

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 25th June 2007 at 7.30 pm
In Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair:** **Les Ager**
 Town Councillors: **J Anderson, M Byrne, L Carr, A Gower,**
 P Hanlon, E McManus,
 P McManus, M Marks, K Richardson and
 A Samuels,

Also present: **Three members of the public**

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Martin, Price, Samples, Thomas and Trebble. The Deputy Mayor reported that the Mayor, Councillor Trebble, had suffered a stroke over the weekend and was currently in hospital. All Members wholeheartedly asked that their best wishes for his speedy recovery be conveyed to him.

2. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Samuels declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a teacher at a Haverhill school in the item "Suffolk County Council School Reorganisation Review – Local Stakeholder Forum".

3. To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 8th May 2007

The minutes of the meeting held 8th May 2007 were agreed as a true record.

4. To deal with any urgent matters arising from the Minutes not covered by this agenda

There were no urgent matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. Inspector Adrian Dawson, Suffolk Police

Inspector Dawson reported on crime levels to date from 1st April, which indicated a decrease, a trend which was particularly pleasing as traditionally crime levels rose in April and May.

Cllr McManus stated that there was little in the way of deterrent to prevent speeding traffic, which he considered an issue. Inspector Dawson reported that the Safer Neighbourhood Team members were currently receiving training on the use of a speed device and that once trained in its use then speed checks would form a part of the Team's regular duties.

Cllr McManus complained about the itinerant drinkers who were to be found at the Bus
HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE HIGH STREET HAVERHILL SUFFOLK CB9 8AR

TELEPHONE: **01440 712858** FAX: **01440 718931**

EMAIL: **admin@towncouncil.haverhill-uk.com** WEB: **www.haverhill-uk.com/towncouncil**

Station. Inspector Dawson reported that some had been served with ASBO's prohibiting them to be drunk in a public place and that the Police, together with the other relevant authorities, were looking into supporting the group to cure their addiction and return to normal society.

Cllr Byrne asked whether once burgled, houses were more likely to be burgled again. Inspector Dawson advised that all victims of a crime such as burglary would receive a visit and be given crime prevention advice in order to reduce the risk of another burglary. However if the victim had a habit, which they continued, of (say) leaving the downstairs kitchen fanlight open, and the previous burglar's modus operandi was to enter via fanlights, then a second burglary was more likely.

Cllr Byrne asked regarding response times. Inspector Dawson advised that telephone calls were categorised by the Force Operations Room; someone being attacked would be responded to immediately whereas someone in the morning reporting damage to their car during the night would not receive an immediate visit.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A member of the public complained to Inspector Dawson of having to hold on for a long time on a non-emergency call made to the Force Operations Room.

The meeting was resumed after the Public Forum

6. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 15th May 2007.

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 15th May 2007.

Community First Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Community First Committee meeting held 15th May 2007.

Arts & Leisure Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Arts & Leisure Committee meeting held 15th May 2007.

Personnel Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held 15th May 2007.

Appeals Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Appeals Committee meeting held 15th May 2007.

7. To Receive The Internal Auditor's Notes on the 2006/2007 Accounts

The Council noted the comments of the Internal Auditor on the accounts for 2006/2007. The Town Clerk reported that the issues raised would be addressed in reports to future Committee meetings.

8. **To Agree the 2006/2007 Accounts, Agree the Statement of Internal Control, and Sign Off The External Audit Form for the 2006/2007 Accounts (attached)**
The Council agreed the accounts, the Statement of Internal Control and the External Audit Form for the accounts for 2006/2007.
9. **Haverhill Area Working Party**
The Council nominated Cllr Martin as its non-voting representative to attend meetings of St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Area Working Party.
10. **St Edmundsbury Borough Council Standards Committee**
The Council nominated Cllr Marks as a representative to St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Standards Committee.
11. **Suffolk County Council School Reorganisation Review – Local Stakeholder Forum**
Cllr Samuels declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room.
The Council nominated Cllr Elaine McManus to be its representative on the Forum.
12. **Criminal Record Bureau Checks of Councillors**
The Council agreed to confirm the existing policy that all Councillors be subject to CRB checks.
13. **To Agree To Hold Councillor Surgeries**
Cllr Byrne reported that the Labour Group intended to continue with their monthly surgeries. The Council unanimously agreed to hold monthly Town Councillor Surgeries in the Arts Centre, on Saturdays from 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon, two weeks after the Labour Group Surgeries, for a trial period of 12 months.
14. **To Agree To Investigate Floodlighting St Mary's Church**
The Council agreed to investigate the floodlighting of St Mary's Church.
15. **To Agree To Investigate Enhancing West Town Park**
The Council agreed to investigate enhancing West Town Park.
16. **To Agree To Applying For Quality Town Council Status**
The Council agreed to apply for Quality Town Council status.
17. **Freedom of Information Request**
The Council noted the receipt a formal request for information.
18. **Building Communities Fund**
The Council agreed to recommend to the Trustee of the Town Hall Charity that the Trustee apply for funding under this scheme.
19. **Award of Honorary Citizenship of the Town**
The Council agreed to the award of Honorary Citizenship of the Town to World War II Veterans, to be commemorated with the presentation of a scroll at a light tea after the Remembrance Day celebrations 2007. The costs of this to be funded from reserves and to be actioned under the powers of the Local Government Act 1972 s137. The Council agreed to form a small Working Party comprising Cllrs Ager, Byrne and Paul McManus to consider proposals for its award to other worthy individuals or groups.

20. Robes for Deputy Mayor

The Council agreed to investigate acquiring robes for the Deputy Mayor at a cost not to exceed £250.

21. Shopmobility

The Council confirmed its contribution to the annual running costs of the scheme as £2,000 rising annually by inflation until June 2010 when the scheme running costs would be subject to review.

22. Representation by Mayor at Town Twinning Events

The Council agreed that the Mayoral Allowance be increased by £250 in 2008/9, rising annually with inflation, with the expectation that the Mayor provides for the cost of attending the Town Twinning exchange, and purchase of gift from the town, from this sum.

23. Date of 2008 Annual General Meeting

The Council agreed to vary Standing Orders so that the Annual General Meeting is held on Tuesday 6th May 2008.

24. To Amend Standing Orders

The Council agreed to amend Standing Orders by the addition of the words "he/she may remain to speak on the matter" between "prejudicial" and "but" in Standing Order 60, and the addition of "or its Committees" between "Council" and "the Chair" in Standing Order 71 to reflect the adoption of Clause 12.2 in the Model Code of Conduct for Town and Parish Councils.

25. Correspondence

- a) Application for Inclusion in the Suffolk PCT Pharmaceutical List – Bookachemist Recruitment Ltd
The Council agreed to oppose the application by Bookachemist Recruitment Ltd to open a pharmacy in Camps Road.
- b) St. Edmundsbury Borough Council -North West Haverhill Draft Concept Statement
The Council noted the receipt of the Draft Concept statement and its contents.

26. To authorise payments.

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
17.04.07	002984 - 003011	£28,942.01
17.04.07	003012 – 003024	£13,392.61
24.04.07	003025 – 003049	£17,134.47
01.05.07	003050 – 003084	£524,922.81
08.05.07	003085 – 003090	£1,658.48
22.05.07	003091 – 003128	£15,622.18
29.05.07	003129 – 003136	£1,980.41
07.06.07	003137 – 003155	£1,820.66
12.06.07	003156 - 003168	£8,214.85

27. To receive urgent correspondence

There were no items of urgent correspondence.

28. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.15 p.m.