

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 1st February 2011 at 7.00 pm
In The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Carr, Price, Samuels and Richardson.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
Cllrs French and Gower declared an interest in items 5 and 10 as Members 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 18th January 2011**
The minutes of the meeting held 18th 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. **Mike Motteram, Suffolk County Council re School Crossing Patrols**
The Council received a presentation on the future of the patrols. The employees were in the 90-day consultation period and a final decision on their future would be made at Suffolk County Full Council on 17th February. The costs of the patrols in Haverhill were £3,960 (Burton End) and £3,532 (Wratting Road) per annum. A replacement light controlled crossing would cost in excess of £40,000 at each location. A safety audit had just been undertaken at each site and the Town Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the audit. Mr Motteram was asked to advise the Council, in time for its meeting on 22nd February, whether funding the patrols was an option.
6. **Inspector Chris Galley, Suffolk Police**
Inspector Galley advised that crime levels continued to fall year on year and that Suffolk was now recognised as the 8th best County for public

Action

Town Clerk to obtain copy of safety audits.

confidence in the Police in addressing anti-social and related incidents. The Inspector advised that the next public Policing Tasking meeting would be held at Tesco's at 7.00 p.m. on 8th March. On-going issues in Haverhill were around anti-social behaviour at Strasbourg Square and Leiston Road.

The Inspector advised that the "Bin a Blade" campaign was running across Suffolk and a bin to dispose of knives was in the Police Station. Locally the biggest increase in crime was shop-lifting; some of this may be due to shops themselves increasing their detection methods.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A member of the public asked the Council to check the times and dates of the school crossing patrol audits to ensure there were representative.

Another member of the public felt it unfair that cuts being made by Suffolk County Council were leading to an increase in the Town Council Council Tax.

A member of the public, referring to the review of risks, felt that training should be compulsory for all Councillors.

A member of the public urged Members to do all they could to retain Place Court as a County Council-run facility.

There being no further questions the meeting was resumed

7. **Appointment of Town Clerk**

The Council ratified the decision of the Town Clerk appointment panel to appoint Paul Little as Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer with effect from 11th April 2011.

8. **For Members to be Briefed on, and Understand the Implications of, the Localism Bill**

The Town Clerk briefed Members on the implications of the Localism Bill, which would become law towards the end of 2011.

9. **Budgets 2011/2012**

It was agreed to defer consideration of this item until after a presentation by Alex Wilson, Deputy Chief Executive, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, supported by an appropriate Borough Councillor, at the next meeting on 8th February.

10. **To Note Changes to the Library Service and Agree Any Necessary Action**

The Council noted changes to the Library Service and reaffirmed its expression of interest.

11. **Review of Audit Arrangements**

The Council reviewed the arrangements for internal audit and agreed no changes were required.

12. **Review of Risks**

The Council reviewed the Council's major risks and agreed no further measures were necessary.

13. **Meeting Dates 2012/2013**

Subject to the correction of the dates for June, the Council agreed the meeting dates for Council year 2012/2013.

14. **To Agree the Dates and Formats for 2011 Open-Air Meetings**

The Council approved these as weeks commencing 11th and 25th July.

15. **To Note The Current Financial Situation of the Council**

The Council noted the current financial situation.

16. **To authorise payments.**

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
21.12.10	6473-6492	£7844.93
21.12.10	6493	£189.68
11.01.11	6494-6518	£11,324.89
11.01.11	6519-6520	34,152.59
18.01.11	6521-6534	£11,613.69

17. **Correspondence**

- a) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Street Vending Permit, Peas Hill and section of High Street
The Council had no objection to this application
- b) Days Inn – Financial Contribution to Tourist Information Signage
The Council agreed to contribute towards the costs of signage from the bypass and from the Town
- c) Haverhill & District Flower Club – Flower Festival 2013
The Council asked that the Flower Club be invited to give a presentation to a future meeting of the Council

18. **To receive urgent correspondence**

There were no urgent items of correspondence to consider.

19. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 8.56 p.m.