

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR

Present: Mayor Councillor D Roach
Deputy Mayor Councillor A Brown
Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor J Burns
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor L Smith
Councillor C Turner
Councillor A Williams

Apologies: Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor W Yang

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

8 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor D Roach welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded. Mayor Roach referred to the terrible recent tragedy at Grenfell Tower and the attack on a mosque, both in London. He asked that the minutes record a public vote of thanks to the people of Haverhill for the way they rallied around to come to the aid of the residents of Grenfell Tower and said that the town will show the same resolve in condemning hate crimes in all its forms. The Council stood for a minutes' silence.

MINUTES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| C17
/070 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. In addition, Borough Councillor M Marks had sent her apologies. |
| C17
/071 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
None. |

ACTION

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

C17 /072 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 16th May 2017**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Q Fox that the minutes of the meeting held 16th May 2017 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED

C17 /073 **Matters arising not on the agenda**
a) C17/038c Borough Councillor Report by Councillor J Burns: Following a request from the Clerk, the Borough Chief Executive, Ian Gallin, had provided a written response to Councillor Burns' questions and met with Councillor Burns. The Clerk was asked to circulate the response.

CLERK

C17 /074 **Presentation by the Suffolk GP Federation regarding Christmas Maltings and Clements GP Practices**
Dr Nick Rayner and Dr Fiona Andrews made a presentation to Councillors on the situation at the above GP practices. (see appendix 3)

C17 /075 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM**
a) The Police SNT report for June had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Inspector Cooper was attending the July meeting to address specific concerns that had been raised.
b) The meeting received reports from County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill. See Appendix 1 for details.
c) The meeting received reports from Borough Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill. See Appendix 1 for details.
d) Public Forum – See Appendix 1 for details.

C17 /076 **Mayor's Report**
a) Mayor Roach read his report to the Council, on his work as Mayor during the last month. (see appendix 2)

C17 /077 **A Council for West Suffolk**
Following a decision at St Edmundsbury Borough Council to explore a formal merger with Forest Heath District Council, Members discussed the possible impact of such a decision on Haverhill. Noting that the consultation was not yet open, Members identified issues that they wished Councillor D Roach to raise, as a member of the sub-committee looking at the potential merger.

Cllr Roach

- a) Would the merger result in a locality structure to serve the geographically dispersed communities? Could Haverhill have dedicated staff based in the town, such as a planning officer, given the level of workload generated by a large and expanding town. Staff could be embedded in the Town Council as a single point of contact but still be managed by and report to West Suffolk.
- b) Will this result in staff redundancies, if so, how many?
- c) Impact on the precept, given the differences in levels of precept and reserves for Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.
- d) What will happen to the number of Councillors? Will the electoral Commission require a reduction in democratic representation?
- e) Biggest change since 1974 – it is important the public are properly aware of the consultation when it begins.
- f) Concern was expressed at the speed of the process given the importance of it in its impact on democracy.
- g) How will the different shortage of housing supply be dealt with – will St Edmundsbury area have more houses to mitigate the shortfall in Forest Heath?

C17 /078 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**
The Clerk advised that the public consultation on the ONE Haverhill Partnership business plan had commenced and was being extended to 9th July. The 19th July Board meeting had been cancelled due to St Edmundsbury calling an extraordinary meeting which clashed with the Board meeting.

C17 /079 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

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

It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor J Crooks, that the minutes of the meeting held 6th June 2017 be adopted.

RESOLVED

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Crooks, that the minutes of the meeting held 23rd May and 12th June 2017 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C17 /080 **Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the listed payments totalling £174,094.38 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C17 /081 **Committee Membership – Finance and leisure & Community**

The meeting considered the terms of reference of the above committees.

- a) It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the number of members on the Finance Committee be increased to 10.

RESOLVED

- b) It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor Q Fox, that the number of members on the Leisure and Community Committee be increased to 9.

RESOLVED

Councillor M Byrne resigned from the Leisure and Community Committee in order to provide a space for Councillor L Smith.

There remains a vacancy on each of Planning, Personnel and Appeals Committees.

C17 /082 **Suspension of Standing Order 3w**

It being 9pm and the meeting having lasted a period of two hours, it was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that SO3w be suspended, to allow the completion of business before the Council.

RESOLVED

C17 /083 **Representation on ONE Haverhill Partnership**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that Councillor J Burns be appointed as the fourth Town Council representative on the ONE Haverhill Partnership Board.

C17 /083 **Urgent Correspondence**
None.

C17 /084 **Date of Next Meeting**
MONDAY 24th July 2017.

C17 /085 **Exclusion of press and Public**
It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media 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 – Commercial Matters.
RESOLVED

C17 /086 **Report from Corn Exchange Working Party**
a) The Borough Council has carried out the works to make the building secure and weather-tight.
b) The Clerk had heard from the vendor’s agent, checking if the Council remained interested in the property. He had responded, highlighting the time elapsed since the offer and the degradation the building had suffered as a result. The members approved this response and agreed it was important that we set out our current position to the vendor’s agent. It was agreed that the Clerk should invite our retained surveyor to attend the next meeting to discuss an appropriate way forward.
c) It was proposed by Councillor A Williams, seconded by Councillor J Crooks that the council continue to progress this matter

CLERK

C17 /087 **Staffing Matters**
No matters were raised.

C17 /088 **Closure**
The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.27pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

C17/075a) Police Report – The SNT Newsletter had been circulated. Councillor J Burns updated the Council on the topics raised at the liaison meeting held 17th May 2017. It was noted that there remained a significant shortfall in officers. Councillors again voiced their concern at the perception that Haverhill was not being properly served due to the lack of preventative police patrols except in shows of force after incidents. Councillors opined that policing appears now to be entirely reactive rather than proactive.

C17/075b) County Councillors reports:

Councillor Q Fox gave the following report:

- a) He and Councillor P Fox are working through the case load that they had inherited from their predecessors, and hoped to serve the people of Haverhill to as good a standard as they did.

Councillor D Roach gave the following report:

- a) Concurred with the comments of Councillor Fox in aspiring to do as good a job as their predecessors. In addition, he said it was a very steep learning curve and he and the other new County Councillors were undertaking training in their new role.

C17/075c) Borough Councillors reports:

Councillor A Brown gave the following report:

- a) Renewal of planters on the Market square will go ahead soon
- b) A decision has been made not to relocate the war memorial in East Town Park.
- c) The transfer of ownership from the County to Borough for the remaining ex-school playing field at Chalkstone Middle School is ongoing.

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- a) He had put on Facebook information about the resurfacing works for Eringshausen Way and Hollands Road, including the junction at Duddery Hill.

C17/075d) Public Forum:

A resident of Aragon Road:

Complained that the County Council Highways had reopened the layby on the A1017 adjacent to her property. This meant a resumption of the noise, vibration and environment issues caused by refrigerated lorries parking there overnight, that had led to the original decision to close the layby. Apparently the decision to close the layby had no legal standing. An intention to put up new signage banning overnight parking had been delayed awaiting a traffic order and in any case it seemed unlikely the Police would have any time to provide meaningful enforcement of such a ban. The resident asked that the Town Council support her request for a proper resolution.

Whilst it was not at this point clear what the solution might be, the Town Council agreed to write to the SCC Highways Portfolio Holder to ask for their intervention. It was also pointed out that if the resident and neighbours were to park their car in the layby, that would leave no room for the offending lorries.

Mr Wendell reported that

- a) He had attended the first meeting of the Town Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Review Group

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b) Sue Ryder are meeting with the Town Clerk to discuss the future of the Synergy Café.

Mr Pinnock asked if Dr Andrews could confirm how appointments could be made from August, at the GP Practice. DR Andrews confirmed it would be by telephone, with the GP calling back to arrange an appointment with the most appropriate practitioner.

Appendix 2

C17/076 Mayors report for May and June 2017.

The Mayor advised that the cycle of civic receptions had started for the New Council year. He had attended events in Bury St Edmunds and Thetford. The Mayor attended the flag-raising ceremony on the Market Square for Armed Forces Day and will attend the main event on Saturday.

Appendix 3 C17/074 Presentation by Suffolk GP Federation

Christmas Maltings and Clements Practice

Presentation to Haverhill Town Council
20 June 2017



The Team

- Dr Nick Rayner, Executive Director
Suffolk GP Federation (GP in Newmarket)
- Dr Fiona Andrews, Senior Partner
Christmas Maltings and Clements Practice



About Suffolk GP Federation

- Not for profit Community Interest Company
- Owned by 59 GP practices in Suffolk
- Clinically led with a board of GPs, Practice Managers and Chief Executive
- 10 year record of delivering primary care services
- Helping GP practices to work collaboratively
- Expanding the role of primary care



Christmas Maltings and Clements - The Need For Change

Serious challenges must be addressed:

- Growing demand - rising patient waiting times
- Just three GP Partners who run the practice
- Several GPs have left in the last 12 months
- Problems finding replacements



What We Are Doing

- Suffolk GP Federation will take on the running of the practice
- Current way of booking appointments will end
- Clinical staff such as nurses, pharmacists or paramedics will see patients instead of a GP where appropriate
- Zero tolerance for unacceptable patient behaviour



Patient Engagement

- Patient involvement is crucial
- Christmas Maltings and Clements Practice Board
- Regular patient newsletters
- New surgery Facebook page
- Surgery website
- Healthwatch Suffolk



Any Questions?

www.suffolkfed.org.uk

info@suffolkfed.org.uk



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