



Hadleigh Town Council

The Guildhall,
Market Place,
Hadleigh,
IP7 5DT

Tel: 01473 823884

Extraordinary FULL COUNCIL

Monday 3rd August 2020 at 7pm via videoconferencing.

MINUTES

1. Opening	<p>a) The Mayor welcomed Councillors and the public. Councillors attending: Cammack, Beggerow, Baylis, Gordon, Gregg, Allan, Knock, McLeod, Hinton, Allman Talbot, Schleip, Minns. Also in attendance: Cllr Mick Fraser, The Town Council Manager, and 26 members of the public.</p> <p>b) No apologies for absence.</p> <p>c) No declarations of interest were made.</p> <p>d) No requests for dispensations were made.</p>
2: Public Forum	<p>A member of the public stated that a Town Councillor had stated in the press that businesses had been consulted about the road closure but that this was not accurate. Councillor Minns responded that he resented the accusation and had said in a radio interview that a consultation was underway.</p> <p>A member of the public asked in a robust manner how the Town Council had done this to the High Street without consultation. He opined that the truth was a plan to pedestrianise the High Street and that this was the early stages, and was the worst thing that could befall the High Street. Councillor Allan clarified that this was not a plan to pedestrianise the High Street in any way, that the delay since the original request and the subsequent barrier use was not planned for. Councillor Gordon stated that the confused roles/responsibilities between the 3 tiers of Councils at the beginning was unhelpful, but that we should look forward not backward.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Allan, seconded by Councillor McLeod it was agreed to suspend Standing Order 3F to enable further public comment. A recorded vote was requested. For: Cammack, Beggerow, Baylis, Gordon, Allan, McLeod, Hinton, Allman Talbot, Schleip, Minns. Against: none. Abstain: Knock, Gregg.</p> <p>A Member of the Public asked what power Hadleigh Town Council had to make changes to the scheme, whether businesses were truly consulted, and whether the safety risk remains. It was confirmed that the powers to enact the closure are the Highway Authority's (Suffolk County Council), and as the Town Council's scheme had been rejected as impractical, the suggested one way scheme had been suggested by SCC. Cllr Fraser confirmed that HTC was under no obligation to do anything, and the one way scheme was amended to run the opposite way for safety, and then subsequently agreed by Hadleigh Town Council as the applicant. Councillor Allman stated that there was no point in debating the previous decision, but to look at the future. He continued that having been canvassing public opinion on Friday morning that there was clearly a need for some interventions, and whilst nobody had expected the unattractive barriers it must be remembered that they are only temporary to ensure the safety during the Covid19 pandemic. Councillor Minns added that a lot of the opinions expressed were anecdotal.</p> <p>A member of the public stated an overarching concern about accountability, and the original purpose – Covid 2m distancing or because people were stepping into the road. The issue of the pavement café society was also raised as it appears to conflict with the wider footway initiative which asks whether the measures are still needed.</p>



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Councillor Allan confirmed that it was a democratic decision to implement the measures. The pavement café license scheme is a Central Government measure managed by the District Council licensing team, and HTC was not notified prior to implementation in the High Street. Councillor Gregg sympathised with businesses that have experienced reduction in footfall and had noted abuse of disabled parking bays. Councillor Fraser confirmed that SCC is responsible for Highways, and that the Town Council “owns” the one-way scheme, but that this is the result of liaison between Councils to establish a scenario for Safer Space in Hadleigh. He confirmed that HTC may make requests to SCC for “tweaks”. Cllr Gregg stated that the roadworks in Magdalen Road that delayed the implementation of the works should have been notified to HTC, and Councillor Fraser stated that there are different departments within the Highways team, and due to covid19 communications had been slowed between them too. Councillor Beggerow noted that the liaison between SCC and HTC had resulted in the implemented scheme running North-South having considered the local emergency vehicle routes.

A member of the public recognised that the measures are temporary but could be amended to make them more effective, particularly around the café culture aspects that have emerged that appear to conflict with the social distancing aims of the wider footpaths. It was confirmed that that is not within the control of Hadleigh Town Council. It was suggested that the barriers were needed in the narrower parts of the street but that more loading bays would be helpful in the wider part. Councillor Gregg noted the refuse vehicle had caused some delays during its round, and Councillor Knock noted the abuse of existing bays which required more monitoring/enforcement.

A Member of the public stated that the decision making and ownership of the scheme is academic, and that it was clear the measures are for social distancing. Covid19 is not going away so the measures are likely to be needed for longer than 3 weeks. Pre-existing issues in the High Street were being mixed with the impacts of the barriers exacerbating them, but not causing them. As a local business owner he was not of the opinion that there was an overall negative outcome of the measures, and with some tweaks could be welcomed.

A member of the public stated that loading bays were insufficient, poorly located and too small, and that the barriers should all be taken away. Councillor Schleip observed that some premises with rear access were not using it and needed to be flexible.

A member of the public stated that he had seen abuses of the measures including vehicles and cycles going the wrong way, and poor parking. However, the scheme was working.

A Member of the public asked whether the driver for the scheme was – Covid 2m distancing or because people were stepping into the road which were different things. The measures may not be encouraging people back in to the High Street, which again is another matter. He noted the lack of consultation with businesses and expressed concern around the management and roles of authorities in the implementation. He noted the need for data such as footfall and traffic counts with further public consultation as it appears that measures assisting footfall are not offsetting losses from limiting access.

Councillor Allman thanked the members of the public in attendance for participating, and thanked those who took the time to respond to the consultation.



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3: Covid19 Road Restrictions	<p>a) And b) Councillor Beggerow thanked the staff for the work to deliver the feedback report to assist decision making.</p> <p>Councillors noted that something had to be done to assist social distancing, but that the measures need amendments to reduce the public division. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Signage to surgery and its exit route- Signage at Benton Street end- More crossing points and ramps at kerbs- More delivery bays- Enforcement- Signage drawing through-traffic to use Magdalen Road- 20mph speed limit in Magdalen Road- Additional extension of Market Place closure on 28th August as the Notice ends on the 27th. <p>The use of planters instead of barriers was discussed but it was considered that the scheme should be seen to be working and agreed to extend before planters are installed. It was felt that as public opinion was confused over the permanence of the measures, that an extension beyond 6 weeks at this stage was premature.</p> <p>Councillor Allman enquired whether SCC would agree to the requests and Councillor Fraser confirmed that the officers would have to consider them and act appropriately. As applicants HTC should make the recommendations it considers necessary.</p> <p>The motion for items a) and b) were considered as one.</p> <p>Proposed by Councillor Minns and Seconded by Councillor Beggerow, it was agreed that the existing trials in Market Place and High St should continue to the end of their six-week period, accepting that both schemes require adjustment and that the authority to achieve these adjustments should be delegated to the Town Council Manager in liaison with Suffolk County Council, in consultation with businesses, residents and Babergh District Council (especially in respect if pavement licences). The adjustments should include promoting the use of Magdalen Road for through traffic and investigating with BDC remitting parking charges in the Bridge St car park for workers in the High St. A recorded vote was requested. For: Cammack, Beggerow, Baylis, Gordon, Allan, McLeod, Hinton, Allman Talbot, Schleip, Minns. Against: none. Abstain: Knock, Gregg.</p> <p>The Chair moved to Item 4 on the Agenda which means that consideration of public feedback regarding the temporary road restriction schemes in the High Street and the Market Place, and to decide whether to:</p> <p>C) Apply to extend High Street works for 18 months. D) Apply to extend Market Place works for 18 months. Will be considered at the next meeting.</p>
4: Future Meetings	It was confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of Full Council will be held at 7pm on Thursday 20 August 2020 by videoconference.
5: Close of meeting	The meeting closed at 9.28pm.

Prepared by *A. McMillan* Andrew McMillan Town Council Manager

04 August 2020