

# Haltwhistle Town Council Meeting

## 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

### APPROVED MINUTES

Int ere sts	Present  18.00	Cllr A Sharp Cllr M Ridley Cllr T Christie Cllr J Clark	Cllr M Hodgson Cllr J Elliott Cllr J Hunter Cllr I Stott	County – Cllr Ian Hutchinson Clerk – Susan Saunders
	<b>256/22</b>	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b>, Cllr G Ridley, Cllr C Banks, Cllr M Forrest, Cllr C Moore Dispensation Request – It was agreed to accept Cllr T Christie’s request for dispensation. <b>PROPOSED Cllr I Stott                      SECONDED Cllr M Ridley                      AGREED</b> Cllr Sharp reminded members that attendance to meetings is imperative and should only be missed for good reason. Members must contact the clerk or another member to give their absences before the meeting.</p>		
	<b>257/22</b>	<p><b>Public Questions</b> – there were no questions.</p>		
	<b>258/22</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> The Chair reminded members of the Council of their duty to declare an interest at each agenda item, and he informed everyone that that the initials of Councillors declaring an interest will be listed in a column on the Minutes.</p>		
	<b>259/22</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting for approval held on:</b> Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - The minutes were approved <b>PROPOSED Cllr M Ridley                      SECONDED Cllr J Hunter                      AGREED</b></p>		
	<b>260/22</b>	<p><b>Matters arising from previous Minutes not dealt with elsewhere in the current agenda</b> No Matters</p>		
AS JC	<b>261/22</b>	<p><b>Grounds Meeting</b> <b>261/22.01</b> Report and Proposals of meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 1. Orchard Gardens Members met at the fenced off section of the recently obtained land. It is need of extensive work which can be split into two phases: Phase 1 - Levelling and making safe of the area which could be undertaken Jan-March. Phase 2 – Design and landscape for the spring. Cllr T Christie produced a specification for both phases and, it was agreed to advertise phase 1 for quotes to be considered at the January meeting with the aim to be completed before the year end. The clerk will check if TPO’s are required for the two trees and saplings. <b>PROPOSED Cllr T Christie                      SECONDED Cllr M Hodgson                      AGREED</b> <i>18.30 AS &amp; JC left the room</i> 2. HTC Office – there are a number of jobs that need to be undertaken in the office but, members proposed that the contract for the lease should be drawn up beforehand. Electric tests are required from both landlord and the council. The clerk will liaise with the landlord for the contract and the tests and then the council will undertake the jobs. 3. It has come to the attention of the council that Derek Martin, the volunteer litter picker, has been quite unwell and not able to litter pick. It was agreed to give him a food voucher of £100 as a thank you for all his hard work in picking litter. The Council will monitor and review the litter situation. <b>PROPOSED Cllr J Hunter                      SECONDED Cllr J Elliott                      AGREED</b> 4. NCC updates – NCC have surveyed and are monitoring the footpath at Eden’s Lawn. 5. Dog Signs in Memorial Park – NCC have agreed that dogs should be on a lead within the park. Cllr Hutchinson will ask for proper signage. <b>261/22.02</b> Public Footpaths, Lighting and Amenities The lights outside the hospital are still out and the light on the path from the school to the</p>		

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	<p>Leisure Centre is also out. Cllr Hutchinson will enquire as to when they will be addressed. The light outside the church needs a new lantern and should be fixed over the next week. The middle solar light in Comb Hill is not working – the clerk was instructed to ask someone to look at it.</p> <p><b>261/22.03 Public Seating and Bus Shelters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus timetables – The signs only have a QR code and no times. Cllr Sharp has had this issue at Haydon Bridge and was emailed by NCC to say the signs are now up. Cllr Elliott will look at the signs and report back.</li> </ul> <p><b>261/22.04 Northumbria in Bloom</b> – It was agreed not to enter but to consider a local ‘Haltwhistle in Bloom’. This will be put on the agenda next time for discussion.</p>
<b>262/22</b>	<p><b>Northumberland County Council (NCC)</b></p> <p><b>262/22.01</b> Report from County Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The road survey around Park Ave is to be conducted again with information that parking is allowed on the speed humps as that had caused concern in the last survey.</li> <li>• Cllr Hutchinson reported on the recent fire at The Working Men’s Club. Surveys are being undertaken this week. He thanked local pubs The Manor House and The Black Bull for helping out with food and shelter for the residents affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>262/22.02</b> Members to attend Town, Parish &amp; Community Conference 24<sup>th</sup> January, Hexham Mart, 4.30pm – 2 members including staff can attend. The Clerk will attend on behalf of the council and 1 other member to be agreed.</p>
<b>263/22</b>	<p><b>Police in Haltwhistle</b> Cllr Sharp read out the report.</p>
<b>264/22</b>	<p><b>Warm Hub Initiative</b> Cllr Elliott would like more information shared about the Warm Hub in the library, on the website and Facebook. The log bank at Haydon Bridge could also be mentioned. It was thought that Ellen Walton may also be trying to create a Warm hub. The clerk will investigate and, the council may consider some funding if required.</p>
<b>265/22</b>	<p><b>Tyne Valley Cycle Route</b> Cllr Sharp attended the recent meeting. There is quite a lot of enthusiasm from councils along the valley but, it would require serious funding.</p>
<b>266/22</b>	<p><b>Civility &amp; Respect Protocol - NALC &amp; SLCC</b></p> <p><b>266/22.01</b> Code of Conduct 2020 – to update the 2012 current code. Members agreed to adopt the updated code. <b>PROPOSED Cllr A Sharp                      SECONDED Cllr J Elliott                      AGREED</b></p> <p><b>266/22.01</b> C&amp;R Pledge – SLCC and NALC have produced a protocol. Members will consider whether to sign up to it over the coming weeks.</p>
<b>267/22</b>	<p><b>Planning Applications.</b> – No plans</p> <p><b>Other Planning Matters</b> 22/01752 The Old Police Station -Withdrawn 21/04595 Brew Bar, LBC- REFUSED <i>19.20 IH left the meeting</i></p>
<b>268/22</b>	<p><b>Grant Requests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great North Air Ambulance - £500 was approved. <b>PROPOSED Cllr A Sharp                      SECONDED Cllr J Elliott                      AGREED</b></li> <li>• Tynedale Hospice - £250 was approved. <b>PROPOSED Cllr J Elliott                      SECONDED Cllr J Hunter                      AGREED</b></li> <li>• Jubilee football Club - £500 was approved, earmarked for the Juniors. The clerk will advise them that The Community Chest fund is open and that they could ask Cllr Hutchinson for capital funding. <b>PROPOSED Cllr J Elliott                      SECONDED Cllr T Christie                      AGREED</b></li> </ul>

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<b>269/22</b>	<b>Reports on Financial Matters</b>																																																																																																																									
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		<p>The payments of £11145.53 were approved with the inclusion of the above grants and an invoice for a lighting bracket for the Xmas lights. It was noted that the invoice for Tom Evans was only £234 and not £400 as estimated.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED Cllr J Elliott                      SECONDED Cllr M Hodgson                      AGREED</b></p> <p><b>269/22.04</b> Bank Reconciliation/Income &amp; Expenditure as at 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – noted.</p>																																																																																																																								
		<p><b>Other Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>269/22.04</b> Budget review and precept approval for 2023-2024</p> <p>The budget was discussed and there is only work at Orchard Gardens planned. It is hoped Phase 1 will be completed and paid for from this year's budget and Phase 2 will be next year. It was, therefore, agreed that the precept will remain the same for 2023-2024 at £142,500.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED Cllr A Sharp                      SECONDED Cllr J Elliott                      AGREED</b></p> <p><b>269/22.05</b> To approve salary agreed by National Joint Council for 2022-2023 – the salary rates were approved.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED Cllr A Sharp                      SECONDED Cllr M Ridley                      AGREED</b></p>																																																																																																																								
<b>270/22</b>	<b>Haltwhistle &amp; District Joint Burial Committee</b>	A brief discussion was undertaken.																																																																																																																								
<b>272/22</b>	<b>Haltwhistle Partnership</b>	<p><i>Report and resolutions arising</i></p> <p><b>272/22.01</b> Report from Partnership including Borderlands and Community Hub updates – noted.</p> <p><b>272/22.02</b> To appoint a council representative - members did not volunteer.</p> <p><b>272/22.03</b> Land at Tyne feedback – noted but members not happy that it appears The Partnership are still interested in the land.</p>																																																																																																																								

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273/22	<p><b>Correspondence received since last Council meeting</b> The correspondence was noted.</p>
274/22	<p><b>Saturday Surgery</b> The surgery did not go ahead.</p>
275/22	<p><b>Staffing</b> <i>Report and resolutions arising</i>  <b>Resolution to Exclude Press and Public</b>          To consider a resolution to exclude the public and accredited representatives of newspapers from the following item relevant to a subject which affects the Council's area.</p> <p><b>Resolution</b>          "That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded and, they are instructed to withdraw."</p> <p>This resolution is moved under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.</p> <p><b>PROPOSED Cllr M Ridley                      SECONDED Cllr M Hodgson                      AGREED</b>          It was agreed to take the second item first.</p> <p><b>275/22.02</b> Haltwhistle &amp; District Joint Burial Committee</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contract to approve – members approved the contract for the new Cemetery keeper.</li> <li>2. Request for staff mentoring – The Council discussed the request and proposed that the Town Clerk should support on a formal basis. A letter will be sent to the Burial Committee to explain.</li> </ol> <p><b>275/22.01</b> Haltwhistle Town Council Issues – a confidential discussion was undertaken.  <i>The Clerk left the room</i></p>
276/22	<p><b>Dates and times of next meetings</b>          Town Council Meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023, 6.30pm in the library, first floor.          Grounds Meeting – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 10.00am in the office.          The meeting closed at 20.45.</p>