



HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday 28th July 2009 at 7.00 pm

In The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: Chair: Town Councillor: E McManus
Town Councillors: S Bowes, M Byrne, L Carr,
P McManus, M Marks and
K Richardson

Also present: Three members of the public

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Burgess, French, Gower, Hanlon, Mrs Mary Martin, Price, and Samuels.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
Cllrs P McManus and Richardson declared an interest in item 9 as Members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr P McManus declared an interest in item 13 as a St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor representative on the Citizens Advice Bureau Board. Cllr Marks declared an interest in item 13 as her husband was a Trustee of the Citizens Advice Bureau. Cllr Richardson declared an interest in item 12 as a member of the board bidding to develop a sixth form in Haverhill. Cllr E McManus declared an interest in item 12 as a Governor of Coupals School.
3. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 23rd June 2009**
The minutes of the meeting held 23rd June 2009 were agreed as a true record.
4. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the Minutes not covered by this agenda**
The Clerk distributed certificates to those Councillors who had completed their training in the use of the Power of Well Being.
5. **Acting Inspector Stuart Sowerby, Suffolk Police**
Inspector Sowerby gave the Town Council an update on policing issues in the town. West Suffolk has been recognised as being the best performing basic command unit of any Police force in the country.
6. **Tina Hanks, Town Centre Manager**
Prior to the start of Tina Hank's presentation the Town Mayor thanked the St Edmundsbury Borough Council Corporate Director with responsibility for Haverhill for his help and support in the past and the Council wished him well in his new appointment. The Town Centre Manager gave an update

Action

on her Work Programme. Cllr Marks stressed the need for a business directory. Cllr Byrne asked about the scale of the Town Centre Manager's budget and was advised it was £15,000.

With the approval of the Council the Mayor indicated that item 12 would be dealt with next.

12. Report on Progress As Regards the School Reorganisation Programme

Joy Stodart, Suffolk County Council, gave a presentation on the progress to date and future developments. Instead of moving up to year 6 in a middle school in 2010, pupils would remain at their present school in year 6. A new school was to be built off Greenfields Way, and Westfields School was likely to relocate closer to Samuel Ward. Other schools would have new classrooms built.

Cllr Byrne felt it was important that, with the likely surplus of redundant school premises, serious consideration be given to establishing a school catering for special needs provision in Haverhill. Cllr Byrne enquired regarding the likely job losses that would occur amongst teaching and support staff as a result of the restructuring. Mrs Stodart advised that some schools had already published their expected staffing structure in two years time and were recruiting to those future positions. Whilst administrative and clerical staff may be more at risk they were priority applicants for all such vacancies across the whole of the County Council services.

Cllr Richardson expressed concerns over the large number of temporary teachers in some schools, but Mrs Stodart advised that there were no more vacancies than usual at this time.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

No members of the public wished to speak.

The meeting was reconvened

7. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Town Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 7th July 2009.

Arts & Leisure Committee

The Town Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Arts & Leisure Committee meeting held 7th July 2009.

Community First Committee

The Town Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Community First Committee meeting held 14th July 2009.

Personnel Committee

The Town Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held 14th July 2009.

Finance Committee

The Town Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 21st July 2009.

8. **Report from the Town Council Representative on the Standards Committee**

Cllr Marks gave an update on the work of the Standards Committee.

9. **Report from the Town Council Representative on the Haverhill Area Working Party**

Cllr E McManus gave a presentation on the recent Haverhill Area Working Party meeting.

10. **Report from the Town Council Representative on the Haverhill Partnership Executive**

Cllr P McManus gave a report on the recent meeting of the Haverhill Partnership Executive.

11. **Bus Service from Great Yeldham**

The Council considered the request for potential future subsidy by way of discounts at the Arts Centre and agreed that any subsidy should come from the town's business community.

With the approval of the Council the Mayor indicated that item 13 would be dealt with in the private session and that item 14 would be dealt with next.

14. **Update on the Project to Provide a Changing Place Facility near the Library**

The Town Clerk gave an update on this project and the varying quotations and estimates received.

15. **To Note Progress and Agree Action on Issues Arising from Open-Air Meetings**

The Council noted the action taken to date and the progress towards resolving the issues raised. The Town Clerk was asked to include in the draft budget for 2010/11 sums for speed reduction measures in Queensway, a multi-use games area on the Clements estate, and to produce a further report on how the open-air meetings could run in 2010.

16. **Correspondence**

- a) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Empty Homes Strategy
The Council agreed that no comment was necessary on the Strategy.
- b) Suffolk County Council – Proposed Surface Improvements, Bridleway 11 (previously circulated)
The Council noted the proposals and agreed some measures needed to be introduced to prevent Quakers Lane being used by motor vehicles throughout its length.
- c) Suffolk County Council – Schedule of Future Minor Traffic Works
The Clerk asked Members to submit ideas in order that he could compile a schedule for inclusion in future funding programmes.
- d) Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project – Draft Management Plan 2009-14
The Council noted receipt of the document.

Town Clerk to include provisions in 2010/11 budget. Town Clerk to produce report on open-air meetings in 2010.

- e) Summer Fun Playscheme – Request for Trustees
The Council noted the request for Trustees. Cllr Hanlon's name was put forward as a possible Trustee.

17. To authorise payments.

The Council authorises the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
16.06.09	004918 – 004940	£15,253.25
24.06.09	004941 – 004960	£13,290.92
07.07.09	004961 – 004986	£6,581.91
14.07.09	004987 – 005010	£47,116.51

18. To receive urgent correspondence

There were no urgent items of correspondence.

Cllr Marks proposed and Cllr Richardson seconded, all being favour that, in accord with the Provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

13. To Consider the Possible Grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau

The Council considered, in the light of information received from the Citizens Advice Bureau, the size of the grant and conditions to be placed upon the grant, and agreed not to award any grant at this time. The Town Clerk was asked to compile, for the next meeting, ideas for other organisations or activities that needed funding to support the residents who were suffering hardship at this time.

**Town Clerk
to compile
report for
next
meeting**

19. Bevan House

The Council received a confidential report setting out possible potential for Bevan House and agreed that a further report outlining all options for Bevan House be produced.

**Town Clerk
to produce
further
report**

20. To Note the SALC Advice Regarding Grading of Town Clerk

The Council noted the SALC advice, but deferred a decision until more information was available.

21. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.