

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 29th July at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor R André
Deputy Mayor Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P Firman
Councillor E Goody
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor M Martin
Councillor D Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor G Stroud

Apologies: Councillor L Carr
Councillor P French
Councillor A Samuels
Councillor J Stroud

Absent: Councillor D Russo
Councillor C Turner

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

19 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor R André welcomed everyone to the meeting.

		Action
C14 /038	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted.	
C14 /039	<u>Leave of absence</u> Councillor B McLatchy proposed, seconded by Councillor M Byrne that Councillor Russo be granted a further six months leave of absence due to his work with the Territorial Army. Councillor P Firman requested a recorded vote.	

	For R Andre M Byrne P Hanlon B McLatchy D Roach G Stroud	Against B Robbins P Firman	Abstain E Goody M Martin	
	RESOLVED that Councillor Russo be granted a further six months leave of absence.			
C14 /040	<u>Inquorate Meetings</u> Councillor E Goody proposed, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that Councillor M Martin be appointed to the Personnel Committee. RESOLVED			
C14 /041	<u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u> Councillor P Hanlon declared an interest in C14/042 as a patient of Stourview Surgery. Councillor P Firman declared an interest in C14/048 as a holder of a street vending license. The Clerk advised that neither of these interests were pecuniary.			
C14 /042	<u>Proposed merger of Stourview and Christmas Maltings Surgeries</u> Mayor André welcomed Dr Sule of Stourview Surgery to the meeting, to speak about the proposed merger with Christmas Maltings Surgery. The proposal had in-principle backing from the CCG and was now asking for the view of patients and other stakeholders. Councillors considered the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council appreciates the work done by GPs in Haverhill, but notes that they are short-handed and in need of additional doctors to provide an acceptable level of service. • Any changes which contribute towards that end are to be welcomed. • The current waiting times for appointments vary significantly, with waits of up to 4 weeks to see a specific GP. Being seen by a duty GP is quicker. • The national average ratio of patients per GP is 2,500. In Haverhill that figure is 4,000. • A merger would mean that the number of GPs working in a team would be much larger, so cover for each other would be easier. • This should make it easier to attract new GPs to Haverhill. The Council agreed to support the merger subject to it being clear that it must lead to improvements in service for the people of Haverhill. The Mayor thanked Dr Sule for attending the meeting. The Clerk would respond to the consultation letter in accordance with the discussion.			Clerk

C14 /043	<p><u>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 11th June 2014</u></p> <p>The meeting agreed these were a true record with no matters arising.</p>	
C14 /044	<p><u>The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held 24th June 2014</u></p> <p>The meeting agreed these as a true record.</p>	
C14 /045	<p><u>Matters arising not on the agenda</u></p> <p>a) C14/030a Listing assets of community value</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had consulted with SCC Rights of Way Officers to scope the work required to list the green lane and footpaths. The assets were spread across three districts. He advised that as transfer of ownership did not legally change the right of the public to use the rights of way he would need to confirm with all three districts that the assets were capable of being listed.</p> <p>b) C14/030b Haverhill Clock</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had commissioned the digging of the trial pit to establish the correct foundations for the clock and had visited Mr Neil Williams to discuss progress with the design. The next step was to contact the clock makers to discuss power options.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked the Clerk for both updates.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
C14 /046	<p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p>The meeting was adjourned for reports from the Police, District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill and the Public Forum. See Appendix 1 for Details.</p> <p>The meeting was reconvened</p>	
C14 /047	<p><u>Suspension of Standing Orders</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that Standing Orders 1d, 1e, 1f and 1g be suspended to enable public participation in item C14/048.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
C14 /048	<p><u>Queen Street</u></p> <p>The Council discussed Queen Street and High Street areas in terms of improvements to the public realm and state of some of the establishments.</p> <p>The Mayor advised the meeting that the One Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan group chaired by Borough Councillor Alaric Pugh had identified the following aspirations for the town centre:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animate and enliven the town centre • Improve signage • Produce a Big Plan for Haverhill to be a shopping centre • Consistent branding • Marketing plan for the High Street. <p>Mr John Mayhew & Mr Paul Dunno from the Chamber of Commerce advised that the Town Team were exploring the use of vibrant and</p>	

	<p>positive imagery to decorate the inside of windows in vacant shop units. The idea is to foster a sense of pride in the town centre, making it a more desirable destination. In response to Councillor B Matthews suggestion that short-term leases in vacant shops for multiple occupancy by small traders be explored, it was confirmed the Chamber are in the process of identifying all landlords in the High Street, which would facilitate this sort of idea.</p> <p>County Councillor T Brown asked that consideration be made to a “Quick Win” for Queen Street.</p> <p>Borough Councillor G Cox suggested a footfall survey. This is likely to form part of the consultancy work to establish the Masterplan.</p> <p>Town Councillors made the following observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extending the market into Queen Street may provide sufficient space for a monthly farmers market to be attracted. • Market days already make the town centre much more busy, clearly bringing people to other shops whilst in town for the market. • Create a covered walkway from Tesco to the town centre • Signage needs to point cars to car parks rather than encourage them into the town centre. Bus stop signs should include real-time information. • The town needs to promote itself as a shopping centre for Haverhill’s growing hinterland, marketing itself more widely. • Protecting the retail nature of the town centre is vital – are there too many takeaways being given planning permission – does this conform with SEBC policies? <p>The Mayor thanked Councillors and the Chamber for their input into this discussion, which would assist the Town Council’s engagement with the town centre Masterplan.</p>	
C14/049	<p><u>Town Twinning Signs</u></p> <p>The Council considered a recommendation from the Town Twinning Association that twinning signs are affixed to the existing Haverhill boundary signage.</p> <p>The Council asked that the Clerk obtains a quote for the proposed design. It was also agreed that One Haverhill should be consulted regarding the boundary signage in general, including both Town Twinning and promoting the market.</p>	Clerk
C14/050	<p><u>One Haverhill</u></p> <p>The Council received a report from the Mayor on a recent meeting on the One Haverhill Core Group for the enhancement of the town centre. This included a proposal that the Town Council considers recruiting a “Parish Handyman” person.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that this role was very successful in Exmouth and is to augment the work of the Borough and County Councils, not replace it. The focus would be on <u>minor works</u> to maintain the town centre to a higher level than at the moment – removing graffiti, carrying out minor repairs and clean-ups (fly posters, cleaning bins and benches, touch-up paint, weed removal). The work would not be bound by arguments over whose responsibility the work was. If</p>	

	<p>something needed doing, it would be done.</p> <p>The work would be carried out in close partnership with the Community Ambassadors and would facilitate their involvement too. Councillors expressed mixed emotions on this. Whilst the work needed doing and the improvement to the environment would encourage people to visit, there was concern that the council tax payer already paid for this to be done by principal councils.</p> <p>Having this work controlled and directed by the Town Council would ensure Haverhill actually got the work done – at the moment cuts meant a lot of this work was not being done and the Council either accepted that or did something itself, rather than waste time trying to persuade another authority to do it..</p> <p>Councillors asked to see a budget and asked that One Haverhill partners contributed to the costs.</p> <p>The Mayor observed that all partners, including the Town Council, would need to contribute to the overall Town Centre improvements and this may be all or part of the Town Council's share in that.</p>	
C14 /051	<p><u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u></p> <p>Appeals Committee The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had not met since the previous meeting of the full Town Council.</p> <p>Finance Committee The meeting noted that the Finance Committee had not met since the previous meeting of the full Town Council.</p> <p>The June meeting had discussed the provision of a defibrillator. Councillor B McLatchy reported that she and the Clerk were exploring avenues of funding for a new defibrillator for the Arts Centre as part of a plan to provide good cover for the High Street. The intention is to provide stickers for shop tills so workers know where a defibrillator is and can ring for it to be sent rather than waste time fetching it. Training would need to be provided to businesses. Such training was not essential to use the machine but gave greater confidence, speeding up deployment and saving vital seconds.</p> <p>Councillor McLatchy also asked that borough and county councillors present considered contributing to her ultrasound machine fund, which was within £340 of its target.</p> <p>Leisure and Community Committee 8th July 2014 It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the minutes be adopted. AGREED</p> <p>Personnel Committee 22nd July 2014 The meeting noted that the Committee due to be held on 22nd July was inquorate. It received the notes of the Ad-Hoc Committee held 22nd July in place of the Personnel Committee.</p>	

	Planning Committee 1st July and 22nd July 2014 It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor D Roach that the minutes be adopted. AGREED	
C14 /052	<u>Authorisation of payments</u> It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that payments for cheques 9749-9851 totalling £66,360.97 be authorised. RESOLVED	
C14 /053	<u>Urgent Correspondence</u> Councillors considered the correspondence sent by Councillor Byrne to Councillor John Griffith, leader of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Councillor Byrne explained she had sent her letter because she had been denied the opportunity to reply to Councillor Griffith during the debate on the petition presented to the Borough Council on 30 th June 2014. Councillor Byrne advised the meeting that she had obtained replies from both Councillor Griffith and Councillor Ray, portfolio holder for finance and she will respond to them.	Cllr Byrne
C14 /054	<u>To Exclude the Press and Public</u> It was resolved under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of business to be transacted, namely staffing issues. Proposed Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor E Goody. RESOLVED	
C14 /055	<u>Staffing Matters</u> The meeting considered the report by the Ad-Hoc meeting of 22nd July and the report by the Town Clerk to the Personnel Committee that was due to meet that evening. It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, that the recommendations contained in the documents be accepted en bloc. RESOLVED	
C14 /056	<u>Date of next Meeting:</u> The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Tuesday 30 th September 2014. The meeting agreed that the Mayor and Clerk should bring forward proposed dates for open surgeries in each ward during September.	Mayor André Clerk
C14 /057	<u>Closure</u> The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:00pm	

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

Reports from the Police, District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill and the Public Forum.

Sergeant Matthew Gilbert reported the following issues:

- 18 reports of damage
- 3 thefts of motor vehicles
- 7 thefts from motor vehicles –particularly catalytic converters
- 10 burglaries – mostly shed break-ins. No dwelling burglaries since 10th June.
- 11 warnings for dangerous cycling were issued
- 3 stop and searches all with positive results relating to drug use.
- There have been three fires in the town centre. Only one of these is suspicious.

County Councillor Tony Brown reported on behalf of Councillor Julian Flood:

- Councillor Flood is trying to persuade the County Council to release brownfield land for social housing.
- Councillor Flood is trying to find ways to increase GP funding for Haverhill by making a case based on demographic and medical needs.
- Councillor Flood has approved funding from his locality budget for community events - the Community Sports Association and Parkway.

Councillor Tony Brown:

- All three Haverhill County Councillors are against the proposals to merge the local children's centre.
- Funding for a Haverhill Town Centre PCSO has been agreed

Councillor Gordon Cox:

- Congratulated the Town Council, Pete Betts and David Doughty on the Summer Bash 19/20th July, which was very good.