

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 4th September 2012 at 7.00pm in The Studio, Town Hall,
High Street, Haverhill**



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: P Hanlon**
 Town Councillors: L Ager, R André,
 M Byrne, T Cook,
 B McLatchy, D Russo,
 A Samuels, G Stroud,
 J Stroud and C Turner

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs French, Goody and Hawes.
2. **Co-option of Councillor for North Ward**
Mrs Mary Martin was co-opted as a Town Councillor for the North Ward, signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and moved from the public seating to the Full Council.
3. **Declaration of Interests**
No councillor declared an interest in items on the agenda.
4. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 24th July 2012**
The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2012 were agreed.
5. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**
No councillor raised any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda.
6. **Inspector Peter Ferrie**
Inspector Ferrie sent his apologies.

ACTION

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.37pm for the public forum.

One member of the public raised concerns about recent comments by Inspector Ferrie regarding parking enforcement on the High Street, which were perceived as meaning that the Police had 'given up' on the issue. The member of the public said that the solution in the long term was to close off the High Street, but that the law must be enforced until then.

Cllr Hanlon responded that the Town Council supports pedestrianisation.

Cllr Byrne assured the public she would keep the issue on the agenda of the Haverhill Area

Working Party, despite attempts there to shelve the matter. She also considered that Police resources should be applied to higher priority issues such as Anti-Social Behaviour.

Cllr Turner thanked the member of the public for attending and for his comments. The problem was being caused by a selfish minority.

Cllr André said that he was not convinced that the Police were prioritising parking enforcement as agreed at the last SNT Public Forum.

Cllr McLatchy said that short-term parking is needed for access to cash machines.

There being no further matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 8.00pm.

7. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 31st July 2012 and 21st August 2012.

8. Health Services in Haverhill

The Town Clerk introduced this item, explaining that the Town Council's campaign to date had focused on the issues surrounding the closure of the Crown Health Centre. He also reported on recent discussions with representatives of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). There was now a need to develop a preferred model for local healthcare, to articulate the arguments for greater investment. He invited Town Councillors to consider how best to arrive at such a model.

Cllr Byrne said that a strategic and disciplined approach was required. Constructive discussions had been held at a meeting arranged by Mrs Margaret Marks and Cllr Tim Marks, with Ed Garratt of the CCG, attended by Cllrs Hanlon, Byrne and André. This pressure would need to continue in the face of recent cuts, and dialogue with GPs was needed. In terms of requirements, there needed to be a focus on the continuing expansion of the local population, an urgent need for diagnostic equipment in Haverhill, and improved transport to/from West Suffolk Hospital. She proposed a working group comprising two Labour and two Conservative councillors, a representative of each of the Haverhill patient groups, with the Town Clerk as Chair.

Cllr Turner welcomed this approach and stressed the need also to understand the plans of the Primary Care Trust, GPs and the CCG. He said the Town Council should work on getting this information. He also stressed the need to look beyond the town at other local needs.

Cllr G Stroud said that this information should form part of a working group's remit.

Cllr Martin supported Cllr Byrne's proposal, and said that the town needs to be ready to say what it wants. There was also a need to look at Out of Hours and transport issues, and a fracture clinic.

Cllr André welcomed the fact that the CCG is listening and looking for different ways of delivering healthcare.

Cllr McLatchy expressed concern at the involvement of pharmacy assistants in treatment, and welcomed the recent proposals for a dementia survey.

Councillors approved the creation of a working group comprising two Labour and two Conservative councillors, a representative of each of the Haverhill patient groups, with the Town Clerk as Chair.

The Labour delegates were given as Cllrs Martin and Byrne. Conservative delegates were to be advised subsequently.

9. High Street Pedestrianisation

The Town Clerk introduced this item, reminding councillors of recent developments in the High Street Improvement Scheme and a meeting with the County Council attended by the Town Clerk and the Town Mayor. Councillors were invited to reaffirm their support for pedestrianisation and actions in support of it.

Cllr Turner said that the long-term aim should be pedestrianisation, but that short and medium term strategies were also required to address immediate problems in the High Street such as parking and safety.

Cllr Byrne agreed that measures were required to address the parking problem but said that these should be at no cost to the Town Council. She said that the people of Haverhill had expressed their desire for pedestrianisation, and that there should be compromise by local businesses concerned at the impact.

Cllr G Stroud expressed concern that the cancellation of the next Haverhill Area Working Party meeting might indicate that pedestrianisation was being 'swept under the carpet'. He agreed with Cllr Byrne that any action needed to be self-funding.

Councillors affirmed their support for pedestrianisation between 10am and 4pm daily.

11. Neighbourhood Community Budgeting

The Town Clerk presented a paper on progress towards a Neighbourhood Community Budget (NCB), and highlighted the key issues and challenges ahead.

Cllr André warned that the pilot could be prejudiced by the Town Council withdrawing its support, but that the constitution of the ONE Haverhill Board needed to be addressed.

Cllr Turner suggested that the Town Council could act as steering group for the NCB.

Cllr Byrne felt this would complicate the governance, and proposed that the ONE Haverhill Board meetings should be held in public, with a 10-15 minute public forum session.

Cllr Turner said that a compromise would be to allow Town Councillors, and representatives of any of the member bodies to attend the meetings. He also suggested that the Chair of ONE Haverhill be invited

to update the Town Council periodically.

Councillors resolved that that the Town Council confirms its commitment to participate in the Haverhill Neighbourhood Community Budget pilot, subject to transparent and open governance including the publication of minutes of ONE Haverhill Board meetings, public access to those meetings, a transparent financial framework and democratic accountability.

11. Burton Centre

The Town Clerk advised the Town Council that Suffolk County Council had invited proposals to take on the running of the Burton Centre, with a deadline of 28th September 2012 for submissions.

Cllr Turner stressed the need for application of due diligence prior to any agreement.

Councillors agreed their interest in submitting a proposal to Suffolk County Council for the future use, ownership and management of the Burton Centre, and asked the Town Clerk to draft a submission for further consideration at its meeting on 25th September 2012, with assistance from Cllrs André and Cook.

12. To authorise payments

The Town Council approved the following cheque lists:-

| Date | Cheque Numbers | Value |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 17.07.12 | 007998 – 008019 | £10,185.19 |
| 24.07.12 | 008020 – 008033 | £2,625.16 |
| 24.07.12 | 008034 – 008037 | £9,810.00 |
| 01.08.12 | 008038 – 008062 | £31,168.92 |
| 07.08.12 | 008063 – 008086 | £51,380.48 |
| 21.08.12 | 008087 – 008113 | £16,245.13 |
| 28.08.12 | 008114 – 008131 | £7,459.05 |

13. To receive urgent correspondence

The Town Clerk reported that he had received a certificate confirming Cllr McLatchy's introductory training as a councillor. Town Councillors congratulated her on her achievement and the Mayor presented the certificate. Information on other training available from the Suffolk Association of Local Councils had been received, and sessions on the General Power of Competence, the Code of Conduct and chairing meetings would be investigated.

14. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.15pm.