HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

<u>Tuesday 3rd April 2012 at 7.01pm in The Studio, Town Hall, High</u> Street, Haverhill

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Chair: Town Councillor: M Byrne

Town Councillors: D André, R André, L Carr,

T Cook, P French (from 7.20pm,

Public Forum), E Goody,

R Green, P Hanlon, A Samuels,

G Stroud, and J Stroud

Also present: Ten members of the public

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Ager, Hawes, Russo and Turner.

2. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Byrne declared an interest in items on the agenda relating to St Edmundsbury Borough Council as a member of that Council. Councillors Hanlon, Goody, R Andre and Samuels declared an interest in item 6 as ward councillors for Haverhill East ward.

To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th March 2012
The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2012 were agreed.

4. <u>To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda</u>

The Town Clerk updated members on actions taken in respect of Place Court Residential Care Home and Crown Health Centre. A letter to Deborah Cadman had been drafted in respect of Place Court, and would be circulated before sending. A statement had been provided to the Weekly News in respect of Crown Health Centre.

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.10pm for the public forum.

Mr Ian Johnson and four other members of the public spoke regarding the 'Vision 2031' proposals for housing land in North East Haverhill. Concerns were raised in respect of:

- the consultation process undertaken by the landowner. Participants had agreed that
 parkland should be retained, there should be no access road to/from Coupals Road, and
 the tree belt should be retained. All three of these principles appeared to have been
 ignored by the preferred option for the site
- the extent of the proposed development, further than initially envisaged and cutting down on the availability of country walks

ACTION

- alterations to woodland, in particular tree-felling. There are concerns that this is a sign that the proposals are being taken forward before the consultation is complete
- the ability of the land to cope with water run-off from the development
- housing density
- a perceived failure to take account of the views of Haverhill residents
- the impact of additional traffic on Chalkstone Way
- the ability of Coupals Road to cope with additional traffic, given the erosion and collapse that affects it at present

Mr Johnson explained that he had been approached by 160 people to campaign for:

- no urban development in the triangle between the Coupals Road, Calford Green and the Wilsey estate
- no road access onto Coupals Road
- protection of the existing woodland

He asked Town Councillors to support this campaign.

There being no further questions the meeting was resumed at 7.26pm.

5. <u>Consultations on Preferred Options and Sites for Growth - St Edmundsbury Borough Council Local Development Framework</u>

lan Poole, Planning Policy & Specialist Services Manager, St Edmundsbury Borough Council, introduced the Vision 2031 consultation documents and process, and its relationship with the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Answering questions from councillors, he confirmed:

- That the SEBC Core Strategy produced in December 2010 had been reviewed in light of the NPPF, and no significant issues had been identified that would mean a review of the strategy
- That the draft Vision 2031 document refers to the draft NPPF and that the final consultation documents would reflect the final NPPF document
- That the process of developing Vision 2031 is totally open and feedback will be provided on consultation responses
- That the Masterplan and Transport Impact Assessment for NE Haverhill will indicate the final arrangements for roads and housing in the area
- That development beyond the by-pass had been ruled out by the Core Strategy
- That the consultation on Vision 2031 would end on 30th April, a final draft would be available for consultation in about September/October, with submission to the Planning Inspector estimated for January 2013

Councillors commented on the complexity of the consultation process and form. A simpler process was needed to make public engagement more effective.

Cllr Byrne urged members of the public to make individual representations in response to the consultation.

Councillors agreed the draft response to the Vision 2031 consultation, with the addition of a requirement that all new housing in the proposed

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developments should be located in Haverhill for precept purposes.

Councillors agreed that support should be given to the three issues highlighted by Mr Ian Johnson's campaign, namely that there should be:

- no urban development in the triangle between the Coupals Road, Calford Green and the Wilsey estate
- no road access onto Coupals Road
- protection of the existing woodland

Councillors agreed the draft response to the site-specific consultation in respect of the Town Hall/Cleales Car Park area.

TOWN CLERK

6. <u>To authorise payments</u>

The Town Council approved the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque Numbers	Value
20.03.12	007668 – 007686	£ 16,539.34

7. To receive urgent correspondence

The Town Clerk presented a request from Suffolk County Council to consider Town Council funding for a crossing patrol near Place Farm School, at a cost of £3,000 per annum.

Councillors agreed to reply supporting the need for a crossing but declining the request for funding, which should be provided by the County Council as the responsible authority. Councillors further agreed that the reply should stress the need for the crossing patrol to be properly risk assessed, and should ask that alternatives such as a light-controlled crossing are considered.

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Councillor Byrne raised a concern about the suggested use of part of the Recreation Ground for parking, and stressed her opposition to the idea. The Town Clerk reported that he had been advised of restrictions that would preclude such a use.

8. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.