

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 30th October 2012 at 7.00pm in The Studio, Town Hall,
High Street, Haverhill**



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair:** Town Councillor: P Hanlon
 Town Councillors: M Byrne, T Cook,
 T Cook, P French,
 E Goody, B Hawes, M Martin,
 B McLatchy, G Stroud,
 J Stroud and C Turner

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, André, Carr and Russo.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
No councillor declared an interest in items on the agenda.
3. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 25th September 2012**
The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2012 were agreed.
4. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**
The Town Clerk reported that the Fidelity Insurance had been raised in accordance with the recommendation of the external auditor. In addition, the Town Council's current insurance policy had been reviewed, and would be renewed as part of a three-year contract established in 2011.
5. **Inspector Peter Ferrie**
Inspector Ferrie sent his apologies.

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.50pm for the public forum.

A member of the public asked:

1. Would the Town Council raise objections to making Haverhill High Street a 'pay and display' area?
2. If so, would a charge of £4.10 per hour be acceptable to the Town Council?
3. If so, would operating hours of 8.00am to 6.00pm, 7 days a week, be acceptable to the Town Council?

The proposal was explained as being a response to controversy over the High

ACTION

Street. The member of the public said that he supported the idea of pedestrianisation, but considered that pay and display might help address these problems in the short term, reducing the traffic burden on the High Street by encouraging motorists to use the relatively cheap public car parks.

Councillors discussed the matter and considered that it would be inappropriate to offer a confirmed Town Council view, as further investigation would be needed, along with a specific agenda item.

There being no further matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 7.25pm.

6. Adoption of Committee Reports

Finance Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 16th October 2012.

Planning Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2nd and 23rd October 2012.

7. Healthcare in Haverhill

The Town Clerk reported that:

- First Working Group meeting had been held on 25th September
- The group had agreed its main objectives:
 - A strategy document describing healthcare requirements for Haverhill;
 - Engagement with relevant stakeholders, including patient groups, voluntary organisations, practice managers, GPs, social care professionals and the Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Information on health care provision, gathered from the right sources.
- A Freedom of Information request submitted to PCT and Ambulance Service. The next meeting will be held when response received
- Two further issues had arisen recently – an application to extend planning permission for the Crown Health Centre, and the announcement of a replacement for Place Court care home

Councillor McLatchy reported on the Well Project, and in particular a dementia survey planned for February 2013. The Town Clerk was to be invited to the co-ordinating committee meeting.

Councillors expressed concern that NHS Suffolk had misled the people of Haverhill by stating publicly that planning permission for the Crown Health Centre could not be extended beyond December 2012, and by using this as one of the reasons for closing the Centre.

Councillors discussed the work of the group and resolved that GPs from all surgeries should be invited to the next meeting of the group, and that care homes should be included in the group's remit.

TOWN CLERK

8. Haverhill High Street

The Town Clerk reported that:

- At a meeting with Gurteen on 27th September (not directly related to High Street), the company had indicated that they would be amenable to compromise to overcome their objection to pedestrianisation TRO
- A meeting had been held on 17th October with Guy McGregor, Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member for Traffic and Transport. The Town Clerk and Mayor had set out the Town Council's case for pedestrianisation, addressing short term issues of traffic and parking and longer term issues of town centre development and population. Key issues raised by the County Council were:
 - An apparent preference for a 'shared space' solution
 - Objections to pedestrianisation TRO, including specific mention of Gurteen, suggesting that if they would withdraw their objection it would be "very interesting"
- A further meeting had been held with Gurteen on 30th October. No obvious compromise had been identified, all solutions involve some vehicular traffic on the High Street
- Gurteen had suggested that the way forward is to assist in lifting the listed building restrictions on the Chantry Mills site
- Requests had been made for the July Haverhill Area Working Party (HAWP) minutes, and for pedestrianisation to be added to the next HAWP agenda, but no reply had been received from the Chair to either request
- Work was ongoing with PC Will Wright to identify workable and effective solutions to the traffic and parking problems

Councillors supported the Clerk's ongoing work with the Police, and resolved that Suffolk County Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council should be approached to consider funding for a PCSO to support enforcement. Councillors further asked the Clerk to produce a paper setting out the available options, along with financial and legal constraints.

TOWN CLERK

9. Burton Centre

The Town Clerk reported that a bid to run the Burton Centre, approved at last Council had been submitted on 27th September. He had hoped to obtain formal confirmation of the outcome in time for this meeting, but this had not been received.

Councillors agreed that the issue should be deferred until the next meeting.

TOWN CLERK

10. Place Court

The Town Clerk reported that:

- An announcement had been made this month by Suffolk County Council that Care UK plan to replace 16 existing care homes with 10 new homes
- Place Court and the Wellbeing Centre would be replaced with a new home on the site of the former Chalkstone Middle School, with construction to begin June 2013, and the new home to open June 2014. Place Court would close July 2014

Councillors considered the issue and having confirmed at item 6 that care homes would be included in the remit of the working group, agreed that this should include beds for respite care. The Town Clerk was asked to establish whether those in Pace Court would be retained in the replacement home.

11. ONE Haverhill/Neighbourhood Community Budget

The Town Clerk reported back on the following from the ONE Haverhill Board meeting on 25 September:

- A three year Young People's Strategy had been agreed. The central decision was to appoint a co-ordinator to bring together partners' activities in relation to NEETs, this post to be funded by JobCentre Plus
- Town Team funding - £10,000 had been received from a bid to the Government, to be used mainly to develop a town centre ownership database
- The Board had received an update from the Clinical Commissioning Group on progress towards taking over from NHS Suffolk
- A change management session had been held at the meeting, aimed at achieving the right culture of partnership to deliver a community budget

Subsequent to the Board meeting, the ONE Haverhill Grants Panel had met on 23 October to allocate the remainder of the £50,000 funding available. Its decisions would be made public shortly.

In relation to the Neighbourhood Community Budget, the Clerk also reported that:

- The Draft Operation Plan (as agreed by Full Council) had been tested at a peer challenge event on 2 October
- There had been very positive feedback from this, especially in relation to actions to address NEETs and involvement of the business community
- The next steps were to feed community engagement work into change management and service redesign, with a final plan due in December

12. To authorise payments.

Councillors authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque Numbers	Value
04.09.12	008132 – 008151	£50,735.16
11.09.12	005152 – 008166	£2,679.19
18.09.12	008167 – 008177	£15,917.49
02.10.12	008178 – 008203	£11,424.12
09.10.12	008204 – 008231	£54,971.14
16.10.12	008232 – 008245	£10,190.96
16.10.12	008246 – 008247	£2,105.00

13. To receive urgent correspondence

The Town Clerk advised the Council of two items of urgent correspondence:

- A letter from Royal British Legion dated 22 October asking whether the Mayor would attend in full Mayoral robes. The Clerk had responded on 29 October to explain that the Mayoral Guidelines give the Mayor discretion to decide on wearing of robes, and so the letter and guidelines had been passed to him to respond as he felt appropriate
- A letter from the Cambridge to Colchester Rail Project requesting Town Council support. The Clerk had subsequently met with Rev Malcolm Hill to discuss what the Project wanted from the Town Council. A formal funding request may be made to a future Full Council meeting.

Cllr Turner asked about the future of the Town Council's grants scheme. The Clerk reported that this would be brought forward to a future meeting of the Leisure and Community Committee.

TOWN CLERK

12. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm.