



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HEDNESFORD TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 20:00**

**Held at Pye Green Community Centre
Guests are invited to attend by Zoom and will not attend in person**

Present: Cllr Emma Hunneyball (Mayor), Cllr Kathryn Downs (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Robin Kingston, Cllr Mandy Dunnett, Cllr Debbie Cartwright, Cllr Arthur Roden, Cllr Paul Woodhead.

In Attendance: Officers: Michelle Baker (Operations and Regeneration Manager), Ginetta Adams (Community Centre and Administration Officer).

Members of Public: None.

1. Apologies

Cllr Garry Jones, Cllr Sharon Jagger, Laura Dunning (Community Officer).

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes

To review and approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4 May 2021 (enclosed agenda pages 4 to 8).

Resolved – Approved as per amendments.

4. Chair's Announcements

I. Return to face-to-face meetings from 7 May.

Mayor Hunneyball welcomed Councillors and staff back to face-to-face meetings but expressed her disappointment that the government had not extended the time scale for online meetings as it had been an effective way to reach more residents.

II. New District Councillors.

We now have new district councillors; it would be beneficial to invite them along with MP Amanda Milling to attend our meetings.

III. New Council Committees.

The Terms of reference are currently being worked on to enable the committees to move forward in decision making.

IV. Third Farmers and Craft Market.

The Farmers and Craft Market was a great success, however some of the ATM's ran out of cash and the ANPR camera on Cardigan Way issued tickets, so contacting the banks and Aldi to advise when the markets will be held, could help prevent this. Thanks were given to Cllr Robin Kingston and all of the volunteers who helped on the day.

V. Upcoming 'Hednesford's Talking' LGBTQ+ Facebook live Tuesday 8 June.

This will be hosted by Chase Pride with several guests and will be live streamed from 7pm on the Council's Visit Hednesford Facebook page.

VI. Latest Hednesford Life magazine.

The magazine has now gone to print and will be ready for distribution next Friday.

5. Items from the Operations and Regeneration Manager

Verbal update.

The Visit Hednesford Facebook page now has over 6K followers.

The Farmers and Craft Market had 50 stalls last month, however we have a further 50 on the waiting list which is an opportunity to host and deliver a new Food Festival in September.

We are also arranging a Porche Car Show for 25th July however this date is provisional.

The Open-Air Cinema will be held the 9th-11th July and we have started advertising for food vendors.

The Cycle racks are due to be installed in town, there has also been good progress with the community event Blooming Cannock Chase with an alley way off of Market Street identified as a perfect space to improve.

6. Items from the Community Officer

Verbal update, read by Michelle in Laura's absence.

The Speed Indicator Devices are still showing high levels of speed, contact has been made with the safer Partnership Group around this.

There has been contact with 61 community groups with 17 groups having direct contact.

It was Dementia Awareness month in May which was very well supported around town.

The volunteer awards will be held by Support Staffordshire, 2 local groups have been shortlisted for this.

7. Reports from Principal Speakers / Committees

a. Planning – Cllr Sharon Jagger.

To consider the attached list of planning applications (enclosed agenda page 9).

No Comments regarding this.

b. PGCC Committee – Cllr Robin Kingston

To consider the Paper on the Committee's recommendation for the Council office (Enclosed pages 10 to 12).

Postponed to July's Meeting

c. Call for Inquiry – Cllr Arthur Roden

Official request for an inquiry on how the bleed kits were procured including the process. (See scanned attachment).

Moved to a private meeting between Councillors.

8. Items for Information and next agenda

a. Hednesford Station improvements update.

9. To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Private and Confidential Business

I. Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)

To consider the Paper for a new Responsible Finance Officer (enclosed pages 10 to 14).

The paper to employ Sandie Morris for 2.15 hrs per week to take on roles of the RFO was discussed, this would mean that she would no longer be out external auditor.

Resolved – by a unanimous vote to employ Sandie Morris.

II. Conflict of Interest policy

Mayor Hunneyball discussed the need for a conflict-of-interest policy for the Councillors, there is a policy which is a carbon copy of the district council, this is focused on pecuniary interests where financial gain would be involved. It was expressed that there is a need for a policy that includes volunteering and community work, where a Councillor on a community group should not be asking officers to do work or help with work for that group, which would not normally be done if it was not a councillor asking.

It was agreed that a new policy should be created.