

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Chair – Deputy Mayor: Les Ager
Town Councillors: M Byrne, P Hanlon, P McManus,
M Marks, S Martin, G Price,
K Richardson, A Samuels, and
A Thomas

Also present: Twenty-seven members of the public

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Anderson, Carr, E McManus and Trebble.
2. **To Formally Approve the Absence of Councillor Trebble**
The Council formally approved the continued absence of Councillor Trebble until the end of May 2008 due to his recent illness.
3. **Declaration of Interests**
No Members declared any interests on items on the agenda.
4. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 25th June 2007**
The Council agreed the minutes of the meeting held 25th June 2007 as a true record.
5. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the Minutes not covered by this agenda**
Cllr Byrne stated that she had been appalled by the recent letter in the Haverhill Echo attacking the Town Clerk on a personal basis and asked that Council authorise her, together with Cllr. Elaine McManus, to write a letter of response. The Council unanimously agreed to this action.
6. **Inspector Adrian Dawson, Suffolk Police**
The Clerk reported that Inspector Dawson was unable to be present, and that he had prepared a written report, which was circulated to Members. The Council noted the success achieved in reducing the levels of crime in key areas. Cllr Marks asked that the Safer Neighbourhood Team looking into anti-social behaviour in the Newt Pond area could extent their brief to review dog fouling on the Rugby Pitch.

Cllr Byrne asked that her concerns regarding closure of the front desk at the Police Station after 6.00 p.m. be conveyed to Inspector Dawson.

7. Carole Taylor-Brown, Chief Executive Suffolk NHS Primary Care Trust

The Deputy Mayor welcomed Carole Taylor-Browne, Chief Executive of Suffolk NHS PCT. After introducing the role of the PCT Carole Taylor-Browne explained that there was no overall reduction in funding, merely that, in consultation with, and with the agreement of, GP's, a new County-wide funding formula was being introduced. This funding formula, one of a number of nationally agreed and clinically-supported formulas, would replace the existing historically negotiated (and sometimes unsupported by clinical evidence) contracts. In Haverhill the three surgeries had received the 4th, 8th, and 12th highest per capita funding in Suffolk under the old arrangements, and their per capita funding was being reduced from £93, £87, and £84 to £81 per capita. Any reductions were being phased in over a five-year period and unlike previous contracts and funding there would be annual inflation. The PCT were seeking to support surgeries through the process of change by identifying those performance targets which, if met, could provide additional funding to the surgery. In addition to equalising the funding provision the new contracts guaranteed additional opening hours and additional in-surgery services. The PCT was holding meetings with the three Haverhill surgeries and double-checking the data submitted by the surgeries to ensure its accuracy. The PCT were willing to financially support any special cases where these could be supported by clear clinical evidence.

Cllr Byrne indicated that as in most businesses, a reduction in income would result in loss of staff. Cllr Thomas reminded the PCT that Haverhill is a growing town.

The PCT indicated that every new patient registered attracted additional funding and it was expected that a financial contribution towards the health infrastructure in the town would come via a funding agreement linked to the expansion of North West Haverhill.

Cllr Marks expressed a concern that reduction in funding, and thus Doctors, might lead to a reduction in services, and the PCT responded that they were seeking to work with practices to find efficiency savings and to help them maximise their earnings.

In response to a request from the Deputy Mayor Carole Taylor-Brown indicated a willingness to hold a public meeting in Haverhill under an independent Chairperson.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A representative of one of the Haverhill surgeries stated that the practice was already losing Doctors and that they could not be expected to manage on further reductions in funding; any reduction in funding and Doctors would lead to an increase in attenders at Accident and Emergency Clinics.

Carole Taylor-Brown and her colleagues reiterated that the funding formula had been selected and agreed by GP's. In addition, despite the Haverhill practices achieving the aim of offering patients appointments within 48 hours, Haverhill had a significantly higher number of attenders at Accident and Emergency Clinics than any other town in Suffolk. A member of the public stated that perhaps this reflected the health of the Haverhill residents, and thus funding should be maintained.

A member of the public, in response to the Police Inspector's report asked if the Council could obtain information on the level of violent crimes.

The meeting was resumed after the Public Forum

8. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 7th August and 11th September 2007.

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 31st July 2007.

Community First Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Community First Committee meeting held 24th July 2007.

Arts & Leisure Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Arts & Leisure Committee meetings held 10th July and 11th September 2007.

9. **Date of December Planning Committee meeting**

The Council agreed to change the published date of the meeting to Tuesday 4th December 2007.

10. **Traffic Speeds – Chivers Road**

The Council agreed that the Clerk should obtain further information from Suffolk County Council about the extent of the problem of speeding in Chivers Road, and what additional measures might be appropriate to reduce vehicle speeds.

11. **Community Centres**

The Council agreed to enter into negotiations with the Borough Council and that a further report be presented to this Council on the proposals arising from those negotiations.

12. **Post Office Closure**

The Council agreed that the Clerk should write forthwith to the Secretary of State regarding the impact of Post Office closures on local communities and book meeting rooms within the consultation period in the event that a public meeting regarding any planned closures could be held.

13. **Correspondence**

a. Suffolk County Council – The Suffolk Materials Manual

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the recently-published Manual which indicated how materials on the road and footway were best used, and standards of quality and design. The Manual could be downloaded from the internet (<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/07F0CAA-FFFE-4087-A7C2-09CBE33B4CA2/0/MaterialsManual2007.pdf>)

b. Shaping Health – Patient & Public Involvement Forum Member Recruitment

The Clerk drew Members' attention to the opportunities to become a member of a Patient & Public Forum.

c. Suffolk County Council – Review of Suffolk County Council's Accommodation for Older People

The Town Clerk asked that any responses to the consultation be copied to him.

14. **To authorise payments.**

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
12.06.07	003169 (Replacement cheque)	£250.00
19.06.07	003170 – 003182	£9,502.73
25.06.07	003183 – 003195	£12,011.16
03.07.07	003196 – 003213	£7,172.91

09.07.07	003214 – 003226	£51,144.67
17.07.07	003227 – 003251	£9,336.32
24.07.07	003252 – 003260	£5,197.18
31.07.07	003261 – 003274	£10,549.87
07.08.07	003275 – 003305	£45,339.74
20.08.07	003306 – 003333	£22,924.83
21.08.07	003334 – 003345	£6,241.87
11.09.07	003346 – 003363	£37,952.87

15. **To receive urgent correspondence**
There were no urgent items of correspondence.

16. **Closure**
The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

