

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 25th November at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor R André
Deputy Mayor Councillor M Byrne
Councillor L Carr
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P French
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor M Martin
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor A Samuels
Councillor G Stroud
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Councillor E Goody
Councillor D Roach
Councillor J Stroud

Absent: Councillor D Russo

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

13 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor R André welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded and filmed.

MINUTES

C14 /095 Apologies for Absence

The above apologies from Councillor Goody and Councillor Roach were noted. Inspector Ferrie had also sent his apologies. The Chairman asked that the Council consider approval of the reason for absence for Councillor J Stroud (Long term illness). **RESOLVED**

C14 /096 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation

Item C14/102 c(ii) Cricket Club Grant. Councillors M Byrne, P Hanlon and L Carr all declared a non-pecuniary interest as one of the representatives of the club was a previous work colleague. The Clerk advised that this did not preclude them taking part in the discussion.

ACTION

C14 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 28th October 2014**

/097 The meeting agreed these were a true record.

C14 **Matters arising not on the agenda**

/098 **a) C14/030a Listing assets of community value**

The Clerk was still awaiting a response from St Edmundsbury to the question of whether they would list a right of way as a community asset.

CLERK

b) C14/030b Haverhill Clock

The clock tower is now under construction and the Clerk inspected the works at the beginning of November. The Angels have been fabricated and the clock size and design agreed – approximately 750mm diameter. The cost of three clocks, delivered and installed, operated by batteries charged by solar energy, is £3,800.

d) C14/049 Town Twinning Signs

The Clerk advised that the Borough had been working on the Town Council's proposal to partner on this matter. Works are currently underway and should be concluded by the January meeting.

Councillor C Turner joined the meeting at this point

e) C14/063 Parish Boundary

The SEBC Democratic Renewal Working Party discussed this on November 18th. The Clerk was asked to report back on any further progress.

CLERK

C14 **Adjournment**

/099 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.

The meeting was reconvened

C14 **The Local Council Award Scheme**

/100 The meeting considered the report from the Clerk identifying the work required to meet the draft criteria for the replacement to the Quality Council scheme, due to begin in January.

The Council agreed to set up a Communications Group as a Task and Finish Forum to consider how the Council meets the public engagement criteria.

Members appointed to the TAFF: Councillor M Byrne
 Councillor P Hanlon
 Councillor B McLatchy
 Councillor B Robbins
 Councillor C Turner

C14 **One Haverhill**

/101 a) The Mayor reported that the Town Centre Masterplan tenders had initially garnered no response. Having gone back to the prospective bidders, the reason for this was identified as the ambitiously tight timescale for the amount of work. The timescale has been revised, slipping from a conclusion in summertime to late autumn, but this was unavoidable given the statutory nature of the Masterplan and the hiatus in the process

caused by the purdah period leading up to the elections in May.

b) Community Clean Up would be provisionally set for February 20th. The community would be invited to clean up around their own property or work in small teams to do specific tasks in the town centre and other non-residential areas. This work would partner with the Community Ambassadors, St Edmundsbury Borough and County Council. Councillor C Turner voiced his support for flyposter removal. He suggested some method of facilitating community notices needed to be found that meant it was not necessary to flypost. Councillor McLatchy questioned why the community were being asked to do a clean-up when the Borough Council were already paid by the taxpayer to do it.

c) Councillor Firman asked for an update on the Youth Hub. The Clerk reported that a decision on whether to commission the next stage of the business plan – the financial model to follow – should be made in the next couple of weeks by the One Haverhill Board.

C14
/102 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

a) Appeals Committee

The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had met directly before this Full Council meeting but due to absences was again inquorate.

b) Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor G Stroud that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 4th November be adopted. **AGREED**

CLERK

c) Leisure and Community Committee

i) It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee held on 18th November be adopted. **AGREED**

ii) It was proposed by Cllr B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that £8,400 be granted from general funds to the Haverhill Cricket Club, to support the creation of a second ground, subject to suitable tenure being secured. Councillor Hanlon asked that the Cricket Club, in accepting a grant, endeavoured to keep membership fees low in order to include as many people as possible who wished to play.

d) Personnel Committee

The meeting noted that the Personnel Committee had not met since the last full council meeting and that the Committee would meet on 9th December to consider the personnel budget.

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November be adopted. **AGREED**

C14
/103 **Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor G Stroud, that payments for cheques 10062 - 10160 totalling £102,404.97 be authorised. **RESOLVED**

C14 Urgent Correspondence

/104 None.

C14 To Exclude the Press and Public

/105 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 third party contracts and staffing issues.

Proposed Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon.

RESOLVED

C14 Contract for Website Provision

/106 The Council considered the proposal and instructed that the Communications Group looked into the matter further.

**Comm's
Group**

C14 Staffing Matters

/107 It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the NJC Pay Agreement for 2014 be adopted. **RESOLVED**

C14 Date of next Meeting:

/108 16th December 2014.

C14 Closure

/109 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:17pm. The Clerk circulated the Planning Committee Agenda for the meeting to be held 2nd December 2014

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

County Councillor Tony Brown:

1 – Attended the Suffolk County Council Rail Conference, 14th November. Plans to reinstate the Haverhill railway are not on Network Rail or SCC's radar at the moment, despite lobbying from various groups. The only friend we have on this at the moment is Cambridgeshire County Council.

2 – Cllr Brown is chasing the repair of railings on the Aldi mini roundabout. He has been informed by SCC this work is now to be carried out.

3 – Cllr Brown has funded for a new vehicle-activated sign for Coupals Road and some new Children Crossing signs at the same location, to be installed soon.

4 – Cllr Brown is investigating the feasibility of having a portable speed sign for Haverhill, so it can be moved around various locations.

5 – Mill Road Surfacing – latest proposed date for this work is 14th/15th January.

County Councillor Julian Flood:

1 – Parking problems – Broad Street development 27 dwellings and 7 parking spaces. School Lane, Cllr Flood has asked that double yellows be painted anyway, as the surfacing is taking forever to organise.

2 – West Suffolk Hospital – Cllr Flood is arranging to meet with the CEO of the Trust to discuss the needs of Haverhill. Also emailing the Secretary of State for Health, to ask for NHS services to match the health profile of Haverhill and not mythical data which it does at the moment

3 – Sainsbury's crossing – Working with three other Councillors to fund this, putting £10k in from his locality budget.

4 – Howards Close – Still trying to establish the ownership of the end of the road, to enable requested work to be done.

Inspector Peter Ferrie:

On behalf of Inspector Peter Ferrie, The Clerk read out the following report:

All crime figures below relate to Haverhill town, and do not contain figures for the surrounding villages.

Total crime in Haverhill since April 1st 2014 is 1106. Our 3 year average is 1156 (so exactly 50 less crimes this year than the average year).

Total ASB incidents for the same period is 677. Our 3 year average is 933 (so 256 less than the average year).

Our detection rate for all crime since April 1st 2014 is 38.9%.....this is excellent.

Crimes that have gone down this year include Burglary other building, robbery, vehicle crime, criminal damage, arson and public order offences.

Crimes that have gone up include dwelling burglary (38 this year compared to our average of 35), sexual offences (26 this year compared to our average of 24), shoplifting (136 this year compared to our average of 93) and drug offences (75 this year compared to our average of 47).

Areas of crime growth seem to be shoplifting and drug offences. There is a clear link between the two.

PCSO Sophie Mitchell:

PCSO Mitchell introduced herself and PCSO Steven Ridpath. PCSO Mitchell advised the Council that the next SNT Priority Setting meeting would be held on 8th December, 7pm at the Arts Centre

Mr Greg Street

Thanked the Leisure and Community Committee for unanimously recommending their grant application to the Full Council for approval. He outlined the increase in membership of the club and their aspirations to enable everyone to play – at the moment there was not sufficient pitch capacity to accommodate everyone, hence the need for a second ground. In particular, the growing demand for girl's and ladies' cricket. One member plays for Suffolk girls' U17, but has to play her cricket in Bury St Edmunds. 9 major fundraisers over the last few years has raised £20k+, to pay for new equipment and facilities. . £8.5k from members raised already and hope to reach £30k. However, for this project extra help from outside the club is needed, to help create a family-friendly facility.

Mr J Burns

Mr Burns referred the meeting to F14/027 (c) Page 27 Finance Minutes 4th November 2014.

“The Town Council, quite correctly, made strong representation/setup a petition because SEBC withdrew the Council Tax Support Grant equating to about £30K per annum compounding over 4 years.

“We now have the situation where the Town Council is effectively willing to give the same amount back to SEBC, albeit via ONE Haverhill, to pay for consultants to carry out an investigation for the new Town Centre Masterplan. I personally do find this slightly hypocritical when the precept had to be raised to cover the loss of the Council Tax Support Grant whereas we are now stating that the loss of this £30K does not cause any problems to the Town Council finances. I would therefore once again question why the precept was raised in the first place?

“Having read previous reports from so-called town centre consultants, including the 7 page report produced by Kent Business School which alone cost £40K, I would question why Haverhill taxpayers should be paying for this. It should be sourced from the existing SEBC taxation receipts as it is their responsibility to finance the Master Plan.

“Should we also be donating our money to an organisation, who claims to represent the best interests of this town, but from whose routine meetings the general public of Haverhill are excluded? I therefore very much regret the decision of the Finance Committee to agree to this expenditure. I would strongly recommend full council review this decision when it comes to agenda item 7(b).”

Cllr M Byrne on behalf of a resident who is too unwell to attend

Councillor Byrne reported that this resident is very concerned at vehicles parked end of Burton End on grass verges, causing damage to them. The resident wished that this be taken up by the Parkside Residents Association Committee. The Mayor advised that this matter was in hand, with joint work by Havebury, the Association and St Edmundsbury.