

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.00pm at the Leiston 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
Councillor W Yang

Apologies: None

Absent: None

In Attendance: Councillor B Robbins
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Nick Keeble (Arts and Leisure Manager)

5 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. The meeting noted that this day was International Women's Day. Mr N Keeble confirmed a message of solidarity and support had been issued via Facebook, on behalf of the Council.

MINUTES

LC16 /015 Apologies for Absence
None – All Members were present.

LC16 /016 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations
Item LC16/021a

Cllr A Brown Cllr J Burns Cllr B McLatchy Cllr P Fox Cllr B Robbins	Non-Pecuniary Interest:	ATC Grant Application as they have been approached for funding from their locality budget.
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LC16 /017 Minutes of the Last Meeting
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2016 be agreed as a true record.
RESOLVED

ACTION

LC16 Matters Arising

/018 Cllr J Burns asked for an update on sponsorship for the High Street Planters. The Clerk confirmed that 10 Planters had been sponsored – the main sponsor being Haverhill Chamber of Commerce.

LC16 Public Forum

/019 No member of the public asked to speak during the Forum.

LC16 Current Expenditure against Budget for Grants

/020 The meeting noted that of the £11,391 remaining of the budget £2,250 was for general grants and £1000 for AGMs. Funding budgeted for Reach and Women's Groups could also be accessed, subject to the committee approving virements from those budgets to that for general grant giving.

LC16 Determination of current grant applications

/021 The Committee determined the following grants

Organisation Name	Purpose of funding	Amount Requested	History of Previous HTC Grant Awards	Amount Awarded
a) Air Training Corps 1451 (Haverhill) Squadron	IT Support Equipment, Flight Simulator and Exercise/Leadership equipment.	£1,000.00		£1,378.00 to pay for flight simulator
b) Haverhill & District Flower Club	Floral Art Competition 11th-13 th Aug 2016	£1,000.00	2105 – Hall Hire 2014 - £1,000 2013 - £1,000	£1,000.00
c) Haverhill in Bloom	Funding towards annual planting up of the Market Square, Tesco Roundabout, tree baskets and troughs on the bridges.	£4,700.00		£4,700.00
d) Haverhill Owls WI	To fund speakers and promote their group.	£165.00	2014 - £300 2013 - £600 2012 - £300	£165.00
e) Haverhill Silver Band	2016 Area Qualifying competition entry fee and associated costs	£561.89	2013 - £700 2014 - £250 2015 - £1000	£561.89
f) Rotary Kidsout Western	One day event per annum where approx. 100 children of varying disabilities or disadvantages go to Wimpole Hall for a fun day involving various amusements and a visit to the farm, the grant will be used to support the event involving 40 Haverhill Primary School children attending.	£500.00		£500.00
g) Haverhill Townswomen's Guild	Support with rent, 3CT trips and speakers fees	£300.00	2013 - £200	£300.00

LC16 **Reports from Grant Recipients**

/022

- a) Reach: The Clerk read highlights of the report submitted. As usual the report was very full and the Councillors resolved to congratulate Reach on what they have achieved in the town. As well as the inspiring examples in the report, Councillors were aware of similar good outcomes for residents they had referred to Reach for help.
- b) Haverhill Cricket Club: The club had updated the Council on progress towards securing tenure over the access to the second ground and also reported excellent progress in the growth of junior and youth cricket. The meeting agreed that the grant should remain as an earmarked reserve into 2016/17, for them to call down during the next 12 months.
- c) Outspoken Theatre: The Clerk read out report on the 2015 performances of Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream. The performances had been very well received wherever they went, promoting the good name of Haverhill. Councillors accepted the report, congratulating the group on the admirable talent they had in their ranks.
- d) Haverhill Gymnastics: The Clerk reminded Councillors that the visit to the new premises was taking place on Tuesday 15th March at 6pm. The club had boomed since moving, allowing the whole existing waiting list to join.

LC16 **Community Ambassador's Report**

/023

The Councillors noted the content of the reports with thanks. See appendix 2

LC16 **Haverhill Youth Strategy**

/024

The Clerk referred the meeting to the previously circulated working papers and explained the background and rationale for each recommendation. It was proposed by Councillor P Fox, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the document be adopted as an official draft set of recommendations to Full Council.

RESOLVED

The Clerk advised that if the Full Council endorsed the draft as the Strategy, then the next stage would be for the individual recommendations to be worked up by professionals from the Youth Action Group and young people themselves into business proposals capable of being adopted and funded. Different recommendations required differing degrees of work. In particular:

- 1) On The Spot Van was the transfer of an existing project which required funding being approved (including match funding with partners)
- 2) Social Media project may turn out to be already catered for – in which the project may not go ahead, or go ahead in a different form.
- 3) Youth Skills Project is already approved.
- 4) Skate Park – This major project will require a lot of work before returning to the Council for final sign off of funding.
- 5) The Arts Centre extension was outside the scope of delivery via this strategy as it was bigger and broader than youth alone, and had already been initiated by Full Council. Concept drawings had been commissioned.
- 6) Creative Arts Strategy was fundamentally a funding pot for arts projects and a simple delivery plan was required.
- 7) Chill-Out Zone – This needs a small amount of fleshing out but can be considered a “quick win” as most details are already agreed by Abbeycroft Leisure.

It was noted that the strategy complemented the priorities of ONE Haverhill Partnership. Councillor J Burns asked that the NEET, Skills, Education and Training priority was not focussed solely on youth but also looked at adult education provision in town.

CLERK

Councillor W Yang left the meeting

LC16 Community Engagement

/025 a) Monthly Market Stall: The meeting agreed that an appropriate sized and liveried gazebo should be obtained to allow monthly meetings to take place on Market Square. The Clerk was asked to draw up a rota that Councillors could sign up to staff the stall.

RESOLVED

b) Outdoor Surgery locations and dates: 28/6 Strasbourg Square; 29/6 Leiston Shops; 6/7 Chapple Drive; 13/7 Brybank Road. All starting at 6pm.

RESOLVED

LC16 Report on past and future Arts Centre and leisure activities

/026 The Arts and Leisure Manager tabled a report. See appendix 1. Councillor J Burns requested to know the total number of ticket sales for events in the 2015 calendar year. The Apex at Bury St Edmunds sold 92k of tickets.

A member of the public raised concerns over the comfort of the new chairs and tables in the café. It was noted that overall sales were up and many other people complimented the new furniture. However, Mr Keeble confirmed that the similar chairs in the bar would have seat pads. If those were welcomed, then they may be provided in the café.

LC16 Date of Next Meeting

/027 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 3rd May 2016.

LC16 Closure

/028 The meeting was declared closed at 9:15pm.

CLERK

Mr Keeble

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

Art & Leisure Manager

Projects for 2016

The dates for summer events are as follows:

Sat 11/ Sun 12 June - Queen's 90th Birthday Events – public events in Haverhill Town Centre including a beacon lighting

Wed 15 June –Sun 2 July - Haverhill Festival 2016

Saturday 25 June - Armed Forces Day – working with RBL, Family History Group, St Marys Church and local uniformed groups to put together a day of events programmed around the Market Square and St Marys Church

Sunday 10 July - Historic Vehicle Rally – organised with the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society in the Town Hall Car Park.

Sunday 17 July - Summer Bash – working with the Summer Bash Committee for the annual Community Fundraising event on the Recreation Ground

Wednesday 27 July - Big Day Out

Wednesday 3 August - Chalkstone Fun Day – at the New Croft

Saturday 6th August – Tribute Night

Wednesday 10 August - Picnic in the Park – in East Town Park

Wednesday 17 August - Parkway Fun Day - at Haverhill Rugby Club

Saturday 20th August – Tribute Night

Markets

We are working with St Edmundsbury Borough Council to help promote regular markets in the Town Centre. The first of these is on Friday and Saturday 8/9 April when there will be a World Village market (crafts and foods) in Queen Street and a Young Persons Bring and Buy Sale on the Market Square. There will be craft markets on the Market Square on 7 May, 4 June, 13 August and 10 September and the Beer Festival will take place again on 2 July. We are also looking incorporating a market into the Family Christmas weekend. St Eds are using the Town Council for local knowledge, marketing support and collaborating with existing Town Council events.

Arts centre programme

The Arts Centre was closed for two weeks at the beginning of the year for refurbishment. Since re-opening, the centre has been buzzing and busy. Takings in the café have averaged over £200 per week more than the corresponding weeks in 2015. Centre Stage's panto played to packed houses with more than 1700 people attending and there have been sell out performances of My Pet Monster and Me, The Lady in the Van (3 shows), Alison Dando School of Dance (4 shows), Forbidden Nights and A Night of Madness.

February is traditionally a strong month for cinema attendances at the Arts Centre and 2016 was no exception. 1500 people came to see films and live screen events. Gross Cinema income was a monthly record £8400.

Schools and Dance Schools

Over the past four years, we have been concentrating on expanding our links with local schools and Dance Schools enabling them to make good use of the Arts Centre. We are now regularly used as a performance space by 4 local dance schools. Each school has between 50 and 120 dancers who always perform to sell-out audiences.

We are currently booked by Stoke College in March, Samuel Ward Academy in April, along with St Felix Primary School and Castle Manor Academy in July.

Arts centre refurbishment update

Councillors will be aware that we have been undertaking work for an extensive refurbishment of parts of the Arts Centre. Much of the work is replacement of aging, failing technical equipment and part is to upgrade the decoration and upgrade resources in public areas – much of which is more than 20 years old. The result of the refurbishment should see the Centre through the next 20 years and beyond.

House Lighting / Main Hall lighting

The project to install new house lights is complete

Auditorium PA

Installation of the new PA has been completed.

The Café, Studio and Bar

Café – the café has undergone an extensive refurbishment and began trading again on January 2016 as planned. Work is being done looking at new menu ideas and at how the space may be utilised at other times of the day.

Studio –The studio refurbishment work is almost complete. The last thing to do is installing a picture exhibition system so that mayoral pictures can be displayed at relevant events. This will be completed by 31 March 2016. A town regalia motif will also be put in place.

The Bar is currently undergoing an extensive refurbishment. The bar closes after the event on Saturday 5 March and

will reopen for business on Thursday 17 March 2016.

By the end of March the majority of the public access spaces will have been decorated and refurbished.

Outside works

The guttering has been cleared, refurbished and decorated and a pigeon deterrent has been installed on the gutters . Pigeon deterrents have been fitted on the ridge of the roof to deter the pigeons from residing on the building entirely.

Work has also been carried out on the lightning conductor. Scaffolding has been removed.

Nick Keeble - March 2016.

Appendix 2

Haverhill Community Ambassadors Report – November 2015

I have contacted all twenty listed Haverhill Community Ambassadors by email on several occasions. I have had responses from nine members regarding the Ambassador Scheme, eight wish to remain on the mailing list and be involved in future projects. One has asked to be removed from the list due to moving away from the area.

I organized a litter pick on 24th October at the Haverhill Rugby Club. We had six volunteers attend and myself. The event was advertised locally and in the local newspaper. I had one response from the newspaper article with a volunteer asking for more information and wanting to be involved in future events.

Since 1st September 2015, volunteer hours have been based on the litter pick held in October and one further occasion of litter picking in September. We had seven volunteers picking litter for one hour on 24th October 2015, and one volunteer litter picking for twenty minutes on 25th September.

Haverhill Community Ambassadors Report – March 2016

Since my last report we have had two members leave the Ambassador group.

We have had one person join the group and another request for further information regarding the Haverhill Community Ambassadors.

I organised a litter pick on 3rd March on land at the Haverhill Rovers Football Club. Students and staff from Samuel Ward Academy assisted the Ambassadors. This was a great success with 62 bags of rubbish collected (along with half a divan bed and a car exhaust pipe!). The Haverhill Football Club supplied refreshments for the volunteers and were very grateful for the work undertaken. The Borough Council attended to help with the litter pick and took the rubbish to be weighed. The rubbish collected weighed 220kgs. Samuel Ward Academy said that they would like to do this again before the end of this academic year.

We have also recently had a banner designed and printed which advertises the Haverhill Community Ambassadors and the One Haverhill website. This was used at the litter pick and will hopefully appear in the Haverhill Weekly News article about the litter pick.

We have another litter pick booked for 11 March with Castle Manor Academy and hope to achieve similar results.

Since November 2015, volunteer hours have been based on the litter pick on 3rd March and one report of a damaged street light, which was repaired within hours following the report.

My main focus now will be on recruiting more Ambassadors for the project.

Nicole Hulyer