



26th October 2022

Dear Councillor,

A Meeting of the Town Council will be held **at 7:00pm on Wednesday 02nd November 2022** at Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP.

You are invited to attend for consideration of the matters shown on the attached agenda.

Members of the public can attend the meeting in person. Members of the public may ask questions in the public participation section of the meeting only.

Yours sincerely,

Lindsey Smith

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PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Members of the public are invited to address the Council and ask questions before the meeting begins. Additionally, County and District Councillors and local PCSO (if present).



Hednesford Town Council **Council Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday 02nd November 2022, 7PM

To be held at Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford
The public are invited to attend the meeting in person.
The meeting will live stream on the Council Facebook page

1. Public Participation

2. Apologies

3. Declarations of Interest

4. Minutes

To review and approve the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 04th October 2022

5. Mayor's Announcements/ Updates

- I. Daffodil planting on Sunday 30th 10pm (Friends of Hednesford Event)
- II. Farmers Market – 26.11.22
- III. Christmas Lights Switch on – 02.12.22 - Hednesford in Partnership
- IV. Christmas Market – 10.12.22
- V. Remembrance Day Event Nov 13th /Friends of Hednesford Display
- VI. Nov 9th Unveiling event at the War Memorial

6. Duncan Rollo – CCTV

7. Verbal update from Committee Chairs

- I. Regeneration and Community – Cllr Woodhead
- II. Pye Green Community Centre – Cllr Harrison
- III. Finance, Personal & Operations – Cllr Jagger

8. Community Officer Update – Matthew Johnson

9. Permanent location of Platinum Jubilee Beacon – Matthew Johnson

10. Q2 Finance Report

11. AGAR Return – completed audit

12. Planning – items for ratification

APPLICATION REF	LOCATION / DESCRIPTION	RESPONSE
CH/22/0333	Location: KFC Cannock North, Old Hednesford Road, Hednesford WS12 1LT Description: New Signage	HTC previously raised queries [Cllr Harborow]. Email response from CCDC accepted. Subsequently HTC has lodged “no adverse observations”
CH/22/0358	<u>Location</u> : 25A, Cranston, Ebenezer Street, Green Heath, Cannock, WS12 4HD. <u>Proposal Description</u> : Registered Application. Construction of 2 storey 3 bedroom house on land to the rear of 25a Ebenezer Street.	No adverse observations

13. EICR Report

14. Motion from Councillor Harborow

Motion from Cllr Harborow to review the Mayor's statement regarding answering questions from the public on 4th October 2022

The council's standing orders (3g) state; A question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.

Nowhere in this standing order does it state the Chairman has the right to declare that ALL questions will be answered in writing. It is true that no answer needs to be given, but when a resident has taken the time to come to the meeting and has asked a question that can be answered there and then, I believe it is critical that in the interest of promoting engagement and transparency, this council endeavours to cooperate on the night itself.

Comments have also been switched off from our Facebook live stream during the meeting itself. While this council does not need to live stream its meetings, I believe that it's a good thing that it does. There have been a handful of viewers posting abusive messages. I'm sure everyone will agree that this shouldn't be tolerated, but we must as a council, look to include the Public (at the least) during the public participation section of our meetings.

The Council must acknowledge that for it to be accountable to residents, all residents must have the right to make robust challenges. The distinction must be made between the public's right to question council policy and incidences of unacceptable personal abuse, which will not be tolerated.

I propose HTC implements the following;

1. Offer a deadline of midday the week before a council meeting for residents to email/write a question that can be read out and answered during the public participation section of the meeting.

This will give councillors enough time to consider a response and gather any relevant information to give a clear answer on the night of the meeting.

2. Offer replies to questions from the public (during the public participation section of the meeting) if they are easy enough to answer and won't take up a lot of time. If a question isn't easily answered, the council will then answer via email/in writing within 7 days of the meeting.

3. Leave the comments section open on the Facebook live stream during the public participation section of the meeting only. This is only to have a resident register a question, which will then be answered in a reply on the Facebook page (if the question is deemed suitable) within 7 days.

4. Give warning to any person messaging abuse via Facebook Live that they will be blocked from the Council's Facebook page and the abusive comment will be removed.

15. Items for next agenda