



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HEDNESFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Wednesday 5th July 2023 AT 7.00 PM

Meeting held at Pye Green Community Centre, Bradbury Lane, Hednesford, WS12 4EP

Present:

Cllr Alan Pearson (Mayor)
Cllr Ronald Turville
Cllr Ann Turville
Cllr Sheila Cartwright
Cllr Annette Walker
Cllr Arthur Roden
Cllr Sharon Jagger
Cllr Debbie Cartwright

In attendance from Hednesford Town Council:

Matt Johnson – Community Engagement Officer
Cheryl Kinsella – Responsible Finance Officer
Cheryl Oakey – Administration Officer

In attendance from Hednesford Policing Team

PSCO Robert Evans

Members of the Public:

There were 3 members present

1. Public Participation

Member of the public discussed Hednesford Festival on Saturday 12th August 2023 they are asking for help in the morning of the festival between 8.00 am to 10.00 am. Anyone interested in helping to email Hednesford in Partnership.

PSCO Robert Evans provided an update:

- Tesco – groups gathering on the undercover car park and near Hednesford park the CCTV is in operation and they are keeping an eye on the problems coming up to the summer holidays.
- Plain clothed officers having warrants to do drug searches, working with crime stoppers, groups gathering on Trinity Church any information the Cllr's hear to report straight away.
- Speeding in the Pye Green area, officers in the area doing vehicle updates and mobile speed cameras.
- Police will be at Hednesford Festival and Chase Pride doing activities with the children/families on the day.
- All PCSO's are going into all schools in the area and attending PHSE lessons.
- All PCSO's talking to all Year 5 and Year 6 children about attending Police Cadets

Cllr D Cartwright and PCSO R Evans meeting with each other to discuss ??

Cllr A Pearson asked all Cllr's to report all problems to the Community Police

Cllr A Pearson asked about the incidents in Hednesford Town centre, PCSO R Evans updated all the Cllr's that the Police have followed up all information and awaiting witnesses.

2. Apologies :

Cllr Paul Jones
Cllr Laura Harrison
Lindsey Smith - Chief Officer

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr A Walker – Hednesford Nursery

4. Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 were reviewed and approved subject to:

Cllr D Cartwright mentioned that on the minutes under public participation the costs to do with Trinity Church repairs was to keep the Church open not just for the Lighthouse Community Food Table it was also for the Community. Cllr D Cartwright also mentioned it was herself not Cllr Jagger that said the last service was on Sunday 16th July 2023 at 3.00 pm. Cllr D Cartwright updated the Cllr's she had emailed the Chief Officer information on the funds.

Cllr Pearson updated the Cllr's he was awaiting Tom Walsh Parks and Open Spaces Manager reply to his messages on Trinity Church.

Cllr A Turville proposed

Second by Cllr R Turville

Agreed; 8 Cllr Pearson, Cllr R Turville, Cllr A Turville, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Walker, Cllr Roden, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr Jaggar

5. Hednesford Nursery School

Nursery Manager Dawn Freeman and Deputy Manager Sarah Taylor gave a full and comprehensive presentation to the Cllr's and the meeting. Ofsted have awarded 2 areas of outstanding, no where else in the area has achieved this.

The Nursery is a part of the Hednesford community for many years. The Nursery provides for children from birth to four years old, open all year round, The staff are highly motivated and strive for the best for each individual child working together to provide high and consistent expectations and praise their achievements.

They have 75 children at the Nursery and there is a waiting list, the nursery feeds into 9 primary schools in the area. The Nursery consists of 3 rooms for Rose Buds – 0 – 2 years, Blossoms – 2 – 3 years and Blooms 3 – 4 years and provide a happy, safe, friendly environment and they offer a varied curriculum covering the seven areas of learning. They support parents who have children with additional needs and have in place learning identification.

The Nursery are looking into support and funding to build an outdoor environment, children to experience all weather activities, barefoot trail, bushcraft etc. The outside area at the moment needs attention and a pot of money, looking at having a trim trail, community gardens, outside furniture and put on events for parents, carers, and grandparents to come in and support the Nursery. The cost of a swing for a child with additional needs is around £2000.

Cllr A Pearson asked the Community Engagement Officer what funds were available? Community Engagement Officer updated the Cllr's that he will look at funding and costs and report back to Cllr's by the next meeting.

Cllr A Walker is passionate about Hednesford Nursery she attended, fostered 15 children that have all attended and would love to get behind the nursery and help with any funding projects.

Member of the public was happy to organise a fair and had ideas to help the Nursery. Cllr D Cartwright to discuss ideas with the member of public.

Cllr A Pearson discussed we need set up asap cash injections get it moving.

Cllr A Turville happy to help with projects.

Cllr A Walker discussed that Support Staffordshire maybe able to help.

Action: The Community Engagement Officer and the Chief Officer to provide advice and guidance in the setting up of a friend's group, fundraising, set up a support

project and look at short term, medium term, and long-term funding to support Hednesford Nursery.

Cllr A Pearson proposed

Second by Cllr A Turville

Agreed - 8 Cllr Pearson, Cllr R Turville, Cllr A Turville, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Walker, Cllr Roden, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr Jagger

6. Motion from Cllr Jagger – Live Stream of Full Council Meeting

Cllr Jagger requested to withdraw the motion.

Cllr A Pearson declined the request from Cllr Jagger and brought the motion himself despite Cllr Jagger stating that she felt that this was contrary to the Standing Orders.

Cllr A Pearson did not agree with the motion, no live streaming of any meetings.

Cllr R Turville did not agree with the motion, information can be taken out of contexts, and you do not hear the full story.

Cllr A Turville – against the motion, information can be taken out of context and can make the wrong impression. The Council meetings are open to the public which is easier.

Cllr S Cartwright – against and agreed with Cllr A Turville.

Cllr A Roden – against and agreed with Cllr A Turville.

Cllr S Jagger would like the motion to be discussed at the next Council meeting, as there were 2 Cllr's absent.

Cllr A Pearson proposed

Second by Cllr R Turville

Agreed 6 Cllr R Turville, Cllr A Turville, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Walker, Cllr Roden, Cllr D Cartwright

Abstain 2 Cllr A Pearson, Cllr S Jagger

Cllr Jagger requested that it be minuted that she abstained from any debate instigated by Cllr Pearson and that Cllr Jagger abstained from any vote instigated by Cllr Pearson because she felt that Cllr Pearson was acting contrary to Standing Orders.

Action: Full council meetings will not be live streamed

7. Cllr D Cartwright – Provision of HMO

Cllr D Cartwright advised that she was aware that CCDC were in discussions regarding a provision of a HMO in Cannock and Cllr D Cartwright would like the Council to support this. . There is a memory board in the Lighthouse Café that

contains service users that have passed and does not want to see anymore added to it. Cllr D Cartwright advised that Cllr P Jones is also keen to support. Cllr D Cartwright updated the Cllr's that the homeless are being farmed out of the area where they do not know anyone, and this needs to stop as it is detrimental to their mental health. With a HMO the homeless would have an address so they can fill out benefit forms.

Cllr A Pearson to support Cllr D Cartwright and to discuss details with her after the meeting.

Cllr S Cartwright know of a landlord who charges high rents on houses, and they are in poor condition and the buildings need building regulations and planning permission.

Cllr A Walker discussed using the Roman Way and Holiday Inn.

Cllr D Cartwright knows there is an empty property next to the Salvation Army and The Soldiers in Hednesford.

Action: It was suggested a letter be sent from Hednesford Town Council to HMO, Cllr D Cartwright to meet up with the Chief Officer to progress this.

Due to no proposer or seconder to the action this item will need to be brought to full council in September before any action can take place.

8. Finance

i. Internal Audit Report and Actions

The Responsible Finance Officer updated the Cllr's on the report, there were 2 proposals from officers and ex-officers and some overpayments. The report is now on the website.

Cllr Jagger asked about the risk assessment which was missing and not ticked on the report. The Responsible Finance Officer responded that the risk assessment was not done and was on the committee agenda.

Cllr A Roden asked about the roof repairs.

Cllr S Jagger responded it was under PGCC £50,000 guarantees.

Responsible Finance Officer updated the Cllr's that there was a pot set aside for maintenance and specific items, it was investigated by the PGCC Committee.

Cllr A Walker proposed

Second by Cllr A Turville

Agreed 8 Cllr Pearson, Cllr R Turville, Cllr A Turville, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Walker, Cllr Roden, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr Jagger

ii. Action on Reserves

The Responsible Finance Officer updated the Cllr's on the reserves the Council are keeping and the interest accounts. This included the reserves relating to the PGCC maintenance reserve and also the Nationwide Bank accounts which are not within our current signatures control to access.

Cllr R Turville proposed

Second by Cllr A Turville

Agreed 8 Cllr Pearson, Cllr R Turville, Cllr A Turville, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Walker, Cllr Roden, Cllr D Cartwright, Cllr Jaggar

9. Community Officer

The Community Engagement Officer updated the Cllr's and the meeting on his current activities and projects.

i. AED device

The AED device is now located on the wall of Acorns Florist in Market Street Hednesford, a new battery is on order and will be installed asap.

Cllr Pearson asked if there were any charges. The Community Engagement Officer responded that Acorn Florist volunteered to have the device on their shop wall.

ii. Health Walking Projects

Community Engagement Officer has now had his training and his working with Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles. On Tuesday 11th July he is organising a wet and dry circular walk from PGCC around Cannock Chase and back. The walk is volunteer led and any volunteers to come forward and join on the day at 10.00 am. There will be refreshments afterwards.

The Community Engagement Officer will be doing a risk assessment for the walks, community volunteers to join in and he would like to organise school group walks and workshops,

Cllr A Turville and Cllr D Cartwright said they would like to join the Community Engagement Officer on his walk on the Tuesday.

A member of the public said she would like to join in on the walk, Matt discussed speaking with her after the meeting.

iii. Summer Activities

Community Engagement Officer organised with West Chadsmoor Family Centre group summer activities at PGCC on the 1st, 8th, and 15th August for ages 2 – 10-year-old children.

The activities are for parents/grandparents and children to spend time together at the activities, the adults to stay on the day.

Community Engagement Officer to pass Cllr D Cartwright posters to display in the Lighthouse Café.

Cllr D Cartwright to help the Community Engagement Officer on the activities.

A member of the public said she would like to join in on the activities, Matt discussed speaking with her after the meeting.

iv. Consultation

The Community Engagement Officer updated the Cllr's on his work with the Community over the summer to see what people want from PGCC and HTC, he has ambition for a 5-year plan, what to achieve, pop ups around the area 2-3 hours to talk to people.

Cllr Pearson said that Community Engagement is important.

Cllr D Cartwright invited the Community Engagement Officer to meet with her at the Lighthouse café.

v. Christmas Lights

The Community Engagement Officer has sent all the paperwork into SCC before the deadline 31st July, there is so much involved with the Christmas lights all the electricity companies, action timetable/template.

Cllr Pearson asked if all the testing of the lights have been done? The Community Engagement Officer his hoping for the thumbs up.

vi: Support Grants

Community Engagement Officer getting all the grants back from companies by the deadline 31st July.

Cllr Pearson asked when the grants are available. The Community Engagement Officer to email to all the Cllr's.

vii: Community Newsletter

The Community newsletter will be 2 sides of A4 and every month, it will contain flagging up events, and Cllr's to email the Community Engagement Officer for August newsletter any information they would like to put in the newsletter.

10. Verbal update from Committee Chairs

Regeneration and Communities – Inaugural meeting took place 27th June 2023

Cllr informed that the meeting scheduled for 19th June had to be postponed due to not being quorate. An extraordinary committee meeting was convened and held on 27th June.

The deputy chair of the Regen & Community Committee is Cllr. Laura Harrison.

A schedule of meeting dates was agreed.

Hednesford Neighbourhood Plan: This Committee will be working alongside the Planning Committee to review, update and ensure the implementation of Hednesford's Neighbourhood Plan.

Town Centre Management: A new Facebook group called "Hednesford Town Traders" has been set up to provide a link between HTC and business in Hednesford in lieu of a Regeneration Officer. It currently has 49 members. This will provide a forum for town centre businesses to be in touch with Hednesford Town Council and to promote and support town centre businesses.

Town Centre Signage: A consultation is planned for September 2023 onwards regarding the need for comprehensive upgraded and updated town centre signage

Hednesford Street market: On 16th May full council received a petition from residents of Cardigan Place and Woodland Court regarding access to their properties on market day once a month. This matter was referred to this committee and we considered the issue at length at our meeting last week. There's already an agreement in place with "Parking Eye" which allows vehicles from Casa Mia in Cardigan Place to use the ramp from Aldi car park on market day without penalty.

However, residents on Woodland Court cannot bring their vehicles onto Market Street at all on market day if the road is closed; we want to find a solution which works for all affected residents and businesses.

Cllr Jagger met informally with the businesses on that section of Market Street which are adversely affected on market day – and together with the Chief Officer and market management team are working in collaboration to find a solution which works for everybody affected. This committee will keep council updated.

- A complaint was received from a resident of The Lightworks regarding the noise levels on market day. This had previously been a problem due to the use of loudspeakers, but the live music at the last market did not use loudspeakers so hopefully this issue is now resolved.

- A complaint was received from local taxi drivers regarding parking in the allocated taxi rank on Anglesey Street on market days which restricts their business. Our Chief Officer will liaise with CCDC to ensure this is flagged up to parking enforcement on market days.

Events & Projects: A collaborative Armed Forces Day event took place in conjunction with market day on 24th June. The Hednesford Branch of The Royal British Legion hosted a living history stall in town together with a family fun day with bouncy castle at The Soldiers Club. Hednesford Army Cadets helped on the day, together with 1444 Brownhills Squadron ATC who provided drill demonstrations throughout the day.

Bridgetown Concert Show Band performed live in Anglesey Gardens and the weather was warm and sunny which helped to make the event extremely successful.

Hednesford Annual Civic Remembrance Event: Arrangements are ongoing in collaboration with many local organisations. Our Community Officer is co-ordinating this.

Hednesford Christmas event: This is being organised by Hednesford-in-Partnership. The date will be Friday 1st December. HTC has once again provided funding to HiP for this event. Our Chief Officer has confirmed that a Service Level Agreement with HiP is now in place.

Action: Cllr Pearson confirmed he has suggestions for this event, and he will attend the next HiP meeting to give his input.

Station Car Park: The large circular concrete planters at the entrance to the Station car park on Anglesey Street had become overgrown and untidy. These have now been weeded, tidied, and planted out and we would like to thank CCDC grounds team for this.

Heritage: Our Community Officer has devised x3 local history talks which he will deliver in the coming weeks & months. Our Community Officer has also devised a community walking project which will be a regular event setting out from PGCC for a walk, returning to the centre for refreshments afterwards.

Planning – Inaugural meeting took place 29th June 2023

Pye Green Community Centre

Inaugural meeting due to take place 20th July 2023

Finance Operations and Personnel

Inaugural meeting due to take place 25th July 2023

11. Motion from Chief Officer – Hednesford Town Council Webpage

Cllr Pearson read out the motion from the agenda.

The Responsible Finance Officer updated the meeting on the current situation regarding Dedred being taken over by Urban from London and that there had been very little contact or support. The current website is not fit for purpose and requires a significant update.

Cllr Pearson was happy for the Chief Officer and Responsible Finance Officer to work with the new providers and the figures in the motion.

Cllr Jagger was raised a concern to why there are no other reserves and that there is no money in the budget and felt that spend should come from general reserves.

Cllr A Pearson proposed
Second by Cllr D Cartwright

Agreed 7 Cllr Pearson, Cllr R Turville, Cllr A Turville, Cllr S Cartwright, Cllr A Walker, Cllr Roden, Cllr D Cartwright
Abstain 1 Cllr Jaggard

Action: Chief Officer and RFO to action provision of a new and updated HTC website

12. Update the Chief Officer

Cllr Pearson read out the update and the quote from the TNA report.

Cllr Pearson mentioned he had asked another electrician, but the Chief Officer had already asked TNA due to the immediate health and safety concerns and using power delegated to them under committee delegations for emergency spend.

Cllr Jaggard asked the RFO if the maintenance budget could be used instead of CIL? RFO agreed that the funding could be amended to show maintenance budget initially with a view to looking at the potential expenditure / overspend on R&M and subsequent funding options once the budget level available had expired.

Action: The Responsible Finance Officer to investigate, if possible, to use the maintenance budget to cover £3,685 + vat

13. Any other Business

Cllr Pearson asked if anyone had any other business.

i. Statement

Cllr D Cartwright said she had a statement to read out re: a possible hate campaign and requested that it was minuted.

As AOB was not on the agenda the Administration Officer asked Cllr D Cartwright to email the Chief Officer the statement. Cllr D Cartwright proceeded to read out the statement:

"I would like it minuted please that I am aware of a hate campaign against a young male member of our parish.

Please minute that I as a trustee of a local community group plus one other volunteer are included in this young man's support group. Including Cannock District officials from the Neighbourhood Office, the Tenancy Liaison Office and a PCSO of Cannock Police.

Because of this vendetta he has had additional security added to his home to keep him safe as neighbours have tried to remove cameras unlawfully.

The campaign is totally untrue and following a discussion with the PCSO, we are assured he is of no threat to our community. We have raised a safeguarding for him with officials.

We have enquired with the officials as to whether there are any convictions/or anything noted on the sex offenders register. These are both clear with no convictions.

This action was also taken to safeguard our service users.

We have been thanked by the officials for supporting this young man, and the hate campaign is now a police matter"

Cllr Pearson asked Cllr D Cartwright to email the statement to the Chief Officer.

Cllr Roden said that for legal reasons he knew the person in the statement and would not be commenting

Action: Cllr D Cartwright to forward statement to Chief Officer

ii. Business Cards

Cllr Pearson reminded all the Cllr's to email or let the Chief Officer know what they wanted on their business cards.

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 13th September 2023 – 7.00 pm

Pye Green Community Centre – Meeting Room 1

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Signed:

Date: