HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 19 FEBRUARY 2025

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Ron Nichols (Chair), Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr John Shepherd

In attendance: Nigel Paterson, Kings Community Church

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Jane Welsh

2. **Public Questions not on the Agenda**

3. **Declarations of Interest**
   None were declared.

4. **To Receive a Police Report**
   PCSO Tracey Chilcott was unable to attend the meeting.

5. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4 February 2025.**

   RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6. **Matters for Resolution: Approval of Suspension of Councillor Attendance Rules – Cllr Jane Welsh**

   Councillors noted the circumstances around Cllr Welsh absence and agreed that this was significant reasoning to suspend the Councillor Attendance Rule. **RESOLVED: Cllr Keith House proposed, and Cllr Paul Carnell seconded. Councillors agreed the suspension of the Councillor Attendance Rule for Cllr Jane Welsh until August 2025.**

7. **Chair's Remarks**
   Cllr Ron Nichols as Vice Chair had no updates.

8. **Resolved Items for NOTING Only:**
   (a) Highways & Planning Committee – 15 January 2025
   (Minute H773)
   That the Minutes of the meeting of the 15 January be received.
   (b) Policy & Resources Committee – 4 February 2025
   (Minute P1394, P1395, P1398 and P1399)
   That the Minutes of the meeting of the 4 February be received.
   (c) Recreation & Amenities Committee – 12 February 2025
   (Minute R534, i, ii, iii, iv and R537)
   That the Minutes of the meeting of the 12 February be received.

9. Borough and County Reports

Cllr Ian Corben noted that there was a HEWEB meeting at the end of January where community grants applications were approved for £8k and railings at Fawn Crescent were replaced. An update was provided on One Horton Heath the main road will be opening soon from Burnetts Lane to Allington Lane.

Cllr Keith House provided an update on Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) which was announced on the 5 February, with acceptance onto the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) in turn this means the County Council Elections will be postponed in May 2025. The Combine Authority Mayor election will be 2026 which will pick up strategic planning, economic growth and other functions.

LGR will go ahead with proposals to Government by late March 25. This will then be subject to consultation over the summer ready for final proposals to be submitted. Shadow elections will then take the new unitary forward. Borough staff have been meeting with Town & Parishes to progress asset transfers.

The County Council council tax request for 15% was refused by Government and has subsequently been increased by the maximum amount permitted of 4.99%. The Borough Council meeting will be next week.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 19:50pm.