

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 14th December 2015 at 7.30pm at the Leiston Community Centre, Haverhill

Present: Mayor Councillor B McLatchy
Deputy Mayor Councillor D Roach
Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor T Chivers Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor C Turner
Councillor A Williams
Councillor W Yang

Apologies: Councillor M Byrne – attending another meeting

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

10 members of the public were present.

Welcome & Prayers:

Mayor B McLatchy welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded. Revd Canon Graham Owen led prayers.

MINUTES

- | | | ACTION |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| C15
/173 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apology was noted. In addition, Police Inspector Ferrie had sent his apologies. | |
| C15
/174 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
No declarations of requests had been received. | |
| C15
/175 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 24th November 2015</u>
C15/160 Public Forum – Cllr Brown had advised it was the developer, not the Archaeological Service, which would provide an exhibition of any finds found during excavations on the Great Wilsey site. Subject to that amendment, it was proposed by Councillor I McLatchy, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes be adopted as a true record of the meeting held 24 th November.
RESOLVED | |

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

C15 **Matters arising not on the agenda**

/176

C15/143 Arts Centre Refurbishment: It was proposed by Councillor P Fox, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that a further £30,000 be allocated to the ongoing works. Councillor J Burns asked for confirmation that the funding included provision within the Studio for it being a council chamber, including the Council emblem. This was confirmed, although the provision of the emblem would be dependent on the Council agreeing the design. Members were supportive of the idea of a competition for a design to also appear on a Haverhill flag.

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

/177

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

C15 **Police Services in Haverhill**

/178

Members discussed the announcement by Tim Passmore, Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner, of cuts to police services locally. Particular concern was expressed at the closing of the police station public access desk – the largest town in Suffolk not to have a front desk. There would be a reduction in police and PCSO personnel and the way policing would be carried out, without regular patrols.

Councillors expressed their support for the police and PCSOs locally who are fully committed to their work. The treatment of PCSOs has been particularly regrettable.

Councillors discussed the suggestion that town and parish councils could fund PCSO posts locally, if they wished. It was felt that the town should not be cutting its services to pay for cuts elsewhere. It was also noted that on May 5th 2016 the PCC elections would take place, giving the public the opportunity to give a verdict on the cuts imposed.

It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that Tim Passmore and Gareth Wilson should be invited to meet with the council and explain how their proposals will reduce crime.

RESOLVED

C15 **Addendum to Finance Regulations**

/179

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that the addendum to section 6 which authorises delegation of the power to sign cheques to specific Councillors be approved.

RESOLVED

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that section 9.4 be amended to allow for bad debts to be written off “after a period of not more than 12 months”, as opposed to “within the financial year” as it currently stands. This is to avoid the need to write off debts unnecessarily early.

RESOLVED

C15 **External Audit Arrangements**

/180

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor Q Fox, that Haverhill Town Council will opt to remain IN the national arrangements for external audit procurement.

RESOLVED

CLERK

- C15** **Mayor's Report**
/181 Mayor McLatchy read her report to the Council, on her work as Mayor during the last month. (see appendix 2)
- C15** **Adoption of Committee Reports**
/182
- a) Appeals Committee**
The Appeals Committee had not met since the last meeting.
- b) Finance Committee**
The Finance Committee had not met since the last meeting.
- c) Leisure and Community Committee**
The Leisure and Community Committee had not met since the last meeting.
- d) Personnel Committee**
The Personnel Committee had met directly after the Full Council on 24th November. The minutes would be circulated for the next Full Council.
- e) Planning Committee**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Q Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2015 be adopted.
AGREED
- C15** **Authorisation of payments**
/183 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that payments for cheques 11027 - 11058 totalling £41,031.88 be authorised.
RESOLVED
- C15** **Proposed budget & Precept 2016/17**
/184 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Crooks, to defer a decision on the proposed budget and precept subject to receiving a report on the work of the Apprenticeship Scheme.
RESOLVED
- C15** **Armed Forces Day**
/185 Councillors reported back that they had been working with the British Legion and others to provide a greatly enhanced Armed Forces Day event in 2016. The discussion included a request for three flagpoles to be placed on Market Hill to allow for ceremonial events and flags for national events. It was noted that the flag pole on St Mary's Church was not fully visible from a ceremony held in the square directly below, particularly if it needed to fly at half-mast. Councillors asked that the flagpoles be tamper-proof and that consideration was made to the creation of a town flag.
It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the unspent £3000 2015/16 war commemoration event budget be used to fund the purchase of three flagpoles and pay for planning applications.
RESOLVED
- C15** **Haverhill Disability Forum**
/186 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that Councillor P Fox be appointed as representative of the Town Council to Haverhill Disability Forum.
RESOLVED

CLERK

C15 **Urgent Correspondence**

/187 None.

C15 **ONE Haverhill Partnership Terms of Reference**

/188 Councillors welcomed the new terms of reference and the opening of the meetings to the public. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor T Chivers that the Town Council endorses the Terms of Reference.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that the nominations of two additional representatives and two substitutes be deferred until closer to the next meeting of the Partnership.

C15 **Staffing Matters**

/189 It was proposed by Councillor B Robbins, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that a budget equivalent to £15 per staff member be allocated towards a staff thank you event for their hard work over the preceding 12 months.

RESOLVED

C15 **Date of next Meeting:**

/190 The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th January 2016 at the Haverhill Arts Centre.

C15 **Closure**

/191 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:15pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

Police Inspector Ferrie

The Clerk read out a short message of apology for absence from Inspector Ferrie : “I am very grateful for the support shown by members of the public and Councillors to our front desk staff and PCSO’s over the last week”.

Comment from a resident who wished his name not to be recorded

Expressed concern about the police cuts. He believed that the Town Council precept should be increased to pay for street lighting to be switched on throughout the night. Otherwise Haverhill will become a soft touch for crime.

Mr E Pinnock

Expressed concern at the closing of the front desk of the Haverhill Police Station. How could the public have a private conversation over an intercom? Officers work diligently for our town, which is expanding. How can the police therefore decide to close this front desk?

Mr I Johnson

Asked that the council and individual councillors object to the proposals for access onto the NE Haverhill [Great Wilsey] development. In doing so he highlighted:

1 – Demolition of 1660m² of woodland, which he described as excessive for the purposes of a creating space for a path, as more even than that required by a road. A foul water sewer was planned to go through the tree belt when it could be directed to avoid them.

2 – The south west access road should be directly opposite Millfield Road. Councillor J Burns endorsed this comment. The reason for the current proposed solution was that the land for Mr Johnson’s preferred solution was not in the control of the developer. However, this was Borough Council land and therefore should not be unobtainable.

3 – A car park access road was proposed for the brow of a hill on Coupals Road, the site of previous accidents.

Appendix 2

Mayors report for November into December.

On the 30th of November I made a donation of food and toys and Ivor and I helped pack Christmas hampers at the REACH depot to be distributed for Christmas.

On the 2nd of December we attended the Civic Carol service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral; this was a lovely service and well attended.

On the 4th of December we attended the Clements School and was very impressed with the behaviour, manners and work at the school, I was given a lovely welcome and later in the day at the events in the market square and recreation ground the children were very sociable towards me and excitedly talking to me about the events around them. Last Friday was a very special event in every way and thanks to the whole Arts Centre team everything went off safely and happily for everyone, people from the whole of the town and surrounding areas seemed to be there the place was teeming, so much so you could not get through the High Street but it was all good natured crowding. The lights got a lot of favourable comments as did the different layout of the attractions in the High Street. The girls on stage worked hard and were very much appreciated. Then later the fireworks drew in many thousands of people and again the hard work in keeping so many people safe was down to the well organised plans of the staff from the Arts Centre we really have a tremendous team there who put themselves out so many times over the year to run these events, I felt proud to be a small part in all of it and the Town Council proved again that despite the cuts they succeeded in giving the residents of the area good value for money.

On the 5th we attended the Town Twinning dinner-dance.

On the 6th I was given the honour of receiving toys donated to children in need, this was at the Methodist Church and it was very heart-warming to see so many children giving freely to children who would be receiving those gifts. On the same day we attended the Civic service in Brandon, this comes under the Forest Heath area of Councils.

On the 7th I attended the Market Traders meeting and I would urge you check on events held for this week and for the future as Sharon Fairweather is planning quite a lot of good events for our very valuable asset, the Haverhill market.

On the 9th I was overwhelmed by our own Civic Carol service, the Church was packed and again the amount of organising was impressive and I would like to thank our very own Vicky for all the work she put into it. The visiting Mayors and Chairman of other Councils were very complimentary about it and I was asked if the church had hired professional singers, I very proudly replied, no that is the choir I belong to and it is always that good.

On the 10th I was invited to attend art exhibitions at two of our schools and again was very impressed by the standard of work on display and I am dismayed at the reports published in the paper about the schools, I feel they are being very unjust about our schools and personally think that the children of Haverhill are the tops.

On the 11th we attended a Nativity Play put on at Stepping Stones nursery school and you know to see little two year olds taking part in it was very special and at a time when a lot of schools are not putting on Nativity plays due to national pressure it was so special to see Haverhill leading the way and putting the development of confidence building event such as this while demonstrating what getting Christmas presents is really about.

On the 12th we attended the EACH Gala event held at the Arts Centre and here is yet again another example of how special our children are. A little girl called Joni has worked her socks off

and inspired others to collect a very large amount of money for the children's hospice; we had a fun evening while still collecting more money.

On the 13th we attended a children's party at the Rugby Club, there were 52 children there and again they were very well behaved while having a lot of fun, games and entertainment, and the youngest was just 3 days old.

I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.