

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 29th September 2015 at 7.54pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill

Present:

Mayor Councillor B McLatchy	
Deputy Mayor Councillor D Roach	
Councillor A Bramwell	Councillor Q Fox
Councillor A Brown	Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor J Burns	Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor M Byrne	Councillor C Turner
Councillor J Crooks	Councillor A Williams
Councillor P Fox	Councillor W Yang

Apologies: Councillor T Chivers
Councillor B Robbins

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

11 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor B McLatchy welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded. She also noted that Borough and County Councillor Tim Marks was in hospital and on behalf of all the meeting wished him well.

MINUTES

C15 /118 Apologies for Absence
The above apologies were noted.

C15 /119 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation
No declarations of requests had been received.

C15 /120 The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 21st July 2015
The meeting agreed these were a true record.

C15 /121 Matters arising not on the agenda
a) C14/030b Haverhill Clock

The clock structure is in situ and the clocks are being fitted on 30th September in readiness for the official ceremony on 2nd October.

C15 /122 Haverhill Response to the Migrant Crisis
The Mayor advised that the Suffolk role in accommodating refugees was being co-ordinated by the County Council and families may or may not be allocated to St Edmundsbury, so it was not known what, if any, help might be required within the town. Councillors agreed that as soon as it was known whether the town needed to respond, a meeting should be called to

ACTION

CLERK

discuss this matter. It was noted that assistance might be given by Haverhill even if resettlement was in other towns.

C15 **Consultation with young people regarding a Youth Hub**

/123

The Clerk advised that he had been given a brief overview of the results of the consultation and would be given the full results during October. The 'headlines' were that young people were interested in activities such as the skate park and proposed pump track. They were looking for somewhere to hang out and somewhere to produce music. They appeared to find access to information was not a problem for them. This suggested that the assumption for a hub where access to information and services would be the primary purpose was not necessarily still valid.

Once the full consultation results were received, these would be reviewed and proposals worked up, before returning to the Council with recommendations.

CLERK

C15 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM**

/124

The meeting received reports from the Police and Borough/County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill and the Public Forum. See Appendix 1 for Details.

Councillors C Turner and W Yang left the meeting

C15 **Haverhill Corn Exchange**

/125

Members again expressed concern at the state of the building and the need for the Conservation officer to get involved in some enforcement action. Councillor Byrne advised that one group who had been considering converting the building for flats and a meeting room had concluded that this was not a sustainable development and pulled out. Another group have similar plans but their business plan is unclear at this stage.

Councillor J Crooks asked that a building survey be carried out on the building to establish what works were needed, and the cost, of stabilising the state of the building. This would be an agenda item on 20th October. Councillor Byrne will ask the group which recently pulled out from converting the building are able to share information on its state.

CLERK

C15 **One Haverhill**

/126

Councillor D Roach proposed, seconded by Councillor J Burns, the following motion:

To provide from within town council resources administrative support to the Chair of ONE Haverhill to include servicing meetings, issuing agendas, minute-taking, responding to press enquiries and FOI requests and keeping the website up to date. The Town Council would continue to provide banking and financial administration to ONE Haverhill whilst project work would continue to be done by partners, including project-related PR.

In return for doing these, the Town Council requires that the Terms of Reference for ONE Haverhill are amended at the next Board meeting in regard to:

Transparency – ONE Haverhill adopts, for a trial period of 4 consecutive board meetings, the borough council meeting system of Part 1 in public & Part 2 in private for any personnel or commercially confidential business to

be transacted. This will include the ability of members of the public to ask questions, record the public part of the meetings via any medium and publicly report on such meetings. At the end of that period, the 5th meeting can decide whether to continue in public or revert to private meetings. Also that ONE Haverhill responds to public FOI requests in an honest and open manner.

Representation – that ONE Haverhill adopts the proposals at the workshop on 17th September to increase Public Health and Town Council representation and that statements made in the name of ONE Haverhill represent the majority of its members' views. Also that no voting in absentia is permitted.

Partnership – That ONE Haverhill adopts the proposals at the workshop to change its name to ONE Haverhill Partnership to clarify that it is a forum for working together to create better outcomes, not a standalone organisation in its own right.

Chair – Given the incumbent's intention to step down, that the ONE Haverhill Partnership rotates the chair of the partnership at least once every 12 months and includes all voting members of the partnership in the selection process for Chair.

AND

That should the Town Council's offer of assistance and request for both proper transparency and better representation of the community on the ONE Haverhill Board be rejected, that the Town Council would be unable to continue to support ONE Haverhill and therefore subsequently and regretfully would withdraw from the partnership.

RESOLVED

**C15
/127**

Borough Review of Working Parties

Councillor J Burns proposed, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that the following response be submitted:

Haverhill Town Council limits its response to the Haverhill Area Working Party (HAWP) only. What representatives of other areas wish to state about AWP covering their location is a matter for them. A one-size-fits-all approach is unnecessary.

Haverhill Town Council objects to the proposal to scrap HAWP. It does so upon the following basis, in reference to the questions asked in the review:

- the possibility of building upon the existing arrangements of the ONE Haverhill Partnership (allowing for its current review of governance) to establish a new locality arrangement in Haverhill, working with ward members and locality officers:

There is no alternative forum for elected Members from all levels of local government to discuss issues.

ONE Haverhill is not an appropriate alternative – currently it is not even meeting in public. It should only be interested in adding value to the programmes of public bodies at an operational level by looking for common strands within the work of public, private and not-for-profit sectors and

building on potential win-win scenarios. A good example is that the Borough made a policy decision to create a Town Centre Masterplan. The operational delivery of the consultation stage was enhanced by the involvement of ONE Haverhill partners.

By contrast, HAWP is a public forum for discussing policy-level local authority strategy as it impacts a significant population – it isn't designed to be a delivery agent.

- possible alternative models of liaison and engagement on issues relating to Haverhill (if applicable):

A criticism levelled at AWP is that they are officer-intensive and therefore expensive. This appears to the Town Council to be much more about the location of meetings and the breadth of the agenda than about the principle of Councillors meeting. There is also a suggestion that too few recommendations come from the AWP. This is also about the agenda – Town Council representatives on HAWP do not recall any 'failure' to form a recommendation and can see no examples in the minutes. We think that there were just very few requests for a recommendation. Particularly the last few agendas appear to have been mostly verbal updates from officers.

The Terms of Reference can be amended if necessary. It needs only limited servicing and with shorter, more focussed agendas can avoid the need for too many officers to be present. It could be held at West Suffolk House on a day when Councillors need to be there anyway. It could broaden membership to include all elected members at each level of local government, akin to a "Grand Committee" which could feed back to each appropriate authority.

- The Haverhill Area Working Party before the last election:

HAWP has not even met since the election. There is a significant change in the dynamics for Haverhill and many new Councillors. The fact they have not been given a chance to meet is unfair and to scrap HAWP based on a particular view of past performance without at least one meeting of the new Councillors appears dismissive of the value of their views and the wishes of elected Members.

To conclude, the Town Council believes HAWP should be given a chance to operate for a trial period. Once the current Councillors have formed their opinion, let the question be asked again.

RESOLVED

C15 **Mayor's Report**

/128 Mayor McLatchy read her report to the Council, on her work as Mayor during the last month. (see appendix 2)

C15 **Parish Handyman**

/129 The meeting considered the report and proposed job description and budget for this role.

After discussion, it was agreed that although the work to be undertaken is the responsibility of other councils, it is clear that in order for a prompt response to issues not regarded as a priority by others, Haverhill will have to look to itself to do the work. It was proposed by Cllr J Burns, seconded by

Councillor D Roach, that the proposal for employing a parish handyman and leasing a vehicle for a period of one year be approved.

RESOLVED

C15 **Adoption of Committee Reports**
/130

a) Appeals Committee

The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had not met since the last meeting.

b) Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September be adopted.

AGREED

c) Leisure and Community Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September be adopted and that the council agrees to act as Custodian Lessee on behalf of the proposed Pump Track site.

RESOLVED

d) Personnel Committee

The meeting noted that the Personnel Committee had not met since the last meeting.

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Q Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2015 be adopted.

AGREED

C15 **Authorisation of payments**
/131

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that payments for cheques 10700 - 10870 totalling £200,304.88 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C15 **Annual Return**
/132

The Clerk referred the meeting to the previously circulated report of the External Auditor. The meeting noted that the report was clear, there were no recommendations for action and that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit had been on display from July until September. It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the external auditor report be accepted.

RESOLVED

C15 **Urgent Correspondence**
/132

None.

C15 **Staffing Matters**
/133

The Clerk drew the attention of the meeting to the report on the minimum wage rates from 1st October.

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the following rates be adopted:

Apprentice rate: £1 higher than the national rate, so £4.30p/h

That the under 18 National Minimum Wage rate is not used. But that all

workers under age 21 who are on the NMW be paid £5.30p/h
That the 21+ rate is not used, but that all workers aged 21 and over who
would otherwise be on the NMW be paid the National Living Wage set by
the Living Wage Foundation, currently £7.85.

RESOLVED

C15

Date of next Meeting:

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The next meeting will be held on 20th October 2015 at 7:30pm

C15

Closure

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:36pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

Police Report:

Inspector Ferrie:

1. The change in the way crime is recorded has produced figures greatly increased on those reported last year. Some of it may or may not be actual increases in crime, but it appears to be mostly down to the change in reporting. Total crime has increased to 1215 for the year, compared to the three year average of 849. There are a few crimes that are reducing in terms of reports – drug related crime is down from 48 to 29.

2. Your Police teams in Haverhill (both response and SNT) are all currently fully staffed, with no vacancies.

3. The budget cuts for policing are looking to be between 25-40% cuts nationally. It is not yet known what this means to Haverhill. The government will announce the final figures in December.

4. In reference to the report regarding the skate park, the police find it well-used and there are no problems.

County Councillor Julian Flood:

Councillor Flood reported the following matters:

1. He attended a meeting of the Parkway Residents Association and found it very useful. He urged other Councillors to support their local Resident's Association.
2. He is funding new fishing stands at the "newt pond".
3. Wind turbine at Nosterfield End he understands has been rejected at appeal.

County Councillor Tony Brown:

Councillor Brown reported on the following matters:

1. Very disappointed to report the Sainsbury's pedestrian crossing now won't be installed until after Christmas

Mr W Austin: Expressed his opinion that ONE Haverhill's Masterplan report did not include the views of ordinary people given at the information days held on Market Hill. The fact the group refuses to meet in public takes away the democratic rights of townspeople.

Appendix 2

Mayor's Report for July – September 2015

Because of limited time this evening, I will highlight just a few of the many duties I have performed on behalf of Haverhill in the last few weeks.

On the 12th July I attended the local Vehicle Rally here in Haverhill and was very impressed with the way it was organised. The owners of the vehicles entered were very enthusiastic about his event continuing and even growing larger, they think it is one of the best venues in the calendar and our team here in the Arts Centre can be thanked for the smooth running of this event, if it were to be bigger it would need to be somewhere other than the car park and I certainly think this would be worth it.

On the 17th July we attended ONE Haverhill Apprenticeship Awards, this was very inspiring as the amount of work put into the by Karen who is based here at the Arts Centre, has led to local companies investing in a good number of apprentices in Haverhill. On the same day we attended the Leavenheath Civic Reception. In the same week we attended the ever popular and successful Haverhill summer bash again successful thanks to our Arts Centre Team, that evening we also attended the Mayor of St Edmundsbury's Civic service. That week we also attended an event put on by the amazing group, Inspire Suffolk Prince's Trust Team, I felt humbled by the success of the team in inspiring a number of our local young people to overcome difficulties and gain skills while in this scheme and I felt so proud of them as they stood up and described the experience of completing the course.

On the 28th of July we put on a Mayor at Home Event and I had the bright idea of doing something a little different to the usual glass in hand do, this was to put on a show of some of the terrific things we have in Haverhill and we only had about three days to do it, this meant a lot of hard work for Colin, Vicky, Nick and all the team here. You should have seen the canapés handed out they were made by our team here and were fit for a palace function. The theme was the Past, Present and the Future of Haverhill, in a very short time we managed to put on twelve displays related to this and it was very successful and still talked about on the Mayoral circuit, I am very proud of that event, it lead to Haverhill being described as the lost jewel in the crown of Suffolk, well, it is no longer lost as people are becoming more and more aware of Haverhill and we all need to make sure we promote it to the best of our ability.

On the 10th of August we attended a Mayors Charity Event in Sudbury not long before the horrendous fire there, I contacted the Town Clerk at the time and offered condolences and support on behalf of the people of Haverhill, last Sunday I was able to ask him how things are at the moment, he told me that some of the people made homeless were now in accommodation and that the people and business of Sudbury had been very generous and donated huge amounts of essential needs, clothes and money to help the situation.

That same week we attended our local Floral Arts Club Event, also we attended the VJ War Memorial Parade in Bury St Edmunds. I had the privilege of laying a wreath at the Memorial on behalf of the people of Haverhill. Next day we attended our local VJ walk around the cemetery to pay homage to the men of Haverhill who so bravely gave their lives so that we may live in peace today, the event was very well organised by our local History Society and was quite an emotional occasion.

Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 18th 2015. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

Back from holiday we were straight into duties. On the Sunday we attended the My Blue Heart exhibition then the Parade and Sunset Ceremony to celebrate the Queens Longest Reign at Bury. The same evening after, the suggestion by Cllr John Burns and Cllr Tony Brown, Colin and the team here at the Arts Centre organised the setting off of the fireworks at the New Croft as Haverhill's way of commemorating our Queens Longest Reign. In the same week we attended the 95th Anniversary Celebration of Suffolk West WI Federation. Also I presented a very large number of certificates to our local children at the library for reading achievements; this was heart-warming as there were so many really young children there.

On the 16th of September our very own REACH celebrated the 10th anniversary of REACH Community Projects and all the wonderful work they do and I must say that REACH is one of the subjects of the Mayor's At Home event that is mentioned time and time again. They were the inspiration for several visiting Mayors and Chairmen to set up similar groups in their areas.

We attended events in Woodbridge, Hadleigh and also a Battle of Britain service in Bury.

Last week we were in Bury for the Graduation Ceremony of West Suffolk University on Saturday morning and a charity event in Saffron Walden in the evening. On Sunday we were at a charity event in Stowmarket in the morning and a Civic Service in Ipswich in the afternoon.

This morning I attended the enrolment session of our local U3A and if you do not belong to this I would urge to do so as they cover a huge variety of interests that appeal to all tastes.

End of Mayor's report.