

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 15th May 2012 at 7.30pm in The Main Hall, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: M Byrne**
 Town Councillors: L Ager, D André, R André,
 L Carr, P French, E Goody
 (until 7.41pm, agenda item 6),
 P Hanlon, B Hawes, D Russo,
 A Samuels, G Stroud, J Stroud
 and C Turner

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

MINUTES

ACTION

1. **Election of Town Mayor**

Cllr Hanlon was elected as Town Mayor, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and assumed the Chair.

2. **Address by Outgoing Mayor**

Cllr Byrne gave a short address, as she had previously offered a full report to the Annual Town meeting. Despite not being a willing Mayor at the outset, her view of the role had changed during her term of office. The Mayor is essential in getting Haverhill represented and promoted elsewhere.

Cllr Byrne had found that the Town Council is envied by others, with its strong financial position, its provision for residents, and the collective approach of Town Councillors.

She had enjoyed her work with children, and expressed particular pride in the efforts and success of the town's two secondary schools. She urged councillors to continue to support education in Haverhill.

She highlighted the need to ensure that the future of the town centre remains high on the Council's agenda. Even though the number of shops closing had been lower than in other similar towns, she was saddened by the impact of this on the town.

Cllr Byrne reflected on a very good year as Town Mayor. It had been hard work and a great responsibility but had enjoyed it and hoped others appreciated her efforts. She thanked colleagues for her appointment and wished the new Town Mayor all the best for his term office.

3. **Vote of Thanks**

Cllr Hanlon proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Town Mayor, Cllr

Byrne, highlighting her very hard work for Haverhill. Her achievements were of particular note given her illness.

Cllr Hawes congratulated Cllr Byrne on setting the bar for the mayoral role very high during her term of office, and thanked her for the job she had done. Cllr Hawes wished Cllr Hanlon well in the role, which he deserved.

Town Councillors agreed the vote of thanks and a medal was presented to Cllr Byrne in recognition of her term of office.

4. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Cook.

5. **Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Hanlon declared an interest in item 9 on the agenda, the Mayor's Allowance, as the Town Mayor.

6. **Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr R André was elected as Deputy Town Mayor, and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. **Vote of Thanks**

Cllr Byrne proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Hanlon. She described him as a reliable colleague and friend who always takes the trouble to help others. Haverhill residents could rely on him to get the job done. He had deputised well for the Mayor and shared the load of the role. He had been as far away as Felixstowe in carrying out his duties. Cllr Byrne thanked him for a contribution of the highest calibre.

Town Councillors agreed the vote of thanks.

8. **Council's Expression of Appreciation for the Outgoing Town Clerk**

Cllr Byrne offered thanks to the outgoing Town Clerk, Gordon Mussett, for his service to the Town Council. She reflected on his efforts to improve the community focus of the Council, with the important introduction of the Community First Committee, the outdoor events, activities and meetings, and improvements to the public realm.

Cllr Byrne reminded the meeting of Gordon's role in saving Haverhill Arts Centre from closure, and in the development and professionalisation of the Town Council. She also congratulated him on the marvellous programme of events now organised by the Town Council and the Arts Centre.

Cllr Byrne also highlighted Gordon's professional and technical skills as a clerk, and his recent and prestigious achievement in leading a successful bid to pilot Neighbourhood Community Budgeting in Haverhill, the only successful Town Council-led application.

Cllr Byrne remarked that despite Gordon's achievements as clerk, he had still 'mucked in' when necessary in the day-to-day operation of the Town Council.

Cllr Byrne thanked Gordon for his outstanding service to the Town Council, and for his significant achievements for Haverhill. She wished him a very long and very happy retirement.

Cllr Byrne then proposed that the Honorary Freedom of the Town of Haverhill be conferred on Gordon Mussett for his services to the Town Council. This was agreed unanimously by Town Councillors, and a certificate and medal were awarded.

9. **Mayor's Allowance**

The Council agreed the payment of the Mayor's Allowance of £1,700 in accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

10. **Outside Representatives**

The Council appointed Councillors R Andre and Goody to represent the Town Council on the ONE Haverhill Board, and delegated authority to Committees to make appointments of representatives to other outside bodies.

11. **Town Council Committees**

The Council confirmed the allocation of Committee seats (attached).

12. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 24th April 2012**

Subject to the inclusion of Cllr Ager as an attendee, the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2012 were agreed.

13. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**

There were no urgent matters to discuss.

14. **To confirm the Clerk's re-appointment as Responsible Financial Officer.**

The Council confirmed the appointment of the Town Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

15. **To confirm the appointment of Heelis & Lodge as Independent Internal Auditor**

The Council confirmed the appointment of Heelis and Lodge as the Council's Independent Internal Auditor.

16. **To Resolve Not to Adjourn for a Public Forum**

In view of the fact that the meeting had been preceded by the Town Meeting the Council agreed that no Public Forum be held tonight.

17. **Adoption of Committee Reports**

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 1st May 2012.

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 24th April 2012.

18. **To authorise urgent payments.**

There were no payments requiring urgent authorisation.

19. To receive urgent correspondence

The Town Clerk summarised a letter from the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council regarding the outsourcing of the management of Place Court Residential Care Home, in response to the Town Council's letter of 24th April 2012. The letter disputed the assertions made by the Town Council in respect of the decision, the risks and the process of outsourcing.

Cllr Byrne expressed her disappointment with the response, and by the County Council's refusal to address the town and the Town Council, despite one quarter of the town's residents expressing their opposition in the form of a petition. This level of opposition was deserving of more respect and dignity. Residents at the home and their families, along with staff, fear that the home will be closed.

20. Matters of Report

Cllr Byrne offered her thanks to Vicky Ward, Assistant to the Town Clerk, for her help and support during her time as Town Mayor.

8. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.14pm.

Committee Membership as Agreed at Full Council 15th May 2012

(Agenda Item 11)

Leisure & Community

Les Ager

Maureen Byrne – Vice-Chair

Lisa Carr

Ernie Goody

Pat Hanlon

Bryan Hawes

David Russo

Gary Stroud – Chair

Finance

Les Ager

Roger André

Maureen Byrne – Chair

Lisa Carr

Pat Hanlon

Brian Hawes

Gary Stroud – Vice-Chair

Clive Turner

Personnel

Roger André – Vice-Chair

Maureen Byrne – Chair

Phillip French

Ann Samuels

Clive Turner

Planning

Roger André

Tim Cook

Phillip French

Ernie Goody – Vice-Chair

Pat Hanlon – Chair

Julie Stroud

Gary Stroud

Clive Turner

Appeals

Lisa Carr

Brian Hawes – Chair

Julie Stroud

David Russo – Vice-Chair

Vacancy (formerly David Fowle)