

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 4th October 2011 at 7.00 pm

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



**HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL**

Present: Chair: Town Councillor: M Byrne
Town Councillors: L Ager, R André, G Brandjes,
L Carr, P French, E Goody,
R Green, P Hanlon, B Hawes,
D Russo, G Stroud, and J Stroud

Also present: Thirty one members of the public

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Diana Andre, Samuels and Turner.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
No Members declared any interests they may have on items on the agenda.
3. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 26th July 2011**
The minutes of the meeting held 26th July 2011 were signed 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.
5. **To Formally Present Elaine McManus with her Past Mayor's Badge in Recognition of her service to the Town**
The Mayor presented Elaine McManus with her Past Mayor's badge in recognition of her service to the town, and commented on the hard work and long hours she had contributed as Mayor. A cheque for £953.00 made payable to St Nicholas Hospice was handed to Elaine as monies raised by the Mayor's Charity during her term of office.
6. **P.C. Will Wright, Suffolk Police**
For operational reasons Inspector Ferrie was unable to attend, but P.C. Wright outlined the three key priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

With the agreement of the Council the Mayor brought item 9 forward in the agenda.

9. **To Receive a Presentation on Streetwatch and a Request for Start-Up Funding for Additional Schemes in Haverhill (£500 per Scheme)**

The Council received a presentation on Streetwatch and a request for start-up funding for two additional schemes in Haverhill (£500 per scheme). During the course of the debate Cllr French advised that he would grant £500 to the cost of one scheme from his locality budget. P.C. Wright indicated that two of the three County Councillors had now contributed, and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the third County Councillor, asking that they consider doing so, and that no further decision regarding funding from the Town Council be made until the result of that appeal was known.

Town Clerk to write to County Councillor Gower

7. **To Receive a Presentation on the Future Development of Hamlet Croft**

The Council received a presentation by Mark Fox of Consense on the future development of Hamlet Croft.

With the approval of the Council the Mayor asked those members of the public present to advise the Council of their concerns. A number of residents spoke. Chief amongst their concerns were the impact on traffic in Hamlet Road, increased use of Croft Lane, potential issues with surface water and foul drainage, wildlife habitat, and loss of amenity land. The Mayor asked the residents to express their issues in writing to the Town Clerk so they could be considered when the formal planning application was received, adding that some of their concerns would be addressed by supporting documents to the application.

7. The Mayor thanked Mr Fox for the presentation.

8. **Presentation by Simon Brown, So Active**

The Town Clerk reported that Mr Brown was suggesting that he attend the November meeting of the Town Council to provide an update and progress report on the work of the Community Interest Company, So Active. The Council reluctantly agreed to this postponement.

Town Clerk to invite Simon Brown to November meeting

10. **To Receive an Update on the Campaign and Petition to Retain Place Court in County Council Management**

The Town Clerk reported on his presentation of the petition to retain Place Court in County Council management to Suffolk County Council. The Council agreed to continue to press the County Council for a public meeting in the town so that residents could express their concerns to County Councillors.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

There being no questions the meeting was resumed

11. **Adoption of Committee Reports**

Arts & Leisure Committee

To move the adoption of the minutes of the Arts & Leisure Committee meeting held 13th September 2011.

Planning Committee

To move the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 2nd August and 6th September 2011.

Personnel Committee

To move the adoption of the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held 13th September 2011.

Community First Committee

To move the adoption of the minutes of the Community First Committee meeting held 20th September 2011.

Finance Committee

To move the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 20th September 2011.

12. To Agree the Council's Strategies for the period 2011-15

To agree the Council's strategies for the period 2011-15 as:-

1. To promote the formation of a Youth Town Council to give young residents a voice and to encourage them to participate in activities and their organisation.
2. To actively campaign to keep Place Court as a public service provider of care.
3. To press Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service to resume 24/7 cover at Haverhill Fire Station, and to work with the Safer Neighbourhood Team to maintain the existing level of Policing.
4. To work with all authorities to ensure Haverhill will provide a service centre for the Town and surrounding communities in the provision of local services.
5. To protect existing provision for school transport for all Haverhill students, to explore alternative funding for provision which is not preserved and to ensure that transport provision does not undermine sixth form provision within Haverhill.
6. To work with the planning authority and potential developers to promote new businesses setting up in Haverhill with due regard to preserving and improving the thriving town centre shopping facilities.
7. To pursue options to purchase property in the High Street to encourage new business and invest income derived in Haverhill development.
8. To actively promote the Town Centre with a focus on attracting new businesses to the Town Centre and retaining existing providers.
9. To pursue an active role in promoting the development of the Gurteen site to provide a mix of business units, cultural facilities and residential units whilst providing for the retention of the steam engine.
10. To support local organisations who promote the Town through their activities or support the social wellbeing of the Town community.

13. To Review and Adopt a Revised Safeguarding Policy (attached)

The Council reviewed and agreed to adopt a revised Safeguarding Policy.

14. To Note the Completion of the Annual External Audit and Receive and Adopt the Auditor's Comments

The Council noted the completion of the Annual External Audit and received the Auditor's comments. The Town Clerk advised that he had written to the External Auditor with a copy of the Council's review of

Internal Audit arrangements, and that future minutes regarding approval of the Annual Return would document the response to each and every part of Page 2. The Town Clerk also advised that a new Asset Register, in the format proposed by the Auditor, was being prepared.

15. To Consider How to Raise the Profile of Councillor Surgeries

The Council considered how to raise the profile of Councillor surgeries, and agreed that future Surgeries would be held more locally to residents, and that an A-frame advertising the Surgeries would be purchased.

Town Clerk to book rooms for future surgeries

16. To Receive a Report from the Council's Representatives on the One Haverhill Board

The Council received a report from the Council's representatives on the One Haverhill Board. It was agreed that there was still confusion about the role of One Haverhill, particularly amongst other Members.

17. To Respond to the Consultation on Localising Support for Council Tax in England

The Council noted the consultation on Localising Support for Council Tax in England, and agreed comments would be made by individual Councillors.

18. To Respond to Proposals to Change Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries

The Council were advised by Cllr R André that the figures used in the calculations seemed to differ by 4% from known electorates. It was agreed the Town Clerk would query the calculations.

Town Clerk to query source of data

19. To authorise payments.

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
12.7.11	7014	£200.00
19.7.11	7015-7041	£12,856.52
26.7.11	7042-7058	£4,988.00
02.8.11	7059-7083	£20,166.15
02.8.11	7084-7086	£2,808.00
09.8.11	7087-7099	£3,451.60
10.8.11	7100-7101	£3,327.98
16.8.11	7102-7118	£44,056.67
16.8.11	7119-7120	£32,135.74
24.8.11	7121-7122	£1,885.00
24.8.11	7123-7146	£23,514.50
31.8.11	7147-7172	£5,100.40
13.9.11	7173	£35,462.86
13.9.11	7174-7179	£2,209.12
20.9.11	7180-7207	£17,586.03

20. Correspondence

- a) SALC – AGM, 7th November
No Members indicated they wished to attend.
- b) SALC – Consultation on New Constitution
There were no additional comments on the proposed

- Constitution.
- c) Local Government Group – Police and Crime Commissioners
(A Guide for Councils)
The Council noted receipt of the document.
 - d) CPRE/NALC – An 8-step Guide to Responding to Planning
Applications
The Council noted receipt of the document.

21. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.30 p.m.