

**HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 7.00pm in The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AR**



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:**      **Chair:** Town Councillor: **R André**  
                          **Town Councillors:** **M Byrne, P Firman,**  
    **P French (from 7.35pm)**  
    **E Goody, P Hanlon, M Martin,**  
    **B McLatchy, D Roach, B Robbins,**  
    **G Stroud,**

**Also present:**      **24 members of the public**

**DRAFT MINUTES****1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Carr, Turner 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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were agreed as a true record.

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

The Mayor requested an update on progress with the Christmas Lights Service Level Agreement (item 7 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014). The Clerk responded that the matter was still under negotiation.

**5. Police Report**

Inspector Ferrie reported the following crime statistics for Haverhill Town for early April:

<b>Type</b>	<b>Apr – Mar 2013/2014</b>	<b>3 Year Average</b>
Total recorded crime	128	143
Acquisitive crime	38	68
Vehicle crime	4	20
Anti-social behaviour	66	111
Domestic Burglary	7	4
Drug offences	9	3

Inspector Ferrie explained that the rise in drug offences was the result of a successful police operation in the area. The rise in burglaries related to a problem on the Bird's estate which was receiving a robust police response.

SNT priorities at the present time are:

Drug taking in a public place (45 patrols and 5 arrests)

Parking outside schools (20 patrols and one public meeting, with 24

**ACTION**

**Clerk**

warnings given).

Drug related assaults (5 warrants had been executed and all had found drugs).

Inspector Ferrie also highlighted a public meeting with the Chief Constable and Crime Commissioner to be held at the Samuel Ward Academy on 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.

Members thanked the police for their action especially regarding drug use in parks

On behalf of Council, the Mayor thanked Inspector Ferrie for attending, and for his report.

### **Public Forum**

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.20pm for the public forum.

Tina Henderson raised concerns about the Havebury Housing Trust plans to put housing on former garage sites at Parkside and in other locations. She wondered what Council's position was. She was advised that Council's planning committee had objected to all the proposals and requested that Havebury carry out local public consultations.

Mr Cox reported that his comments in the public forum on 25<sup>th</sup> march were incorrectly reported and that his comments on parking related to the Samuel Ward Academy rather than Burton Road School. He also requested information as to how many of the Town Councillors had attended safeguarding children courses or received DBS clearance. The Mayor requested the Clerk to respond to this question in writing to Citizen Cox.

Ian Johnson requested his letter concerning Parkland be read to the meeting. The Mayor requested the letter be published with the minutes:

#### *Country Parkland North East Haverhill*

*I thank the Town Council for the support it has given to the 350 Haverhill and District people I represent, seeking a country park. As you are aware the Planning Inspector has now recommended that a Country Park in the development area for North East Haverhill be added to the Vision Haverhill 2031 plans. These modifications are now out for consultation.*

*Whilst welcoming the modification to add a Country Park, I have a couple of serious concerns:*

*A. At the Inspector's enquiry both the developers and the Borough Council representatives made the point that a green corridor through the site was adequate as a provision for parkland. Whilst I support the green corridor through the site, it is not an alternative to a substantial country park linking with East Town Park. The size of the requested designated green area was 30 Hectares.*

*B. The removal from the plan of the road linking the estate with Coupals Road is not included in the modifications. Therefore it is not possible to comment on this, as we can only comment on modifications, although the road would cut through the area which we are seeking to be Country Parkland.*

*I would ask the council in its representations on the modifications to ensure that they state that the Country Park is both substantial and linking with East Town Park. My suggestions are in the appendix below.*

**Clerk**

*Additionally I would like to give notice that at the Council's Annual public meeting on the 28th May, I will ask the Town Council to request St Edmundsbury to list an approximately 10 hectare section of the land behind the Wilsey Estate which adjoins both the designated Buffer Zone in the plan, and the Golf Driving Range as an Asset of Community Value. This is the land which was formally requested under section 76/77 of the National Planning Policy Framework as part of the designated green area, but has not been included in the buffer zone. This would have the effect of ensuring that if the land came up for sale in future, that it was protected for a limited period, and also that the community would have the first opportunity to purchase it, for Country Parkland.*

*To enable a considered response, at that meeting, I would refer you to: Community Right to Bid: Non-statutory advice note for local authorities Part 5 Chapter 3 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Assets of Community Regulations 2012. I appreciate that I could make this request to St Edmundsbury myself on behalf of the 350 people I represent, however I believe this would be a stronger representation coming from the Town Council on behalf of the wider community, that the park would serve.*  
*Ian Johnson*

Sheena Johnson, in relation to the propose refurbishment of the play area, made the point that lots of money was being spent merely moving existing equipment about.

Wendy Williams said the scheme was taking more out than it was putting in.

John Burns asked if the money in the Property Acquisition Fund could be used to improve the High Street. He also requested Council give consideration to allowing him to film the Annual meetings to put them on You Tube. Members stated they would consider this issue.

Wendy Williams requested that some of the reserve funding be refocused on the needs of the Youth Hub. The Mayor stated that the cost of the Youth Hub has not increased and provision for those costs has been made elsewhere.

Borough Councillor Tony Brown requested that details of the Survey on the Magistrates' Court be published. He was advised that the matter was still under negotiation.

Mr Cox stated that more money was spent by the Borough Council in Haverhill than in Bury.

The meeting was reconvened by the Mayor at 7.43pm

**6. Adoption of Committee Reports**

**Planning Committee**

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> April and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014.

**Finance Committee**

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**7. Presentation – Haverhill Recreation Ground Play Area Refurbishment**

Damien Parker presented plans for the £70,000 refurbishment of the recreation ground. The focus was on putting the existing infrastructure in the right places; linking the facilities to make them more accessible. Future schemes would look to renew equipment.

The project was currently in a consultation phase, but it was expected that the scheme would be complete before the summer holidays.

In open forum the following points were made:

- The need to protect play equipment from dog fouling (the equipment will be fenced)
- Seating will be considered.
- The fairground will need relocation
- The zip wire will be moved away from residential properties because of noise issues.
- The needs of disabled persons were catered for in some of the equipment available at present
- It was stated that the bandstand does not need hardsurfacing and this is a potential saving

**8. Presentation – Community Action Suffolk – Clements Estate**

Jon Eaton and Elaine Hewes gave a brief presentation about the £200,000 investment in the estate. They particularly emphasised that all the spending decisions would be made by the community itself and no spending would go to existing statutory services. This fact underscored the need for the community to get involved. They advised that the Leiston Centre would be used for a local presentation to the community.

The project would commence with the establishment of a people's panel (free skills training would be offered to panel members) and the consultation period would continue until 31<sup>st</sup> August. Clements Estate was one of three locations chosen in Suffolk because of its relatively high levels of health inequality. Money will not be spent on statutory services

**9. Digital Projection Upgrade Project**

Council noted the progress with the project to upgrade the digital projection equipment. Consideration was given to completion of the project by providing new equipment for the associated sound system.

Council resolved to authorise the Clerk, subject to consideration of three quotations, and in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, to replace the sound system; provided the cost of replacement is contained within the the residual project estimate of £10,000.

Clerk

**10. To Agree End of Year Transfers to/from Balances**

Council resolved to approve the Year End Transfers as recommended by the Finance Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

**11. To Approve Arrangements for the Annual Council Meeting**

The Clerk outlined arrangements for the Annual Council Meeting as follows:

7pm Annual Town Council Meeting

7.30pm Annual Town Meeting followed by a celebration of Haverhill Town Council's 25 years' service to the town.

This celebration will include a video of events and activities in 2012/13 as well as a display of facts and figures of council's 25 years.

In addition to the Mayor, Guest speakers will include, former Councillor Gerry Kiernan as well as past Clerks Gordon Mussett and Will Austin.

The event will include distribution of commemorative mugs and refreshments.

Clerk

Council resolved to approve the arrangements of the Clerk and also to

approve a budget of £1,000 for the event.

**12. To authorise payments.**

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque Numbers</b>	<b>Value £</b>
18.03.14	009530 - 009552	23,600.11
25.03.14	009553 - 009568	12,251.68
01.04.14	009569 - 009590	13,836.33
08.04.14	009591 – 009621	53,386.57
15.04.14	009622 – 009636	6,934.20

**13. To receive urgent correspondence**

There was no urgent correspondence. However, the Mayor responded to recent claims that Council did not publish accounts by referring interested persons to the Council's web site, on which accounts and audit information is published.

**14. To Exclude the Press and Public**

Council resolved that in accord with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Councillor Firman tendered his apologies and left the chamber.

**13. Staffing Matters**

**Appointment of Apprentice**

The Clerk presented details of an apprentice arrangement generated with the assistance of One Haverhill. The arrangement to be based at the Arts Centre and to include training towards the Apprentice Framework in Hospitality at West Suffolk College.

On the basis of the Clerk's report, Council resolved to approve the appointment of an apprentice. Further, Council resolved to delegate authority to the Personnel Committee to review the pay and conditions of the apprentice at appropriate times during the apprenticeship period.

**15. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 8.46pm.