

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**Wednesday 11^h September 2002 at 7.00 p.m.
at Town Hall Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill**

PRESENT: Town Councillors: E Goody, P Hanlon, G Kiernan, Maggie Lee,
Mrs M Martin and M Woodley

BY INVITATION: M Dane and C Pinker

ALSO PRESENT: Two members of the public.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs French and Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Members declared any interest in the matters on the agenda.

3. Minutes of The Last Meeting

Cllr Goody proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the minutes of the meeting held 9th July be accepted as a true record, all being in favour.

4. Matters Arising

a) Swan Lane Bridge

The Chair reported that the bridge was now open, having been scheduled for re-opening on Friday, and that its re-opening had caught the town unawares. Cllr Hanlon asked that the Council ensure the pavement between the bridge and Peacocks, damaged during the works, was repaired as soon as possible.

b) Speed of traffic, Chivers Road

The Clerk read to the Council a letter received from St Edmundsbury Borough Council indicating that whilst they were aware of the issue, and potential problems when Bergamot Road was linked to Haycocks Road, there was no budget to introduce traffic calming in the current financial year. Cllr Dane advised that he had received a complaint about speeding in this road and the Chair asked him to ensure that it was referred to the Borough Council as further evidence of the problem and concerns about the problem. Cllr Gerry Kiernan indicated that he was to meet on site with Officers of the Borough Council to discuss the issue.

- c) Membership of Outside Bodies
The Clerk advised that the three outside bodies to which the Town Council previously nominated a representative, namely the Cangle Junction Management Advisory Group, West Suffolk Borders Primary Care Group, and East Town Park Willow Maze Committee, had ceased and thus no nominations were now necessary.
- d) Environmental Improvements, Clements Estate
The Committee noted the Clerk's report compiled following a meeting on site with representatives of Havebury Housing Association. Cllr Pinker advised that a major programme of house improvements was now taking place, with residents being consulted on details applicable to their own properties.
- e) Bevan House Car Park
The Clerk advised that repairs were necessary as a matter of urgency and that these could be scheduled for half-term, and the car park closed during that week. The repairs were likely to take the maintenance budget over budget by £150. Cllr Maggie Lee proposed and Cllr Goody seconded, all being in favour, that the repairs be actioned.

5. Correspondence

- a) Lubbock Fine – Annual Audit Return
The Clerk advised that the new arrangements for external audit required the Council to have the Mayor certify the Audit Return. Cllr Maggie Lee proposed, and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the Mayor certify the Annual Return, all being in favour. The Mayor duly signed the Annual Return.

6. To Consider The Town Council's Comment On The Application For a Licence To Operate A Sex Shop

Cllr Dane stated that he was opposed to the application as the proposed premises, 40A Queen Street, were in a main shopping thoroughfare, frequented not only by families, but also during school days by large numbers of school age children. In addition there were family and young people orientated venues within a short distance of the premises. Cllr Goody indicated that the Licence would enable the owners to sell R18 videos, whereas the remainder of the proposed goods could be sold without a Licence if not the principal trade of the shop. Cllr Pinker believed that if the Licence were refused there could be a danger that the trade in R18 videos would go "underground". Cllr Mrs Mary Martin stated that she was totally opposed to a Sex Shop, and intended to speak against it at the Borough Council Licensing Committee meeting on 10th October. Cllr Hanlon stated that he was opposed to the sale of R18 videos. Cllr Gerry Kiernan indicated that he had some concerns regarding the application, but added that a Licence would enable strict controls to be placed upon the shop. Cllr Pinker agreed that a Licence would give a degree of control.

It was agreed that the Clerk would be asked to prepare a letter summarising the Council's concerns, and that the Chair of the Committee would sign the letter on the Committee's behalf, subject to the approval of the draft.

7. To Consider Amendments to Standing Orders In Respect of Public Questions at Full Council Meetings

The Clerk considered a report prepared by the Clerk on the subject of including the Public Forum into Standing Orders, and subject to the substitution of "by" for "in" in the phrase "for review in September 2003" agreed by a majority to agreed the recommendation to amend Standing Orders, which was:-

That the Town Council adopt the following as an amendment to its Standing Orders, with a review of this amendment by September 2003:-

1. At all meetings of the Council, the Chair may at their discretion and at a convenient time in the transaction of business, adjourn the meeting for an initial maximum of thirty minutes so as to allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.

2. During the period of this adjournment only the Chair of the meeting, and those Members specifically invited to do so by the Chair, may respond to the question..
3. Members of the public may ask one question, and not ask a further question until all those wishing to speak have had an opportunity to do so. If time remains then each member of the public will have the opportunity to ask one further question, and so on, until the time permitted is exhausted.
4. Members of the public are permitted a maximum of two minutes to pose their question on each occasion.
5. At the conclusion of the thirty minutes, if questions remain on matters that are in the control of the Town Council, or matters that the Town Council may influence, or matters otherwise affecting the Town, the Chair of the meeting may resolve that the time permitted for the Public Forum be extended. If seconded, and supported by a majority, the time for the Public Forum may be extended accordingly.
6. Members of the public wishing to receive a more detailed response than that available at the meeting may leave their names and addresses with the Clerk, for a response to be mailed to them at a later date.

8. **Authorisation of Payments**

Cllr Maggie Lee proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the payments as shown on the following lists be authorised for payment, all being in favour.

Date	Item Numbers	Cheque Numbers	Total of Schedule
16.07.02	1-8	4047-4054	£1,218.38
17.07.02	1-6	4055-4060	£5,724.61
26.07.02	1-12	4061-4072	£6,475.50
30.07.02	1-11	4073-4080 & 4141-4143	£5,769.61
08.08.02	1-20	4144-4163	£13,933.86
15.08.02	1-6	4164-4169	£5,669.09
20.08.02	1-11	4170-4180	£9,380.09
11.09.02	1-9	0001-0009	£1,344.05
11.09.02	1-8	0010-0017	£7,850.68

Cllrs Goody, Woodley and Dane were nominated to conduct random checks on three payments each to verify accuracy of amount, services/materials properly accounted for, and provision against budget.

9. **Matters of Report**

Cllr Pinker advised that the Clements Community Shop was going to open and that St Edmundsbury Borough Council had agreed to fund not only work within the shop but external improvements to Leiston Square.

Cllr Hanlon reported that he had attended a meeting regarding the speed humps on the Chalkstone Estate. St Edmundsbury Borough Council were investigating whether the humps as constructed were correct, and were also investigating providing more speed tables rather than humps.

The Clerk advised that Quakers Lane was to be closed for two weeks from 7th October for drainage works.

10. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.10 p.m.