



Council Corner

July and August 2020

Coronavirus and the Council

We want to send the community the council's best wishes. We also wish to thank all residents for your patience and support during these difficult times.

The town council has resumed its regular full council meeting schedule and is meeting virtually, via Zoom, on the first and third Thursdays of each month (excluding August). Meetings are live streamed via a webinar and members of the public can register to speak during the public participation prior to the meeting. All details and links can be found on the council's website. Previously, councils could not meet remotely but the government reviewed this and has passed legislation to allow this to occur so that business can be formally conducted.

The council's administrative team has continued to work throughout the pandemic, although this has mostly been remotely from the safety of their respective homes and as facilities are opened and services are resumed, all other staff have recommenced in some capacity, depending on their roles and the risks involved.

We are aiming to open the Library on Monday 6th July, for a simple click and collect service only; people will only be able to reserve books online and collect from the Library foyer for the first phase of the re-opening plan. Initially the opening hours will be reduced (Mon, Wed & Fri, 9.30am – 1.30pm) and the Information Service will be limited to signposting only; the staff will not be able to process and payments or assist with form filling at all. We are currently fleshing out the plans and details will be published on the council's website and the local Facebook pages.

At the time of going to press the Community Centre and Swimming Pool remain closed and to date there is no firm date or guidance for opening. The play park remains closed but the maintenance team has made the most of this time and given the play equipment a much needed overhaul during this time. It really is looking good.

The skatebowl is now officially open as are the playing courts at the Hayle Recreation Ground. Some of the public toilets are open and it is hoped that the others will open, after some careful reconfiguration, in the next week or so.

All of the Council's activities and services are regularly reviewed and will either be re-introduced or enhanced as when the Government give the go ahead and when we can assure safety and minimal risk to users and staff.

The Council has also worked with Cornwall Council, Chamber of Commerce and representatives of Hayle Business Breakfast to formulate a Re-opening the Town Plan. Grant funding was provided by the Government and advisory signage has been placed throughout the town, reminding people to support local businesses by adhering to social distancing, washing and/or sanitising hands regularly and to follow guidelines, hand sanitising stations have been made available at key points, and proposals to accommodate queues of people and to alter parking arrangements in certain areas have been prepared.

Annual Council Meeting and Election of the Mayor

Normally, it is a legal requirement for the Council to hold an Annual Council meeting and to Elect a Mayor for the forthcoming year in May or June however in light of the pandemic a new, temporary law has been passed and there is now no need to hold an Annual Council meeting until May 2021. Members of the Council considered this and it was agreed to defer holding the meeting and electing a new Mayor until May 2021. The Council felt that it was important to maintain a sense of stability and maintain the status quo at this time and agreed the current Mayor, Councillor Clive Polkinghorne, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Steve Benney, should continue in the roles for a third term.

Council Vacancies

Sadly, Councillor Nick Farrar has resigned from the Town Council. Nick has served on the Council for many years and was Mayor from 2016 – 2018. He now wants to focus on his family and work commitments, and we all wish him well and thank him for his positive, pro-active and often humorous contributions during his time as a councillor.

Consequently, we now have a vacancy in both the Hayle North Ward and the South Ward and we will shortly be looking to fill both vacancies by co-option, (assuming an election is not called for in the North Ward). Details of the co-option process will shortly be published on the council's website and Facebook page. If you would like to get involved and take an active role in shaping the future of Hayle please contact the Clerk, details below, to have an informal chat to find out what is involved.

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