



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## **ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY**

Held remotely on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Mayor D Smith  
Councillor L Smith (Chair)  
Councillor J Burns  
Councillor D Page  
Councillor A Stinchcombe

**Apologies:** Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager

**Absent:** Councillor Q Cox

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Sara Marsh, Comms & Customer Experience Manager (until 7.14pm)  
Jane Lomas, Committee Administrator

No members of the public were present

### **Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Councillors that the working party has no delegated powers and can only make recommendations to Full Council.

## **MINUTES**

**ES25** **Apologies for Absence**  
**/001** The above apologies were noted.

**ES25** **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**  
**/002** No declarations of interest were declared.

**ES25** **Minutes of the previous meeting**  
**/003** It was proposed by Councillor D Page, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

**ES25 Actions from the previous meeting not on the agenda**

**/004**

- a) ES24/050a Swift boxes launch 29<sup>th</sup> January: the launch date has been rescheduled for the evening of Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March when Save Our Suffolk Swifts will give a talk at the Arts Centre.
- b) ES43/050b Eco-vend: The machine uses the Trovr app to reward customers with vouchers. However, there are no vouchers specifically for Haverhill businesses. Councillor L Smith will contact Councillor Jarvis (the project lead) to request that local businesses become involved by offering vouchers, and to promote the Haverhill machine by using a photo of it, rather than the one in Bury St Edmunds which was publicised in the press.
- c) ES24/003f Tree planting Chapple Drive: deferred until further notice.
- d) ES24/039a Puddlebrook: this is ongoing and Damien Parker at WSC is carrying out a feasibility study.
- e) ES24/052 EV charging: Councillor A Stinchcombe and the Town Clerk will review the response received from SCC regarding concerns about inadequate charging facilities and publicising the move to electric vehicles in line with the UK's commitment to net-zero by 2050.
- f) ES24/058: Sharps bins: This issue has been resolved. Haverhill Pharmacy is taking sharps bins.

**Cllr L Smith**

**Cllr A  
Stinchcombe  
& Town Clerk**

**ES25 Public Forum**

**/005**

No members of the public were present.

**ES25 Visit to Great Blakenham EfW plant**

**/006**

Feedback on the visit:

- a) Councillors were surprised about the amount of waste that is incinerated.
- b) It was useful to think about the language people use. Although it is called an 'energy from waste' plant, it is not a power station, but a waste treatment plant; the primary purpose is to incinerate waste that would otherwise go to landfill, with energy as a valuable byproduct. Suez therefore reject the accusation that energy from waste is the 'dirtiest form of energy production'.
- c) The recycling plant across the road is a misnomer too. It sorts waste to supply recycling companies. No actual recycling takes place there. If there are no buyers for the materials they cannot be recycled, even if the material is recyclable.
- d) The profit margin on recycling blister packs is so small that it is not cost effective for commercial businesses to recycle.
- e) Card and paper must be clean and dry if it is to be recycled. Currently the issue is much of it is contaminated by food containers comingled in the recycling, such as tins and plastic.
- f) Tins and plastics need only to be clean enough and dry enough not to contaminate other materials. However, this will be easier once the new kerbside recycling scheme is implemented as paper and card will be kept separate so how wet or dirty tins and plastic are matters much less.
- g) Of concern is the start of kerbside food waste recycling and where this will go.
- h) Councillor A Stinchcombe produced a list of supplementary questions following the visit, appended to these minutes.

- i) Responses to questions raised by the Clerk:
  - i. Business waste: Trade waste created by district councils joins the existing energy from waste and recycling ecosystems, but private waste companies send it to landfill. It is noted that WSC state, in line with the Environment Act 2021, these businesses are required to recycle household-like materials by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. It is not known where the items earmarked for recycling will go.
  - ii. Sainsbury's response: Mayor Smith received a response about where the store's waste ends up: *Thanks for getting in touch. To confirm the plastic we collect in the flexible plastic recycling is emptied by colleagues in stores (aware you might know this bit already!) and backhauled to central depots, alongside other waste and recycling from in store, using the empty delivery vehicles. Once in these depots it is baled and then collected by our recycler, who also collect the plastic from our store balers at the same time, though both are kept separate. It's taken to a UK sorting facility where it is split into the different types of plastic. At this point it is sent for onward processing and recycling, all of which happens in either the UK or Europe. There is a small amount of 'waste' (e.g. plastic contaminated with things like food, general litter etc.) which makes its way into our plastic recycling. This waste portion is sent to Refuse Derived Fuel, in the UK or Europe. If this contamination is obvious at a store level when removing the shroud the whole cage would be placed into the back of store general waste bins (we do not and would not expect our store colleagues to sort through this material to pull out the 'good' bits), these bins again are sent to RDF.*
- c) How we might help with recycling items not collected at kerbside or accepted at Haverhill HWRC: to be deferred until the next meeting.

**Cllr Miller-Jones**

**ES25 Energy efficiency**

- /007**
- a) Arts Centre: nothing to report on work under the Energy Performance Framework.
  - b) Clements Community Centre: some quotes for work have been received but others are being sought. It is important to ensure that the company appointed has experience and is competent in installing air source heat pumps and that they will not subcontract the works. A suspended ceiling has been identified but there is no insulation. The Town Clerk will discuss the provision of insulation with the Operations Manager.

**Operations Manager**

**Town Clerk/  
Operations Manager**

**ES25 Eco-event: 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2025, 11-2pm**

**/008** The event will be held on the High Street as part of the main market. It is being publicised on the Arts Centre website and it will be on the Town Council website as a main event. Instead of stand-alone events, eco initiatives, eg swift boxes and some of the arts projects will be brought together to feed into the theme of increasing biodiversity in Haverhill. There has been a good response from Haverhill market traders but they are not necessarily eco-related. Schools and eco organisations (eg Suffolk Wildlife Trust) have been contacted but responses have not been great. The Men's Shed has been contacted regarding swift boxes and New Cangle School may be interested in showcasing their projects. Tiny Monsters (centipedes, etc) will be attending, and East Town Park has

shown interest in doing something around nests and habitats. Some backfilling is needed to offer more activities and information. It would be good to have some volunteers, and councillor volunteers, to help run activities on stalls. The Comms and Customer Experience Manager will email councillors.

**Comms  
Manager**

**ES25 Tree planting locations**

- /009** a) Chalkstone open space: four hundred mixed native hedge whips were planted a couple of weeks ago to create the boundary for the wildlife area. This was completed by the Town Clerk, members of Karen Chapple's Boost project, and Anne Strachan from Haverhill Tree Wardens.
- b) Adjacent to water treatment works, Wrattling Road: a corner piece of land adjacent to the field has been identified as a possible site for trees. In the first instance, the owner of the land needs to be identified.

**Town Clerk**

**ES25 Items for the next meeting**

**/010** Nothing further to add at this time.

**ES25 Date of Next Meeting**

**/011** Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**ES25 Closure**

**/012** The Chairman declared the meeting closed 8.30pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date .....