



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Tuesday, 10 June 2025 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Councillor L Smith (Chair)  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor A Stinchcombe
- Apologies:** Jane Lomas, Committee Administrator  
Sara Marsh, Events Manager
- Absent:** Councillor Q Cox  
Councillor D Page
- In Attendance:** Councillor J Burns (from 7.28pm)  
Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager

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**  
**/026** The above apologies were noted.
- ES25** **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**  
**/027** No declarations of interest were declared.
- ES25** **Minutes of the previous meeting**  
**/028** It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 10 June 2025 be agreed as a true record.
- RESOLVED**

### ACTION

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

**/029**

- a) ES24/050a Swift Boxes: The Clerk advised that six swift boxes have been installed on the Arts Centre along with a caller to attract swifts to nest. In addition one box has a camera installed, which is providing public live-stream. <http://51.52.194.94:10680> and the username and password are both set to **swiftbox**.

Councillor Smith has given away some of the swift boxes made by the Men's Shed in return for a donation to them.

- b) ES24/050b Ecovend: Councillor L Smith has recently passed-on the suggestion to West Suffolk Councillor Jarvis placing one in a secondary school. A response is anticipated ahead of the next meeting.
- c) ES24/050e Chalkstone Open Space: Councillor Miller-Jones and the Town Clerk are yet to meet at the open space to take measurements for creating a living maze, as they have been working on the Wellbeing Hub project.
- d) ES24/052 EV charging: The Clerk advised that a Neighbourhood Development Order would give us the same power as a Local Development Order does for principal councils, to give permitted development rights for EV chargers for on-street charging, but at a significant cost to the local taxpayer. The risk of us doing this is that at any point through an expensive process the permitted development rights might be granted anyway by a change of national legislation. If anything, a modest grant scheme for relevant householders to assist them with the cost of planning applications would work out far less expensive.
- e) E25/020b Offer of Horse Chestnut tree: No proposals from councillors for a potential planting location had been received. We have been offered additional Horse Chestnut trees.
- f) ES25/020c The Glebe: The new site on the Old Cangle was to have goalposts installed to facilitate the children playing football there instead of being a nuisance at The Glebe. Unfortunately, a poorly-worded survey asking the residents adjacent to the new site if they supported resolving ASB problems at The Glebe by moving the problem to behind their houses instead resulted in an unsurprising vote of 'no'. So the goal posts have been deleted from the project. It is believed the family at the epicentre of football being played here have moved away. The problem will remain under observation.
- g) E25/021 Existing recycling opportunities in town: Councillor L Smith hopes to speak to local retailers over the summer.
- h) E25/024 Environmental Policy Review: The Clerk has not found time to look at this.

**Councillor L  
Smith**

**Councillor  
Miller-Jones  
& Town Clerk**

**All  
Councillors**

**Cllr L Smith**

**Clerk**

**ES25     Public Forum**

**/030**

No members of the public were present.

**ES25    Energy efficiency**

**/031**

Clements Community Centre. The Operations manager has met with a number of contractors. He has sought more information on the VRV systems suggested by one contractor as a more cost-effective solution. The quote for this sits between two quotes received for ASHP to radiators.

Solar quotes for 17kw 43 panel and battery storage £22k. Payback period is no more than 19 years.

The insulation of the roof was discussed at the previous meeting. A contractor has advised that the existing roof needs a new cover before insulation is installed. The contractor suggested insulating above the roof and putting a new membrane over that. The quote was £87k. A second quote is being obtained.

We need independent advice. Councillor L Miller-Jones said she would ask her contact to help again.

The Operations Manager will circulate the documents.

For Councillor J Burns's business the panels were put on the roof by West Suffolk, who dealt with the whole matter. There was no cost. Councillor L Miller-Jones identified potential grants available. The Operations Manager will obtain those details from Councillor Miller-Jones.

Councillor A Stinchcombe asked if ground source was an option, given Councillor A Brown drills boreholes for a living. He also asked if it was better value to rebuild the entire community centre than spend large sums on the existing building. The Clerk agreed that potentially the cost of all the sustainability retrofits equalled the first 15% of a complete rebuild. Whatever the merits of the quote for the new roof, the point is that the roof has to be in good enough condition to take the solar panels.

We need to get more quotes for the roof.

Councillor L Miller-Jones suggested that the frequency of meetings be increased to facilitate quicker decision-making. The Clerk thanked Councillor Miller-Jones for that proposal, but the delays are much more around failure by contractors to respond to requests for quotes, and the myriad different advices provided by contractors on what we should do. Are these always self-serving suggestions or good unbiased advice? We really need that independent advice discussed earlier to cut through the bewildering array of choices.

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

**/032**

The event went well, Councillor L Smith said there was a good range of activities and street entertainment. Councillor Miller-Jones said she had received excellent feedback and thanked the Event Manager in her absence. It was noted that the two ice-cream vans were running on diesel rather than being plugged into the mains, which wasn't very green. They

**Cllr L Miller-Jones**

**Operations Manager**

**Operations Manager**

**Operations Manager**

were competitors, and for some reason could have been plugged in. A vegan ice cream option would be good.

**Events  
manager to  
note**

**ES25    Items for next meeting**

**/033**    No further items to add at this time.

**ES25    Date of next meeting**

**/034**    Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025. If the Operations manager can obtain independent advice and comparative quotes, an earlier meeting may be called.

**ES25    Closure**

**/035**    The Chairman declared the meeting closed 8.01pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date .....