

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 26th June 2012 at 7.00pm in The Studio, Town Hall,
High Street, Haverhill**



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: P Hanlon**
 Town Councillors: R André, (from item 3),
 M Byrne, P French, E Goody,
 B Hawes,
 B McLatchy (from item 2),
 D Russo, A Samuels, G Stroud
 and J Stroud

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Ager, D André, Carr, Cook and Turner.
2. **Co-option of Councillor for West Ward**
Mrs Betty McLatchy was co-opted as a Councillor for the West Ward, signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took her place on the Full Council for the remainder of the meeting.
3. **Declaration of Interests**
Cllr Hawes declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda.
4. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 15th May 2012**
The minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2012 were agreed.
5. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**
There were no matters arising from the minutes not covered by the agenda.
6. **To receive a presentation on the Heartstart Haverhill Project and a request for funding**
Heartstart Haverhill had sent their apologies for the meeting. The Town Clerk reported he would invite the organisation again at their convenience.
7. **To receive a presentation on the Haverhill & District Gateway Club and a request for funding**
Will Harrison and Jill Moss from the Haverhill & District Gateway Club presented a summary of the club's activities and its current financial position following the withdrawal of support funding by Suffolk County Council.

ACTION

TOWN CLERK

Cllr Byrne reported that she had attended the Gateway Club during her time as Town Mayor and had been impressed with both the numbers attending and the club's success. She suggested that the Council should consider making good some or all of the withdrawn funding.

Cllr Hawes congratulated the club on a super job and proposed a grant of £900 to include £300 already applied for via the Town Council grants scheme.

Councillors agreed a grant of £900 to Haverhill & District Gateway Club.

8. PC Will Wright

PC Wright reported the following crime statistics:

- Violence with injury – the latest 4-weekly figures were down 12% on the average. Targeted patrols appeared to have had a positive effect.
- Domestic burglary – six in the four week period, compared with an average of eight. The media had been helpful in publishing crime prevention advice.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (rowdy and inconsiderate) – 66 calls, 31% down on the average

PC Wright reported on the latest priorities set by the SNT Public Priority Meeting – Anti-Social Behaviour in Queen Street and when leaving the town centre at night (particularly via the Chalkstone Estate) and parking offences in the High Street.

In relation to the parking problem, 13 tickets had been issued in one week of additional enforcement activity. PC Wright reported that the Police would welcome a further discussion on the future of the High Street, as parking enforcement was not a good use of officers' time. He suggested that the Town Council write to local businesses to ask them to urge their customers not to park outside their premises.

PC Wright reminded the meeting that the summer would be a busy one given the additional events, including the Torch Relay.

Councillors appreciated PC Wright's comments regarding parking, but reinforced the need for enforcement. Councillors also considered the impact of poor signing and the introduction of charges in car parks for blue badge holders, and the need to keep the issue of pedestrianisation on the agenda. Decriminalisation of on-street parking should also be considered. The Town Clerk was asked to write to the relevant agencies in respect of these issues

The Town Clerk was also asked to establish whether repairs to the scout hut following recent vandalism were in hand and whether support might be needed.

Councillors commended PC Wright on his report and on the actions taken by the Police, particularly in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour in Queen Street.

TOWN CLERK

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.58pm for the public forum.

There being no matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 7.58pm.

9. Adoption of Committee Reports

Appeals Committee

The Town Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Appeals Committee meeting held on 12th June 2012.

Finance Committee

The Town Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on 29th May 2012 and 19th June 2012.

Leisure and Community Committee

The Town Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held on 29th May 2012.

Personnel Committee

The Town Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 12th June 2012.

Planning Committee

The Town Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 29th May 2012 and 19th June 2012.

10. To Agree and Approve the 2011/12 Accounts

Councillors agreed and approved the 2011/12 accounts

11. To Agree and Approve The Annual External Audit Form

Councillors agreed and approved the annual external audit form and the accounting and governance statements therein.

12. To Consider the Internal Auditor's Report

Councillors considered the Internal Auditor's report for 2011/12, and the supporting interim report, and resolved to accept the reports' findings in full.

13. Code of Conduct

Councillors agreed the adoption of the model Code of Conduct drafted by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils and Suffolk Monitoring Officers.

14. General Power of Competence

Councillors resolved that the Town Council meets the prescribed conditions to be an eligible parish council, as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

15. Crown Health Centre

Councillors considered further actions in respect of the Crown Health Centre, and agreed:

- the establishment of a focus group to investigate the issue;
- that market stalls should continue until the expected closure date of 28th July; and
- that there should be a Town Council presence at the Crown Health Centre on 28th July in support of the campaign to retain the £1.2m savings from closure in Haverhill.

**TOWN CLERK
TOWN CLLRS**

16. High Street Pedestrianisation

Councillors agreed that the survey of public views carried out by the Town Council had achieved a representative view, and that the findings should be presented to the Haverhill Area Working Party at the earliest opportunity.

TOWN CLERK

17. Councillors' Surgeries

Councillors considered current arrangements for monthly surgeries, and agreed that these should continue, with a provision that should ideas for improved public engagement be raised by Town Councillors, the matter would be discussed again at a future meeting.

TOWN CLLRS

18. To authorise payments

The Town Council approved the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque Numbers	Value
17/04/12	7747-7751	£3,828.63
17/04/12	7752-7762	£91,720.79
24/04/12	7763-7777	£6,089.00
01/05/12	7778-7802	£7,878.46
01/05/12	7803-7804	£499.00
09/05/12	7805-7825	£21,192.35
15/05/12	7829-7845	£5,174.44
22/05/12	7846-7859	£10,398.11
22/05/12	7860	£200.00
29/05/12	7861-7877	£7,498.97
29/05/12	7878	£1,612.02
12/06/12	7879-7918	£30,966.95
12/06/12	7919-7920	£31,158.00
19/06/12	7921-7938	£25,014.45

19. **To receive urgent correspondence**

The Town Clerk reported a letter from Suffolk County Council confirming that a school crossing patrol had been approved and should be in place by the start of the new school term in September..

8. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.28pm.

