

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF HALESWORTH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 11th MAY 2009 AT THE WAVENEY LOCAL
OFFICE, LONDON ROAD, HALESWORTH, AT 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs J Wright - Chairman
Councillor Mrs S Leverett - Vice-Chairman
Councillors: Mr A Holzer Mrs A Dunning Mr J Wagner Mr E Leverett Mrs J Wagner
Mr J Clayton Mr T Goldson

APOLOGIES: Cllr’s D Thomas; Mr P Widdowson; Cllr Flegg [WDC]; Cllr Mawer[SCC]; Mr A Macfarlane.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr M Ryland[WDC]; Mrs J Huckle; Mr D Mizon; Mr M Smith; Jen Berry; Mr T Heaps; Other Members of the public.

1. The Chairman: Opened the meeting and accepted the apologies. She thanked the Vice-Chairman, Councillors and Clerk for their support during her two years in office. In summary she felt that the Schools Organisation Review outcome had been determined prior to the consultation period, and that although Cllrs S Leverett and A Dunning had fought hard and given excellent representation, Halesworth views were never given serious consideration. The Boundary Review was still undecided and how the Community Boards would be set up or function unclear. She was hopeful that the Rifle Hall would be taken over by a charitable organisation as it was the towns only available community facility. Tesco had still not submitted a planning application but the Town Plan was forging ahead and the HEART Foyer was to close on a temporary basis for review of services and need. The PFA plans for the proposed playing fields facility would be magnificent for the whole town, the Basley Ground refurbishment is due to start and she hoped for more updates on Cllr. James Wagner’s proposed Youth drop in centre.

2. Declarations of Interest: No declarations were received.

3. Election of Chairman: It was Proposed by Cllr. J Wright, Seconded by Cllr. A Holzer, that Cllr. Mrs S Leverett be elected to the position of Chairman of the Council. The Proposition, on being put, was accepted unanimously and congratulations extended to Cllr. Mrs S Leverett.

4. To Receive the Chairman’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office: The Chairman’s Declaration of Acceptance of Office was formally received. On taking the Chair, Cllr. Mrs S Leverett thanked members for their support and proposed heartfelt thanks to Cllr. J Wright for representing the Council at functions and Civic duties. She presented Cllr J Wright with a token from her family, a book recording a small part of her life while carrying out her council duties. The Chairman then outlined the format and rules of debate for future meetings.

5. Election of Vice-Chairman: It was Proposed by Cllr. E Leverett, Seconded by Cllr. Wright, that Cllr. Mr J Wagner be elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of the council. There was a second Proposition by Cllr Clayton, Seconded by Cllr Holzer that Cllr Dunning be elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of the council. It was agreed subject to Standing Order 7 to hold an open ballot. By a majority vote Cllr. J Wagner was elected Vice-Chairman of the Council, he thanked members for their support.

6. Register of Interests: Cllr Dunning’s written declaration was formally received.

7. Election of Finance Sub-Committee members: [*Present: Cllrs. Mrs S Leverett [Chair] Mrs J Wright; Mrs A Dunning; D Thomas; Mr T Goldson*] On a Proposition by the Chairman, the above councillors were unanimously elected on bloc and Cllr Clayton was voted on to the sub-committee.

8. To Determine Council Representation on Outside Bodies: On a Proposition by the Chairman, Seconded by Cllr. Leverett, the following nominations were accepted and unanimously agreed:

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| 1. Halesworth Playing Fields Association: | <i>Mr H A Holzer</i> | <i>Mr E Leverett</i> |
| | <i>Mrs A Dunning</i> | <i>J Wagner</i> |
| | <i>Mr D Thomas</i> | <i>Mrs A Dunning</i> |
| | <i>Mrs J Wright</i> | <i>[Mr M Ryland] #</i> |

It was resolved on a vote of 8 to 1 to retain representation on Halesworth PFA until their new constitution was adopted.

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| 2. Halesworth Community Education Support Group: | <i>Mrs J Wright</i> | <i>Mrs J Wagner</i> |
| | <i>Mrs A Dunning</i> | <i>Mr J Wagner</i> |
| | <i>[Mrs P Flegg] #</i> | |

3. Halesworth Day Centre – Committee of Management: *Mr J Clayton* *[Mrs P Flegg] #*

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| 4. Halesworth Unappropriated Estates Trustees: | <i>Mrs J Wright</i> | <i>Mrs A Dunning</i> |
| | <i>Mr P Widdowson</i> | <i>[Mr E M Hyde-Clarke] #</i> |
| | <i>[Mrs J Lee] #</i> | |

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| 5. Halesworth & District Museum: | <i>Mr H A Holzer</i> | <i>Mrs J Wright</i> |
| | <i>Mrs S Leverett</i> | <i>[Mr E Hyde Clarke] #</i> |
| | <i>[Mrs P Flegg] #</i> | |

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| 6. Halesworth Volunteer Centre: | <i>Mr H A Holzer</i> | <i>[Mrs B Roberts] #</i> |
| 7. E.S.T.A/Transport Liaison Officer: | <i>[Mr Ivan Sparkes] #</i> | |

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| 8. Beccles & Bungay Library Users Group: | <i>Mr J Clayton</i> | |
| 9. C.A.B: | <i>Mr E Leverett</i> | <i>Mrs S Leverett</i> |

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| 10. Halesworth & Blyth valley Partnership: | <i>Mrs J Wright</i> | <i>[Mrs P Flegg] #</i> |
| | <i>[Mrs W Mawer] #</i> | <i>[Mr P Aldous] #</i> |

11. Suffolk Assoc. Local Councils [SALC]:

Mr D Thomas

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12. Tourism:

Mr T Goldson

Mrs A Dunning

13. Business Group:

Mr J Clayton

[# = Non-council representatives]

- 9. Public Session:** Jen Berry – Requested news on the Tesco planning application and asked what influence John Gummer might have in view of his son working for Tesco. - Enquiries would be made but no application has been received.
- Malcolm Smith – It would be better to utilise the Middle School site for the PFA plans rather than buy additional land and without proposals for a Community Centre in the middle of town it would be better than nothing – PFA were in negotiations with SCC but unfortunately the area does not meet the required sports provision of 23 acres and it is felt that the Community Centre should be in the middle of town.
 - Maureen Tooke – Can something be done about the dreadful state of the Rifle Hall. – A working group of trustees has been appointed and their No. 1 priority is to get the best outcome for the Rifle Hall at a meeting next week. It was hoped that the portfolio holder would use his ‘clout’ on this issue, which had not been the case in the past. Cllr Ryland said representatives from user groups and other members could be co-opted if it was felt appropriate.
- 10. The Minutes** of the monthly meeting held on 6th April 2009, having been circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.
- 11. Police Report:** no report. It was unanimously agreed to ask for reports on anti-social behaviour.
- 12. Suffolk County Councillor’s Report:** No report. Cllrs were disappointed that no report had been submitted.
- A. Oak Green drainage problems – No report
 - B. Boundary Review draft response needed expansion on devolving of powers and Community Boards issues, a stronger statement on democracy and democratic representation. It was agreed for the Chairman, Cllrs Holzer and Clayton to meet the following day to formulate the response.
 - C. Community Boards - It was recommended that Cllrs look at pages 2/6/20/22-29 on the One Suffolk website for the best information.
- 13. Waveney District Councillors’ Report & Other WDC matters:** M Ryland report noted. Cllr Ryland was asked to take up the cudgel of Purdah as Cllrs need a sensible overview.
- A. Rifle Hall – Cllrs plea for a member of HTC to be co-opted on to the working party for discussion. The Middle school would not be available for 3 years, and not a lot was needed to get the hall quickly back into use. PFA & Partnership have shown an interest but will need to raise funds.
 - B. Norwich Rd Bus Shelter – Nothing to report
 - C. Norwich Road Public Conveniences – Are WDC going to build on the land.
 - D. Dog Bins – C Reeve is investigating funding.
 - E. Flower Beds and Planters – H&BVP donated money for refurbishment, which started Sat. 9th May.
 - F. New Allotment Provision – Clerk following up.
- It was resolved to write to ask WDC re: C. above and what their plans are for Chichester Rd. play area or any other sites for social housing in Halesworth.
- 14. Business Connections:** AGM main discussion regarding Chancellors budget statement and Festive lights had fundraiser lunch today.
- 15. Town Planning Applications - Considered 27th April 2009**
- SCC Edgar Sewter Primary School, Norwich Road, Halesworth
W: Provision of a 158sqm timber clad Children’s Centre with a mono pitch roof.
Approval in principle but grave concerns regarding insufficient parking provision, as access onto Wissett Road is difficult and already congested the 20 additional spaces will exacerbate this. The potential increased use of Hammonds petrol station opposite the school could be significant with the proposed demolition of the Co-op petrol station, and impact on the only other alternate parking area in Norwich Road. It is unclear in this application how other planned expansion for 2 extra year groups will be accommodated after the Schools Organisation Review, as this will further encroach on neighbouring roads. SCC response 6th May answering queries and asking to advise – HTC Not an Objection just raised strong concerns.
- DC/09/0330/FUL** Mr D Yarlett 43 Bramblewood Way, Halesworth
Construction of a side carport.
Approved
- DC/09/0370/FUL** Mr Steve Tricker 40 Dukes Drive, Halesworth
Single storey side extension
Approved
- DC/09/0352/AD N** Micropress Ltd. Former Magnet Imports Ltd Warehouse, Norwich Road, Halesworth
Proposed non-illuminated sign
Approved
- APPROVALS RECEIVED by 11th MAY 2009*
- DC/09/0226/LBC* Mr M Everett Castle House, Holton Road – Listed Building Consent Extension of garden shed.
DC/09/0202/ROC Dr S Raven New Cut Arts 8 New Cut – Variation of condition 8 of W1612/4 – Extend existing opening hours to 11pm daily and midnight on 8 occasions during the year.
- 16. Town Twinning: Matters of Report: Bouchain & Eitorf:** Clerk to request updates and clarification of representation in September at the celebrations.
- 17. Reports on meetings attended by council representatives on Outside Bodies:** Transport – Report noted. It was agreed to write to SCC to complain about the lack of communication and information with regard to cancellations and changes in bus timetables.

18. Town Notice Board: Quotes to refurbish and extend are awaited and financial support indicated by the Cut trustees.

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19. Town Plan: Thanks were given to M Ballantine for his report on the Boundary Review and T Heaps for the Town Plan website. Youth questionnaire had been sent to Bungay High School but no responses received to date, Vice Chair to arrange a follow up visit to talk to pupils and extend an invitation to HTC meetings.

20. Standing Orders: were circulated and approved for adoption.

21. HEART Foyer: The Foyer management have decided to close for a period of time to review the service and needs and will notify HTC of their decisions.

22. Financial Matters: [A] To receive the Summary Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ending 31st March 2009, as presented: Approved

[B] To Receive a report on the Finance Committee meeting held on 22nd April 2009: Copies of the minutes had been circulated and were unanimously approved. The amended Station Users Agreement was approved and signed. A letter of thanks for the presentation party from Mr & Mrs H Kerrison was read out.

23. To Discuss Matters Arising from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23/04/09: the minutes had been circulated and approved as a true record. Cllrs were reminded not to lose sight of the issues surrounding the Middle School site when the 4 million allocated for rebuilding schools becomes available in 4 years time, they would need to work together to achieve a Junior High School on the site. Inappropriate use as a Community Centre or other development could jeopardise this.

24. Other Matters of Report:

[A] Sport & Leisure, including the new sports project: Nothing to report – Cllrs requested an appraisal of the presentation, sooner rather than later!

[B] Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership: Recommend support and assistance to ‘the best group’ with management of the Rifle Hall.

[C] Schools Organisation Review: Cllrs E Leverett and Dunning had worked very hard but it was felt that the decision had already been made.

25. Correspondence: noted. It was resolved by 8 votes to 1 not to list all correspondence sent out.

246- Contact WDC cc Electricity Co. to remove Belts trainers etc from cables above skatepark.

251- Approval subject to agreement from R B L for War Memorials Trust to use information submitted in 2003.

253- Kuk Sool Wan invitation. Travel expenses were approved for Vice Chair to attend.

256- SALC Survey referred to Finance Sub-committee to complete.

258- Permission granted for Hoxne Hundred Morris Dancers 1hr performance 27th June 09 10.30 in the Thoroughfare.

26. Accounts for Payment

[1]	online	April Salaries	1051.74
[2]	102953	HACT refund overcharge on rental percentage	32.95
[3]	102954	Town Plan Loan repayment	2500.00
[4]	DDR	WDC Market Rates	83.75
[5]	102955	SCC Edgar Sewter Hall Hire APM	43.50
[6]	102956	East Anglia's Children's Hospices Donation	100.00
[7]	102957	Nat. Assoc Colitis & Crohn's Donation	30.00
[8]	102958	Arts Festival Donation	200.00
[9]	102959	CAB Donation	500.00
[10]	102960	Volunteer Centre Donation	500.00
[11]	102961	SALC Charing Skills Training	402.50
[12]	102962	Zurich Day Centre Insurance	814.10
[13]	102963	Community News Rifle Hall Adv for WDC	43.70
[14]	102964	Resource Centre photocopying	25.35
[15]	102965	EDF Energy Market electricity	41.22
[16]	102966	M Copperthwaite AVG antivirus	58.72
[17]	102967	N Mann Chair's allowance 30/shelter cleaning 110	140.00
[18]	102968	D Kent Chairs allowance	30.00
[19]	102969	CPRE subscription	29.00
[20]	102970	Day Centre Donation	<u>200.00</u>

6826.53

Balances as at 6th April 2009

C/A 728 3511.89
BRA 017 45781.83

BPA 964 735.17
Comm a/c 372 3558.31
Bal 53587.20

The meeting closed at ??pm