation of the action taken and for more significant applications the Town Council Manager/Clerk and the principal speaker for Planning & Economic Development ensure that other members of the Council are consulted as appropriate prior to submission of observations

iv) Schedule of Meetings

That the following Schedule of Meetings be approved.

21 June 2016	Council
2 August 2016	Council
13 September 2016	Council
8 November 2016	Council
13 December 2016	Finance & GP (Budget)

3 January 2017	Council (Budget/Precept)
14 February 2017	Council
28 March 2017	Council
18 April 2017	Annual Town Meeting
9 May 2017	Annual Council Meeting

That the Town Council Manager/Clerk in consultation with the relevant Chairmen be authorised to determine the dates and commencement times of meetings not specified in the Schedule and other alterations as necessary

b) Appointments to other Bodies

That the following appointments be made:

Cannock Chase Council – Standards Committee (*Cllr C Mitchell*)

Cannock Chase AONB (*Cllr A Pearson – Deputy Cllr D J Davis*)

Hednesford in Partnership (*Cllr B Gamble*)

c) Annual Town Meeting

That a report of the meeting held on 19 April 2016 be noted and in this respect the Town Council support the proposal regarding the erection of “blue plaques” to commemorate notable Hednesfordians

d) Community Spirit Partnership

That a report of a meeting held on 14 April 2016 be noted

e) Miners’ Memorial – Phase 4

That it be noted that CHAP’s was to undertake one final Phase of the Miners’ Memorial which will be the last opportunity for former miner’s to be recognised. Bricks would cost £25.00 each and the closing date for the submission of names was 31 August 2016

(*Cllr G Adamson* declared an interest as a member of CHAP’s)

f) CAB Outreach – Pye Green Community Centre

That the annual report from CAB be noted and the Council agree to fund the service for the next 12 months in the sum of £5,000 and compliment the CAB on the work undertaken

g) M6 Toll

That correspondence from the MP be noted and the Council continue to press for the abolition of tolls to encourage use of the road thereby easing traffic congestion and improving the economy for Staffordshire and the entire West Midlands

- h) Highway Maintenance Arrangements
That the contents of a letter sent by the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council to Chief Executives of District and Borough Council's heralding a further reduction in highway maintenance be noted with concern
- i) CCTV Monitoring
That the monitoring report up to 31 March 2016 be received and enquiries be made in respect of the installation of CCTV in the park
- j) Community Council of Staffordshire
That the Council renew membership of this organisation for 12 months at a cost of £25
- k) Review of Risk Assessment & Internal Audit Arrangements
That the Risk Assessment be approved and the internal audit arrangements with Mr R Newton be confirmed
- l) Annual Return
That the Annual Return for the Audit of Accounts including the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016 be approved
- m) Finance
That income received be noted and payments made be confirmed up to 31 March 2016
- n) Grant Application
That Cannock Chase District Scouts Association be awarded £500

9. MEMBERS ITEMS

Reference was made to the situation concerning the Library and despite assurances that had been given by the County Council it was reported that the Library was being closed due to lack of staffing. It was agreed that the County Council be advised of the Town Council's concern and asked to provide an update on the position with regard to recruitment of volunteers to run the Library in future

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

11. PYE GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

RESOLVED:

- a) That the quotation from Rainaway Roofing to rectify problems with external rendering be accepted

- b) That the proposed arrangements for provision of licensed bar, security and promotion of the centre by AJ Catering be approved

The Meeting ended at 8:45 pm

Signed:

Dated:

Annex 1

Council Meeting 10 May 2016 – List of Planning Applications

	16/134	Extension – 19 Priory Road	No Objection
	16/133	Extension – 15 Valley Road	No Objection
	16/131	Extensions – 88a Heath Street	No Objection