

**HATHERLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD TUESDAY 28TH JANUARY 2025
7pm IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present: Cllr. Reddaway in the chair, Cllrs. Laycock, Lewis, Burrow, Laing-Trengove, Kemp, Walters.
Dist. Cllr. Kimber, James McInnes DCC, the Clerk, one member of the public
Apologies Cllrs. Harrison, Barr, Dist. Cllr. Wakeham

.....
PUBLIC SESSION

Mrs Rochelle Woollacott – road/pavement safety for school
.....

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL LEADER JAMES MCINNES

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. McInnes to the meeting.

a) talked about the budget – local authorities across the country continue to face financial challenges due to high inflation, interest rates and demands on local services DCC had raised their precept by 2.99%

b) Local Gvt bill, devolution and unitary. There was a question and answer session with Cllr. McInnes’s closing remark “the process would potentially be difficult but exciting”

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

273. The minutes of the meeting held 3rd December 2024 having been duly circulated were signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record. Proposed Cllr. Laycock seconded Cllr. Walters. All agreed

MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM

274. Millennium Square (min.248 refers) Cllr. Walters reported no further action or contact by DCC. Cllr. McInnes to look into the matter

275. Hanging baskets (min.249 refers) Cllrs to organise a work party to walk around the town, and reevaluate where the hanging baskets should be

276. Benches (min.251 refers) Cllrs. Laycock and Laing-Trengove reported that on inspecting the benches they were “weathered but sturdy” No serious defects

277. Island Park bridge (min.252 refers) reported elsewhere in minutes

278. Litter bin (min.254 refers) Clerk to order from Glasdons

279. Moor View bus shelter(min.257 refers) reported elsewhere in minutes

280. Toilets (min.266 refers) electric fault fixed in time for market Opening. Cllr. Lewis asked about late-night opening of toilets for events held in the town. Resolved that requests should be made to the Clerk who in turn would contact Mrs. Rewse. Any additional charge would be paid by the person/organisation.

281. Moor View Management Co (min.265 refers) no update.

282. Collapsed wall South Street (min.270 refers) ongoing matter outside the control of the Town Council

C0-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

283. Following the interviews of both applicants it was resolved that Mr. Will Turner be co-opted. Clerk to inform both candidates.

APPOINTMENT OF STREET CARETAKER

284. Neither of the applicants attended for their interviews. Resolved that they be asked to attend prior to the February meeting at 6.45pm with other arrangements to be considered if this was not possible.

PLANNING MATTERS

285. Applications to consider

- a) 3921/24/FUL **AMP Clean Energy battery storage Hatchmoor Council against i) noise – several residential Properties close to proposed site ii) highways – the Proposed location is on a busy junction of highway**
- b) 0029/25/OPA **Mr. Brown Martin - Red Lane dwellinghouse Council supported**

286 Permissions granted:-

- a) 3802/24/COM **Open Reach 8 poles Deckport-Exbourne**

287. Refusals advised None

286. Any other planning matters:-

a) Passaford Meadow – appeal dismissed

HATHERLEIGH MARKET

287. Cllr. Burrow reported as follows:-

a) Successful 2 day launch opened by Michael Morpurgo

- **Good local media coverage. New market building stood up well to Storm Darrah**
- **Traders pleased with level of footfall**
- **Income generated in region of £3000 from stall holder rents, parking donations, Santa's grotto, tombola, profit share from BBQ**

b) Tuesday market showing growth

- **Increased number of users of market and auction**
- **Momentum is building seeing increase in numbers of new trade enquiries**
- **January market acquired 4 new regular traders**

c) New markets starting in February:-

- **Fortnightly Saturday farmers markets plus fur and feather auctions**
- **Weekly Sunday car boot sales starting 16th Feb.**

d) Snagging site meeting with Kingswood Homes 21/1/25

- **Members met with Joel Winders & Stuart Bollough of Kingswood Homes to discuss small number of minor building snagging issues and completion date for main car park**
- **Main car park has now been cleared, will be swept, minor repairs to potholes in the sub surface will be made 24/1/25 Including line painting of road parking spaces down to bypass and the road exiting Dunbia leading to market**

e) Relocation of market gates

- **Discussed possible relocation of market gates from entrance to the market quarter (sheep statue roundabout) to new location at entrance to the paved market square in front of market building to secure area when market not in use**
- **Kingswood have no objections but have advised we consult with residents to ensure there are no major objections**

f) Parking management:-

- **Meeting with Stuart Noyce of WDBC parking management to review the council providing parking management services in main market car park and road parking bays**

- Investigating costs for WDBC providing machines, signage and enforcement
- g) Legal update:-
- Work for lease and finance agreement now complete & signed (awaiting signed hard copies)
 - Currently waiting for Hatherleigh Market lease to be registered with Land Registry which will complete the formalities
- h) Finances/fund raising update
- January repayment to KH towards building enhancement loan
 - 07/01/25 £30,000 paid to LPJ Holdings (KH) towards £228,00 for building enhancements leaving balance of £198,000 plus interest
 - Update on £50,000 WDBC regeneration grant scheme – application portal for new grant scheme ready to accept applications next week. Advised that £50,000 of overall WDBC grant has been earmarked to Hatherleigh Market. Overall pot of money needs to be spent/awarded end of March 2025 – thus giving indication that we will be in receipt of these funds during Q1 of 2025. Requested that Town Council draft a letter of support for market to support grant application
 - Grant claim of £10K to CBS from WDBC – submitting claim of £5,945.75 for allowable set up costs. Request that KH raise an Invoice for £4,054.25 for building enhancement works to use up remaining grant allowance
 - Payment of final legal bill from Tozers – final legal invoice for £4570.20 presented for payment tonight

FINANCIAL MATTERS

290. Clerk presented following accounts for payment:-

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------|
| a) Mrs Rewse | toilet cleaning | £ 743.60 |
| b) Mrs Lock | wages | £ 485.47 |
| c) Pynto Ltd | computer | £ 90.00 |
| d) We Raise Digital | computer | £ 90.00 |
| e) R.Jones | xmas tree collection | £ 20.00 |
| f) Tozers | legal work market | £4570.20 |
| g) Community Centre | hire | £ 16.40 |
| h) L & M Cole | grounds maintenance | £1474.73 |
| i) L & M Cole | P3 work | £ 679.00 |

Total £8169.40

Proposed Cllr. Walters seconded Cllr. Kemp that the above accounts be paid. Cllrs. Laing-Trengove and Lewis signed the cheques

291. Moneys received:-

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| a) Carnival Committee | donation xmas lights | £200.00 |
| b) Xmas collection boxes | xmas lights | £350.00 |

ANY OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

292. WDBC submitted town council toilet contribution figure of £2114.14 for 25/26 Town Council agreed this figure

293. L & M Cole Landscape contract for 25/26 - price increase of 2% now £4,783.31. Council agreed to accept new contract price

294. Hatherleigh market – Cllr. Burrow quoted from August 2023 minutes page 21 “following updated financial position by the clerk the balance of £5,682.99 set aside some years ago for a potential road traffic order, now be put towards cost of obtaining a valuation fee in order to start the market project and could also be used towards legal fees” . Resolved that this minute still stands and Cllr. Walters would contact the bank to activate the transfer

295. Precept for 25/26 - clerk provided councillors with updated financial figures. Following debate it was resolved that the precept be raised to £49,550.00 – previous year £46,750.00 rise of 4.02% - all agreed.

296. Cllr. Lewis – Hatherleigh Football Club. Cllr. Lewis gave councillors up to date information on the fund raising by the FC to enable them to purchase the lower half of the football field and tennis court for the sum of £25,000. The purchase of this area would not only benefit the football club but the whole of the community. Fund raising has been successful but short of £7,500. Resolved that to enable the purchase to proceed the Town Council Grant the sum of £7,500 - all agreed.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT

297. Dist. Cllr Kimber – drainage gully outside Hole Court – had circulated photo showing the problem. This was not thought to be on Kingswood Homes land, neither was it the responsibility of the Town Council. Cllr. Kimber to investigate further options to resolve the situation.

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TRAFFIC/MAINTENANCE ISSUES

298. School traffic – following the remarks made in the public session a discussion took place.

a) Council had been proactive over this matter – meeting with DCC Highways officer on site, discussions with school, enquired about the possibility of zebra crossing and informed that cost was prohibitive, particularly requested highways officer to visit the area at school start and finish time he reported back he had seen no problem. Had ascertained from the school that at this time they were not interested in a second entrance.

b) Cllr. Lewis reported that a traffic officer from WDBC had visited the area 4 times and understood the problems. It now takes three teachers to walk and guide the children to the bus.

c) Resolved that we form a three-way partnership ie. Town Council, School Governors and parents to take the matter forward. Clerk to contact Headmaster. Cllr.J.McInnes to be kept informed

299. Island Park Bridge – this had now been washed away. Agenda item next meeting

300. Moor View bus shelter –

a) Graffiti had been partially removed

b) New Perspex had been fitted, and one side lockable

c) All materials now available for Mr.Cranleigh to install the proposed seat

301 Blocked drains – drains blocked bottom of South Street and Red Lane. These must be continued to be reported to DCC on the website

302. Flooding by cricket field – Cllr. Reddaway asked if a drain could be fitted into the overflow flood relief channel. Cllr. McInnes would look into this

303. The Square – Cllr Reddaway reported the crumbling stonework needed repairing. Resolved that photos of area be sent to Dist. Cllr Kimber to report defects to WDBC

304. Speedwatch - Clerk circulated to all councillors email from police speedwatch team. Resolved that in order to start the process all councillors would put their names down for training – in the hope that members of the public would then come forward

305. Xmas tree – Mr. R. Jones had arranged for Chulmleigh Young Farmers to collect tree and donated £20. Cheque drawn in favour of R .Jones Letter of thanks to be sent to Mr. A. Orchard for Donating the tree.

306. Cllr. Lewis reported on the unreliability of the 5a bus used by college students. Cllr. McInnes to look into the matter.

MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

307. Cllr. Waters – Oke Rail – had circulated notes to councillors.

308. Cllr. Laing-Trengove – Community Centre
a) still investigating installation of solar panels
b) hire charges may have to rise

CORRESPONDENCE

309. Various invites for Cllr. Reddaway circulated to him

310. Dr. Haycock email dated 2nd January concerning Hatherleigh Doctors surgery circulated to all councillors. Resolved we respond that we have a dedicated councillor who attends surgery meetings when they are called and we are well aware of the situation.

311. WDBC Mayor awards nominations. Resolved that we put forward a nomination. Cllr. Burrow to supply relevant information

ITEMS OF INTEREST/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

312. Cllr. Laing-Trengove – working party at the Community Orchard On Sat. 1st Feb. 11am

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

313. Tuesday 11th February 7pm

There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.40pm

Signed.....chairman.....dated