

HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE HADLEIGH TOWN MATTERS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE TOWN HALL DINING ROOM ON THURSDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT: Cllr V Faccini, Cllr G Talbot, Cllr S Allman, Cllr E Wright, Cllr L Gordon, Cllr A Gregg

Diana Stroh – Locum Clerk

6 members of the public

1.9 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Talbot was proposed as Chair by Cllr Allman and seconded by Cllr Gordon. There being no other nominations Cllr Talbot was duly elected unanimously as Chair of the Town Matters Committee.

2.9 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST RELEVANT TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

None received

3.9 DISPENSATIONS

None received

4.9 APOLOGIES

An apology from Cllr Cammack was received and accepted

5.9 PUBLIC FORUM

A member of the public offered a 'well done' to the new Council and noted positive moves for events for the town requesting that more events be considered, such as a Carnival and future Christmas events. He made mention of previous times when the Town Council helped by raising money and offered to assist with forthcoming events.

Councillors noted that this member of the public had significant experience with regard to organising local events.

6.9 TO CONFIRM COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP IN ABSENCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Councillors **agreed** that the Town Matters Committee would be made up of members present and Cllr Cammack.

7.9 TO CONFIRM COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE IN ABSENCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Chair advised councillors that the terms of reference had been seen at a previous meeting so everyone should be familiar with the contents. He went on to describe the role of the committee as working with the community on the presentation of a strategic plan and positive future engagements to further this. Independent advice, previously taken, showed a decision taken at the

previous meeting for which minutes were not available did not negate the decision made to approve the terms of reference at that previous meeting.

8.9 TO AGREE FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEE

Councillors **agreed** for meetings of the Town Matters Committee to be held on the second Thursday of each month, with the next meeting being Thursday 10th October.

9.9 TOWN EVENTS

a. Plans for Christmas Event

Cllr Gregg advised Councillors that there was growing support from various groups and that the 5th December had been chosen as the date for the tree-lighting ceremony.

She stated a 20ft Christmas tree had been donated but that guidance was required as to who erects this.

Cllr Gregg stated organisations had been approached to assist in sponsoring the event with a lot of interest being shown.

She went onto advise Councillors of some of the ideas for the day, including a lantern procession, a famous person for the lighting-up ceremony and a Santa's grotto.

The Chair asked about the costs and Cllr Gregg responded by stating she had been quoted £661 for real reindeer and was looking for sponsorship money as well as the money to be made from stall-holders.

Councillors discussed general ideas for the event, including potential road closures, alcohol licensing and suitable date for the event, bearing in mind school commitments the following day.

The Chair asked if insurance policies covered the Council for all the ideas being considered with Councillors requesting the Clerk look into road closures and insurance requirements.

The Chair suggested that a working group needed to be set up to help collate ideas and involve the community. He went on to suggest that the Council would need to see a plan to know what costs were being considered.

Cllr Allman suggested that this be considered by full Council at their meeting the following week.

Cllr Gregg proposed that a plan regarding the Christmas event was to be produced and presented at the next full Council meeting following the set-up of a working group and based on a potential budget of £2,000, to which Councillors **unanimously agreed**.

b. V.E. Day Commemoration Event – 8th may 2020

Cllr Allman advised Councillors that an email from the Royal British Legion had been received asking for Hadleigh Town Council to support the event on the 8th May 2020, as part of the 75th Anniversary year.

Councillors were advised that the RBL were requesting the Town Council host events and cover costs for the Guild Hall.

Councillors debated the request for Guild hall costs to be covered by the Town Council with concerns raised over waiving the fee for the venue when the Charity needed to make money and whether a grant or donation payment was more appropriate.

Cllr Allman suggested this item be considered in two parts and proposed Councillors vote initially on whether to support hosting the V.E. day commemorations.

Councillors **agreed** to support the hosting of the commemorations.

Councillors then **agreed** for the Royal British Legion to submit a grant request, should they wish to do so, with regard to any relevant costs on the day.

10.9 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

a. Grants and Donations policies

Councillors debated the need for policies to be amended and approved and the requirement for a suitable procedure by which to commence doing so. Cllr Allman suggested that more scrutiny be introduced to support the spending of public money so that evidence of that spending could be obtained. The Chair also stated it was important that the impact of public spending was scrutinised and followed up on. He went onto suggest the Council looks at the overall strategy and links in grant and donation requests to this.

Cllr Allman proposed that Councillors task the Chair, due to his background in grant funding, with developing the relevant policies for consideration to adopt at a future meeting.

Councillors **unanimously agreed** this proposal.

b. Outstanding Grants and Donations

Councillors **agreed** to defer this item due to decision made in previous item.

11.9 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Grants and donations Policies

Youth Engagement/Community Engagement

PCSO/Porch Project update

Town Council Strategy

8.31pm, Meeting closed