

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 18th January 2011 at 7.00 pm
In The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: L Ager**
 Town Councillors: L Burgess, M Byrne,
 P French, P Hanlon, M Marks,
 Mrs Mary Martin, G Price,
 A Samuels, Mrs A Snape and
 C Turner (except items 1-4)

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Carr, Gower, E McManus, P McManus and Richardson. In the absence of Cllr E McManus, the Town Mayor, Cllr Ager took the Chair.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
Cllr French declared an interest in item 5 as a Member of Suffolk County Council. No other Members declared any interests they may have on items on the agenda.
3. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 4th January 2011**
The minutes of the meeting held 4th January 2011 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 to discuss.
5. **The Future of Homes for Older People**
The Council heard reports from those Councillors who had attended the public meeting held in Ipswich, where it had been indicated that, despite some care homes being named for closure, that list may not be the final list. The meeting had heard that the County Council was unable to confirm the future status of Place Court, which Town Council Members acknowledged as an exemplar of good practice locally. There was disquiet amongst Members regarding any proposals to transfer the management of Place Court to the private sector, and it agreed that the Town Council's response to the consultation should reflect this Council's wishes to retain the management of Place Court, in particular, within the County Council.

Action

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

There being no questions the meeting was resumed

6. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 12th October, 2nd November 2010 and 14th December.

Arts & Leisure Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Art & Leisure Committee meetings held 12th October and 9th November 2010.

Personnel Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held 9th November 2010.

Community First Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Community First Committee meeting held 16th November 2010.

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 14th December 2010.

The Deputy Mayor advised he would vary the order of business to deal with item 9, then 8 and then 7.

9. For Members to Note the Initial Response to the Arts Centre Grant Negotiations and Agree Any Changes to the Grant Request

Members noted the initial response to the Arts Centre Grant negotiations and agreed that the existing grant request remain as tabled. Members noted that no decision on amount of grant funding available overall, nor on allocation criteria, would be taken by St Edmundsbury Borough Council until after the May 2011 elections, and that as things stood, there was no confirmed grant funding for the Arts Centre beyond 31st March 2012.

8. For Members to be Briefed on, and Understand the Implications of, the introduction of Referendums on Excessive Council Tax Increases from 1st April 2012

The Town Clerk briefed Members on the implications of, the introduction of referendums on excessive council tax increases from 1st April 2012, particularly in the light of the decision by St Edmundsbury Borough Council not to agree the Arts Centre grant funding for 2012/13 at this time. Cllr Byrne was keen to avoid staff redundancies, and other Members were keen to retain the Arts Centre as a place of entertainment. Members were presented with three options as regard future funding, and levels of Council Tax, and felt that an increase in 2011/12 would be the option that could guarantee the Arts Centre's survival. Members were advised that on this basis therefore a draft budget would be available at the meeting on 1st February.

7. **Selection of Potential Savings Areas**
Members asked the Town Clerk to prepare a schedule of potential areas for investigation as to future savings, or income generation, for the next meeting.
10. **External Audit (attached)**
The Council noted the completion of the External Audit, and the lack of comments of the External Auditor, and noted that no further action was required.
11. **Divestment Opportunities**
The Council confirmed an interest in any future divestment opportunities in respect of the Youth Service and the Library.
12. **To Respond to Consultation on the Local Councils Practitioners Guide**
The Council noted that the response date for the consultation had passed.
13. **To Note Changes to the Library Service and Agree Any Necessary Action**
The Clerk advised that the announcements regarding the Library Service had only been made this morning and that this would be an item on the agenda for 1st February.

14. **To authorise payments.**
The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
14.09.10	6178-6188	2,345.34
14.09.10	6189	34,018.46
21.09.10	6190-6209	9,538.80
28.09.10	6210-6234	25,333.05
28.09.10	6235	400.00
5.10.10	6236-6256	6,018.46
12.10.10	6257-6277	17,915.11
19.10.10	6278	34,959.02
19.10.10	6279-6293	19,052.35
19.10.10	6294	400.00
26.10.10	6295-6326	11,960.89
26.10.10	6327-6328	202.35
9.11.10	6329-6339	9,597.23
9.11.10	6340	34,739.51
16.11.10	6341-6375	84,174.85
16.11.10	6376-6378	271.90
23.11.10	6379-6400	29,264.58
30.11.10	6401	213.00
30.11.10	6402-6419	9,735.11
7.12.10	6420	200.00
7.12.10	6421-6442	17,324.76

15. **To receive urgent correspondence**
Cllr French commented that the Town Council staff were to be

complimented on their support they had given towards the recent Round Table Pensioners' Meal.

Cllr Byrne asked if the public could be made aware that the recent application for development of the Project Office site was contrary to existing planning policy, and that the developers were aware of this prior to making their application.

16. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.12 p.m.