

HAVERHILL ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday 27th May 2014 at 7.30pm in The Chamber, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AR



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Chair: R André, Town Mayor
Present: 56 members of the public

MINUTES

T14/ Apologies for Absence

001 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Russo

T14/ Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th May 2013

002 The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

T14/ Town Mayor's report

003 The Mayor gave the following report:

The Mayoral year has been busy and interesting, with over 200 events attended by the deputy Mayor and I. There have been times when we seemed to be passing on the road. Between us we have travelled over 3,000 miles to venues in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Essex. We have attended opening events, from high tech businesses in the town and on the industrial estates to restaurants and even a pub. Faith ceremonies in our town and in many others were topped by the consecration of the new St Felix church. Rarely does the opportunity arise to present at such a singular occasion.

Alongside those events we have attended a wealth of community festivals, school and nursery occasions, presentations by regional bodies to volunteers from our community and the wealth of our own local events and shows.

For most, the Mayoral Chain of Office has been sufficient, occasionally more has been required, and on a few occasions red robes or a red suite and white beard have been required.

After a year of meeting so many, in so many roles, I am heartened by the evidence I have seen of so many volunteering to assist our community, giving freely of their time, skills and energy to improve life in our area. The huge diversity of their talents and skills is a significant component in the rich fabric of life in our community.

The enormous pleasure I have experienced in the many aspects of the Mayoral year has only been possible with the unstinting support of those around me.

Our Deputy Mayor has eagerly taken the engagements I have been unable to attend. Cllr Byrne has journeyed far and wide, often committing to long days and nights, in ensuring Haverhill is fully represented. My gratitude to her is inestimable.

The Town Clerk's Assistant and Mayor's Secretary, Vicky Phillips, has kept my diary on track and fiercely defended me from late arrivals, ensuring I am fully

briefed for every occasion. Vicky regularly interrupts her busy schedule to make sure that invites are passed to me, replies are sent and I have full instructions for every function. Her support in arranging our own functions makes even the most demanding events appear simple.

The Town Council team, led by the Town Clerk and Nick Keeble, are stalwarts in delivering a service of which we are all proud. I was blessed to have the support of Will Austin during most of my year. His advice and support were paramount in the early months. Bob Whittome has taken up the baton as our Locum Clerk and has proved to be a firm hand on the tiller as we move towards the induction of our new Clerk, Colin Poole. The entire team provide a 24 carat service for which we should all be grateful.

Behind all the glamour of serving as Mayor is the Mayoress who lights up the flagging conversations, puts up with the tired grumpiness that sometimes ends a busy week, and generally supports me in the role. My family has also encouraged me and urged me on, also putting up with “Grandad is tired” more often than they deserve.

The Mayoral Year robes the incumbent in great occasions and public appreciation. Meanwhile my fellow councillors, from all sides of the political spectrum, carry on with the constant round of meetings that are the lifeblood of the Town Council. Their commitment to and care for our residents is profound and should be recognised by all.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Haverhill in the wider community and for the support of all our community.”

T14/ 004 For Haverhill Residents to Discuss Any Matter Relating to the Town of Haverhill

<p>Ian Johnson</p>	<p>Speaking on behalf of over three hundred and fifty people seeking the creation of a 30 hectare extension to East Town Park as part of the expansion of the town. We have convinced the planning inspector of a need for a country park but he has not specified its location. We would like it to form a buffer zone between Calford Green and Haverhill, but this only accounts for 20 hectares. There is a 10 hectare field adjoining this site but it doesn't qualify as a Community Asset. However the green lane around two sides of this field does, so we are asking the Town Council to have the green lane listed as an asset of community value.</p>
<p>Gordon Cox <i>Town Clerk</i></p>	<p>Can I be updated on progress towards installation of the clock? <i>We are awaiting, from Suffolk County Council, the grant of a licence to erect the clock.. Our engineers have requested a pilot hole be dug to ensure adequate installation. We are therefore also waiting for quote from a NRSWA authorised contractor to carry out this work.</i></p>

Gordon Cox <i>Town Mayor</i>	Would the Town Council support a proposal to change the name of Ehringshausen Way to Jubilee Way. <i>Ehringshausen Way commemorates our twin town.</i>
Gordon Cox Maureen Byrne Barry Robins <i>Town Mayor</i>	Would the Town Council support a total ban, excluding guide dogs, on dogs in High Street/Queen Street, due to dog fouling. Dog fouling is an issue throughout the town and needs to be addressed by SEBC. There is dog fouling in High Street/Queen Street. <i>HTC to pass on issue with dog fouling to SEBC</i>
Sue Longley <i>Town Mayor</i>	Would the Town Council consider purchasing and renovating the Corn Exchange to provide a facility for heritage and craft centre. Highpoint have offered their help. <i>To pass on to HTC</i>
Member of the public Tony Brown <i>Town Mayor</i>	Why are the footways in Duddery Hill being resurfaced with tarmac when there are large potholes elsewhere in town? Works will be starting next week. <i>The Town Council continues to raise the subject of potholes with Suffolk County Council which is responsible for highways.</i> <i>Suggested 'fix my street'</i>
A member of the public <i>Town Mayor</i> Same member of the public <i>Town Mayor</i> Same member of the public <i>Town Mayor</i> Same member of the public <i>Town Mayor</i> Member of the public <i>Town Mayor</i>	What is the Town Council's view on the number of charity shops in town – does the Town Council consider they affect the appearance of the High Street ? <i>Town Council's view is that it would prefer to have a shop occupied by a charity shop rather than remain empty.</i> Has the Town Council taken up the offer of a 50% contribution towards a PCSO offered by SEBC ? <i>I understand the whole cost is now being met by other agencies but I have no idea as to when the appointment will commence.</i> Have the Town Council thanked Jack Tappin? <i>The Town Council has supported Jack Tappin.</i> Why has Lisa Carr only attended 4 out of 33 possible meeting ? <i>That is a question for Councillor Carr to answer, not a matter for this meeting. Write to Clerk.</i> Why can't monies being spent on Christmas lights and clock be used to provide defibrillators in the town centre ? <i>The Town Council has no powers to provide health equipment.</i>
Edel Pinnock A member of the public <i>Town Mayor</i>	Can the Town Council have the street lights kept on in Coupals Road because my car has been vandalised during the hours of darkness. My car too has been vandalised during the night. <i>There is a procedure for the Police to ask for lights to be switched back on if they think it helpful to deter crime.</i>

Paul Firman A member of the public	What is the situation regarding the petition to SEBC to reinstate the transition grant in full ? We need a few more signatures but it should go to a meeting of SEBC in June.
John Burns Edel Pinnock A member of the public <i>Nick Keeble (on behalf of Mayor who was indisposed)</i> A member of the public Town Mayor	Asked why the Town Council had granted £350,000 capital and £80,000 revenue to One Haverhill, an organisation that refused to answer his questions regarding the business plan for the youth hub. One Haverhill should meet in public. Who are One Haverhill <i>Explained the constitution of One Haverhill.</i> When will the Youth Hub be open. <i>Explained categorically that no monies, other than for a structural survey of the former Magistrates Court, had been spent by the Town Council on the Youth Hub project, and any decision to spend money would be based on a full business plan and taken in public. The opening date of the Youth Hub was dependent upon a number of partners involved in the preparation of a business plan.</i>
Cllr Flood	Gave a report on Street Lights, Mobility Scooters, School Lane, CS Officer, Dog Fouling , Affordable Housing and Wind Turbine.

T14/ Closure**005** The meeting was closed at 8.25pm.