

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 18th December 2012 at 7.08pm in The Conference Room, Castle Manor Academy, Eastern Avenue, Haverhill



Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: R André**
 Town Councillors: T Cook, E Goody,
 B Hawes, M Martin
 D Russo, G Stroud and C Turner

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

MINUTES

ACTION

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Byrne, French, Hanlon, McLatchy, Samuels and J Stroud.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
No councillor declared an interest in items on the agenda.
3. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th November 2012**
The minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2012 were agreed.
4. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**
There were no urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda.
5. **Inspector Peter Ferrie**
PC Simon Bourne and PCSO Les Scott attended on behalf of Inspector Ferrie. As crime statistics had been provided at the last meeting three weeks before, no further statistics were presented.

PC Bourne reported on local crime issues, including:
 - instances of criminal damage to motor vehicles on the Chalkstone Estate, possibly associated with a party on the estate.
 - theft from shops, predominantly larger stores. It was strongly suspected that known criminals were responsible in the majority of cases, but there had been insufficient evidence to date to prove this.
 - SNT priorities agreed at the last public SNT meeting – work on a prolific local offender, criminal damage and ASB in Clements Drive/Belmont Court, and work to improve safety at zebra crossings.
PCSO Scott reported on break-ins on Duddery Hill and Hamlet Road. Nothing had been taken, and the damage was the main annoyance to

the victims. Public help was needed to combat and resolve these crimes.

Councillors considered the recent accident at the Cangle zebra crossing. PCSO Scott said that he had previously reported the crossing as dangerous to Suffolk County Council, and that no action had been taken.

Councillors asked the Town Clerk to pursue the restoration of street lighting in Clements Drive, and the possibility of a safety audit of zebra crossings.

Cllr Hawes offered his congratulations to PC Bourne in respect of his 'Decaman' feats, and this was echoed by the other councillors.

Cllr André thanks PC Bourne and PCSO Scott for their attendance, adding that it was helpful on occasion to hear from officers 'on the ground' when Inspector Ferrie was unavailable.

6. **Caroline Maclean**

Caroline Maclean had been unavailable to attend, and councillors therefore agreed to defer this item until the next Full Council meeting. Caroline's achievements would also be a matter for consideration by the Leisure & Community Committee on 15th January 2013.

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.28pm for the public forum.

There being no matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 7.28pm.

7. **Adoption of Committee Reports**

Planning Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 4th December 2012.

8. **Haverhill High Street**

The Town Clerk reported on recent measures undertaken by the Police in partnership with the Town Council, which included:

- Protection of the pavement using planters and Police traffic cones
- A variety of Police enforcement actions and advice to motorists
- Promotional clamping of a vehicle to highlight the local issues of traffic and parking

There had been discussions with local businesses prior to these activities, and a request to the Borough Council for a short period – 30-60 minutes – of free parking in public car parks to complement the measures had been refused.

As a result of these actions, the issue had been released as a Safer Neighbourhoods public priority. Further activity would be considered in the New Year.

Councillors considered the following:

- The use of permanent bollards or bins to delineate the road from the pavement
- Whether capital funding available for High Street improvements could or should be held over by the Borough Council pending any renewed plans for pedestrianisation
- The use of towing as a means of controlling parking
- The need to smarten up alleyways leading to the High Street
- The possibility of reinstating kerbs
- Alternative approaches used in Windsor and Eastleigh

The Town Clerk was asked to investigate the use of kerbs or canopies as means of protecting the paved areas from parked cars.

TOWN CLERK

9. **Burton Centre**

The Town Clerk reported that the formal appeal had been submitted against the County Council's decision to decline the Town Council's bid to run the Burton Centre. This would be the subject of a formal question by the Town Clerk to the full County Council meeting on 20th December, and a formal response would be provided at that meeting.

The Town Clerk was asked to report back to the next Council meeting on the outcome.

TOWN CLERK

10. **To consider the Town Council's open air meeting venues and dates for 2013, and to review the effectiveness of meetings held in 2012**

The Town Clerk presented details of attendance and issues raised at the open air meetings held in 2012, and proposed dates for 2013.

Councillors considered this information and agreed:

- A need to follow-up issues relating to dog bins and the state of the road in Helions Park Avenue and Mill Road
- That the dates for open air meetings in 2013 should be 8th – 12th July 2013 inclusive and 15th – 19th July 2012 inclusive
- Tesco and Sainsbury's should be venues for the two Friday evening dates if possible
- Other venues should include Boyton Hall, Millfields Way by the former Vixen public house, the Parkway near the church and a location between Chivers Road and the playing fields

11. **To authorise payments.**

Councillors authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque Numbers	Value
27.11.12	008333 – 008345	£10,762.48
04.12.12	008346 – 008347	£21,775.01

13. **To receive urgent correspondence**

No urgent correspondence was presented for consideration.

12. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 8.07pm.