HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 16 APRIL 2025

Cllrs. Present: Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Lucy Jurd, Cllr Ron Nichols (Chair), Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr John Shepherd

The meeting held a one-minute silence in memory of Cllr Jane Welsh.

In attendance: Margot Bullwinkle & Colleague

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Rupert Kyrle

2. **Serving the Community Award Presentation.**

   Cllr Ron Nichols read the citation for Margot and then presented her with a certificate and gift voucher. Margot thanked the Council noting how touched she was that she had received it. Margot also reflected on the sad loss of Jane.

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

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

5. **To Receive a Police Report**
   PCSO Tracey Chilcott was not in attendance and no statistics were provided in advance.

   Cllrs expressed their disappointment at the absence of the 'Local Bobby' from meetings and the lack of engagement with the council.

6. **To receive the Speedwatch results**

   Cllrs noted that the team are looking for volunteers.

7. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2025.**

   RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 March be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

8. **To review and revise the Financial Regulations of December 2022 in line with the NALC Model Financial Regulations, April 2024.**

   Cllrs were assured to know that Policy & Resources have reviewed the regulations and are satisfied with the proposed revisions. **RESOLVED: Cllrs**

agreed the revisions.

9. To review and revise the Standing Orders of December 2022 in line with the NALC model Financial Regulations, April 2024

Cllrs were assured to know that the changes reflect the current procurement legislation and are satisfied with the proposed revisions. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed the revisions.**

10. To receive details of the proposed EE 5G Mast Application at Drummond Community Centre.

Councillors considered the proposal in detail, along with the sequence of events to date, including the appointment of an independent surveyor. The appointed surveyor has now submitted their recommendations for the Council's consideration.

The Clerk reported that she has since become aware of a proposal for the installation of a permanent telecommunications mast on highway land outside the Community Centre. Permission for this installation is currently being sought; however, this proposal has not been formally submitted to, or communicated through, the Council.

Cllr Ian Corben observed that while such information may be available externally, it has not been directly communicated to the Council. He therefore recommended that the Council proceed in accordance with the original recommendations provided by the independent surveyor.

Cllr Tonia Craig expressed concern regarding the implications of approving a temporary installation without securing permission for a permanent mast. She questioned the potential consequences if permission for the permanent structure is subsequently denied, particularly regarding the ongoing status and location of the temporary mast.

Cllr Derek Pretty noted that several alternative sites had previously been discounted due to community-related concerns. He queried the justification for considering the proposed site outside the Community Centre, given the lack of clear distinction from those previously rejected.

RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed to proceed with the recommendations, including requesting a detailed explanation from Dot Surveying outlining why a temporary installation cannot be located at the previously suggested site on Manaton Way; Issuing a direct and formal response to the operator's agent, including a proposed claim for compensation; Engaging with the

local community on the matter, including liaising with District Councillors and the Member of Parliament; Instructing legal representatives to collaborate with the surveyor in preparing and submitting the Council's response.

11. To consider the future management of the Market.

Councillors discussed the ongoing financial challenges associated with operating the Market, as well as a proposal received from a private enterprise to assume its management. It was noted that the Council initiated the Market with the best of intentions, and it initially operated successfully during lockdown period. However, as footfall declined, so too did the number of stallholders. Analysis of the financial data indicates that the Market is no longer viable on a weekly basis. Councillors suggested that alternative options, such as holding the Market on a different day, or monthly could be explored. It was further agreed that ensuring the effective management of the Barclays service and maintaining access to it within the village remains a key priority. The potential implications of transferring Market operations to a third party were also considered, including the possibility of conflicts with existing local traders. However, Councillors felt that any such issues could be appropriately managed through the Council's licensing processes and should not present a significant obstacle. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the private enterprise option should be pursued so the Council can withdraw from running the market.**

12. Donation to Hamble Lifeboat in memory of Cllr Jane Welsh.

Cllrs discussed the estimated cost of a floral tribute and agreed that an equivalent amount should be offered as a donation. **RESOLVED: That £100 would be donated to Hamble Lifeboat.**

13. Chair's Remarks

Cllr Ron Nichols as Vice Chair noted that there was a lack of police in Hedge End generally. He reminded Cllrs that the VE Day Flag Raising will take place on the 8 May 2025 at 9am.

14. Resolved Items for NOTING Only:

(a) Highways & Planning Committee – 5 March 2025 and 19 March 2025 (Minute H786, H787 and H791)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 5 March and 19 March be received.

(b) Policy & Resources Committee – 1 April 2025
(Minute P1416, P1417, P1418, P1419, P1420, P1421 and P1426)
That the Minutes of the meeting of the 1 April be received.

(c) Recreation & Amenities Committee – 9 April 2025
(Minute R547, R548, R551 and R552)

That the Minutes of the meeting of the 9 April be received.

15. Borough and County Reports

Cllr Cynthia Garton reported that HEWEB Committee will miss Jane Welsh who played an active role in that committee. The next HEWEB meeting is in June. Cllr Garton reported that there have been issues with parking at Deer Park School. The school had previously written to HCC asking for use of the compound on Sika Avenue for parking and the suggestion was rejected. Cllr Garton also wrote to the HCC Hedge End Councillor making the same request. The reply received stated that the compound was not available for use.

Cllr Ian Corben noted that the consequence of lack of parking is creating issues in Locke Road and Fawn Crescent.

The suggestion was to go back to Cllr Kyrle to raise this with the leader of HCC.

Cllr Keith House gave an update on the Local Government re-organisation. The authorities need to submit their proposals to central government by September 2025.

Cllr Helen Corben has been approached by the Monday Club who were concerned that Local Government Reorganisation would have an impact on the Town Council services. Cllr Keith House reiterated that Hedge End Town Council would continue to provide services and operate as normal.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20.23pm.