

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 3rd November at 8.00pm at the Arts Centre, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor J Burns (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Williams

Apologies: None

Absent: Councillor W Yang

In Attendance: Councillor J Crooks
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor I McLatchy
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Nick Keeble (Arts and Leisure Manager)
Lyn Davis, 3CT Community Transport

8 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

LC15 **Apologies for Absence**

/059 No apologies had been received.

LC15 **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations**

/060 Item LC15/xxx

Cllr M Byrne, Non-Pecuniary Interests: Soup-A-Lunch & also Eastern Savings & Loan Credit Union

Cllr A Brown, Non Pecuniary Interest: Eastern Savings & Loan Credit Union

LC15 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

/061 The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2015 were agreed as a true record.

ACTION

LC15 Matters Arising

/062 No matters were arising.

LC15 3 CT Community Transport

/063 Ms Lyn Davis provided a verbal report on the work of the local community transport service. It continued to be extremely busy but was facing cuts in SCC funding. 70 groups are affiliated to use the community buses, which 3CT had been required to buy from the County Council if they wanted to retain their use; SCC had previously owned and maintained them as part of the council fleet. This has meant the loss of one bus. The Dial-A-Ride service carried 300 passengers a month. An annual charge may be re-introduced to help with the funding shortfall.

The Mayor congratulated Ms Davis on the work of the organisation and particularly the volunteers who worked so hard.

LC15 Public Forum

/064 No member of the public wished to speak.

LC15 Current expenditure against budget

/065 The meeting noted that of the main grant fund of £13,000, £8,050.53 remained available for giving.

LC15 Determination of current grant applications

/066 The Committee determined the following grants

- a) **3ct Community Transport - £3000** being the annual amount budgeted to support their work generally. Proposed by Councillor A Williams, seconded by Councillor J Burns, the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve this request.
- b) **Haverhill & District Town Twinning Association - £1000** being the annual amount budgeted to support their work generally. It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, to approve this request.
RESOLVED
The Council welcomed the initiative to bring in new members.
- c) **Haverhill & District U3A - £300** towards the cost of hiring the Arts Centre and speaker fees. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, to approve this request.
RESOLVED
- d) **Haverhill Steering Group – Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union - £5000** to promote small-scale saving and borrowing to combat high interest payday and doorstep lending. The Committee agreed to invite the body to send along a representative to the next meeting to explain the work of a Credit Union.
- e) **Leiston Community Centre Soup-A-Lunch - £500** to provide hot food and company for people of Haverhill who are unable to provide a hot meal for themselves. It was proposed by Councillor P Fox, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon to approve this request.
RESOLVED

LC15 Reports from Grant Recipients

/067 The Clerk provided details of the recent regular report by REACH.

LC15 Celebrations in 2016

/068 The Committee agreed that proposals should be drawn up for celebrating the

CLERK

Queen's 90th birthday on 11th-12th June.

The Clerk will write to the British Legion regarding marking events such as the Battle of the Somme.

An arts festival marking such anniversaries as the death of Shakespeare, birth of Charlotte Bronte and Roald Dahl would be used to find funding for a project worker to lead on these.

It was noted that other anniversaries, such as the 80th anniversary of the Spitfire, 25th anniversary of the creation of the World Wide Web and 350th anniversary of the Great Firer of Haverhill were all upcoming.

LC15 Police Public Engagement

/069 The Clerk advised that the police were proposing a new style of public engagement as a successor to the Safer Neighbourhood Priority Setting meetings. They would like to hold them at the Arts Centre. The Council had set aside a Section 17 Reserve fund to provide for this. It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor A Brown that £400 be allocated to fund these meetings at the Arts Centre.

RESOLVED

LC15 Report on past and future Arts Centre and leisure activities

/070 The Arts and Leisure Manager tabled a report. See appendix 1. In addition, the Committee were advised of the plans in place for the refurbishment of the café, studio and bar. The clerk highlighted the great effort that the volunteers and town council staff had put in to making the Halloween Trail a great success. The Mayor thanks Mr Keeble on behalf of the Council for the excellent work he and his team do for the town.

LC15 Date of Next Meeting

/071 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 5th January 2016. The venue would be confirmed closer to the time as the Arts Centre would be closed for refurbishment.

LC15 Closure

/072 The meeting was declared closed at 9:45pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

Arts & Leisure Report for meeting on 3rd November 2015

HALLOWEEN TRAIL 2015

The 2015 Halloween Trail took place on Friday 30 October in East Town Park. Estimated attendance was more than 2500 people, many of whom dressed up for the night. The event was much enjoyed and there were no issues or accidents. This continues to be one of the most popular events in the Town Council programme. A number of the performers commented on the wonderful community nature of the event and how well behaved the young people were. A bucket collection at the end of the trail raised just over £500. The event was stewarded by a large number of volunteers from the Friends of the East Town Park.

WINTER IN HAVERHILL The Winter in Haverhill brochure is currently at the design stage and the activities are being finalised. The key date is the Family Christmas Night / Christmas Lights Switch On / Fireworks which will take place on Friday 4 December.

ARTS CENTRE PROGRAMME

Event Cinema has been very strong again with excellent attendances for The Rocky Horror Show, The Importance of Being Earnest and Hamlet. The current season also includes Of Mice and Men, The Winter's Tale and Jane Eyre which has good advance sales. Presales of pantomime tickets are promising and there sell out show in the current brochure include The Indians, A Touch of Holly at Christmas and A Night of 70s and 80s Soul Funk and Disco.

Daytime Autism Friendly screenings have been introduced into the film programme. It is hoped that this initiative will be extended in the future for children and young people.

The next programme has been finalised and will include comedian Omid Djalili, an Easter pantomime of The Wizard of Oz, The Barron Knights, a film made in Suffolk and the Centre Stage Pantomime Rapunzel. **EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES IN 2016**

In addition to those that we have already covered earlier in the meeting, talks are ongoing with individuals, groups and artist to develop possible projects for Haverhill:

- A Community Choir
- Film Making Sessions for Young people
- A cultural event organised with the Eastern European Community of Haverhill
- Options to develop the Family Christmas Night
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ARTS CENTRE REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

Councillors will be aware that we are currently undertaking work to obtain costings for an extensive refurbishment of parts of the Arts Centre. Part of the work is replacement of aging failing technical equipment and part is to upgrade the decoration and upgrade resources.

House Lighting / Main Hall lighting

The contract for the house lighting system in the main hall has been offered and the new lights are due to be fitted in January 2016.

Auditorium PA

We are obtaining quotes and arranging for demonstrations of new sound system that will integrate the cinema sound and the live sound systems. The aim is for the system to be installed in early January 2016.

The Café, Studio and Bar

Myself, Operations Manager Gary Wilson and Catering Manager Mel Bassett attended presentations by Interior Design students at West Suffolk College today. We saw work produced by 14 students. The presentations were of a very high quality and the designs were very imaginative and exciting.

The students had visited the Centre in late September and were taken through a brief that asked them to take into account the historic nature of the building while a visual link between the spaces. The students were asked to consider of the range of activities that take place in the studio and we hope that the final design will produce a unique, attractive environment that will serve the Arts Centre well in the future.

The next step will be to develop the plans into a final design and appoint contractors to carry out the work. Subject to plans coming together we are looking to carry out the works in late December / early January.

Outside works

Scaffolding will be put up around the Arts Centre in the next week to enable access to the guttering clear, refurbish, redecorate and install pigeon proofing. Some external decoration and repairs will also be carried out

Nick Keeble November 2015.