

# Haverhill Town Council

## Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,  
High Street, Haverhill



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

- Present:** Mayor Councillor D Smith  
Councillor R André  
Councillor P Firman  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor M Martin  
Councillor D Page
- Councillor A Brown  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor L Smith
- Apologies:** Councillor J Burns  
Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor J Mason  
County Councillor H Sowa
- Councillor Q Cox  
Councillor B Davidson  
County Councillor D Roach
- In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator  
Mr Charlton Thornhill, Head of Commercial at Stagecoach Buses

5 members of the public were present.

### Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

### MINUTES

<b>C23</b> <b>/116</b>	<b><u>Apologise for Absence</u></b> The above apologies were noted.	
		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>C23</b> <b>/117</b>	<b><u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u></b> C23/121 Grant Application by Haverhill History Group. Councillor A Luccarini declared an Other Registerable Interest as he is Trustee Chairman of this group and would leave the meeting for that item.	
<b>C23</b> <b>/118</b>	<b><u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 26 June 2023</u></b> It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the minutes of the meeting held 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 be agreed as a true record. <b>RESOLVED</b>	
<b>C23</b> <b>/118</b>	<b><u>To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda</u></b> None.	

<p><b>C23 /119</b></p>	<p><b><u>Stagecoach Bus Company</u></b></p> <p>Mr Charlton Thornhill, Head of Commercial at Stagecoach introduced himself and his plans to hold a public consultation about the Stagecoach services in Haverhill. There are two distinct issues to investigate and he would like the views of Councillors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No.13 bus express commuter route between Haverhill and Cambridge.</li> <li>• Local town service.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors responded with the following items for consideration in the public consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a need for commuter buses to other towns, not just Cambridge, eg Bury St Edmunds, Newmarket.</li> <li>• HMP Highpoint is expanding – staff may live in Haverhill.</li> <li>• No direct service to West Suffolk Hospital – vital as Suffolk residents should be seen in Suffolk, not at Addenbrooke’s in Cambridgeshire.</li> <li>• Timings of first and last buses of the day to accommodate medical staff, students, et al.</li> <li>• Transparency regarding fares and keeping them affordable.</li> <li>• Displaying bus timetables at bus stops – not just online.</li> <li>• Electronic display at bus stops to show when the bus is due.</li> <li>• Synchronising bus timetables with train services.</li> <li>• Free parking at the bus station for bus users.</li> <li>• Kedington – one bus in the morning and one in the evening which is not practical.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr D Smith agreed that HTC would help with the consultation. He stated that it is important to hold face to face meetings, as well as using social media.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Page, that Colin Poole, Town Clerk be given delegated authority to liaise with Stagecoach Bus Company.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p>Members of the Public raised their concerns about the bus service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Town Hopper – used to be every half-an-hour but it is now not clear where to wait for it and the times it leaves.</li> <li>• It would be helpful to visit elderly people at their clubs to get their views.</li> <li>• Electronic screens at bus stops to show when the bus is due.</li> </ul> <p>Mr Thornhill agreed that all these points are valid and that he will consider them when formulating the public consultation.</p>	
<p><b>C23 /120</b></p>	<p><b><u>Reports from District/County Councillors on issues to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM</u></b></p> <p>a) <b>Police</b> – no reports received.</p> <p>b) <b>County Councillors – see appendix 1.</b>  <b>Councillor J Mason:</b> see report attached (Appendix 1)</p>	

	<p>Concern was raised about the closure of the lay-by on A1017 near Aragon Road. Councillors understood the reasoning, ie noise of refrigeration units and human waste along the back of Aragon Road. However, it was agreed that a lorry park should be created to provide appropriate rest/break facilities. It was felt that this should be the responsibility of Culina Logistics, as it is their drivers using the lay-by.</p> <p><b>c) District Councillors –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i.</b> Vixen Pub – Cllr P Hanlon reported that Barley Homes has looked at the site with a view to seeing what they can do with it. The sale price of the site was exorbitant and Cllr P Hanlon is looking into the possibility of a Compulsory Purchase.</li> <li><b>ii.</b> Clerkin site – The site has been empty for a year despite offers to buy or take on a long lease. HTC will write to the Manager of Property Services at WSC to ascertain their intention.</li> <li><b>iii.</b> Grass cutting/landscaping - Cllr A Brown thanked everyone who answered his questionnaire. There are a number of issues to work through, mainly, that SCC used to pay WSC to cut the grass 7-8 times per year, but that has now been reduced to once a year; and that Glyphosate is still being used. Cllr A Brown is trying to arrange a meeting with the leader of the council to discuss with HTC. Cllr M Marks suggested that Havebury be invited to a meeting as there had been an agreement about the grass cutting but it was not taken forward. She also asked for clarification on the use of Glyphosate and whether it may be used with discretion as there are some problem weeds around the town. This will be discussed by the Working Party.</li> <li><b>iv.</b> District councillors recently undertook IT training and although the GIS mapping is useful, it can be difficult to navigate. It is noted that this system can only be accessed on WSC laptops. Using GIS mapping, Cllr L Smith identified the ownership of overhanging trees over a resident’s garden in Glamis Close. This is Havebury Housing land and Cllr L Smith will contact them accordingly.</li> <li><b>v.</b> Installing toilets in Howe Road area near the skate park – further to a request from a resident, Cllr L Smith is speaking to WSC tomorrow although she anticipates that the cost will be prohibitive.</li> <li><b>vi.</b> Memories Are Golden – are looking for a new premises once their contract with Unity Partnership comes to an end. Cllr D Smith is maintaining close contact with the group.</li> <li><b>vii.</b> Market – Cllr P Hanlon said there are bicycles around the town advertising the market. Cllr P Firman advised that the number of stalls has increased from five to ten in a matter of weeks.</li> </ul> <p><b>d) Town Councillors - see appendix 3</b></p> <p><b>e)</b> A member of the public spoke regarding the Stagecoach Bus Company (C23/119).</p>	<p><b>Town Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Cllr A Brown</b></p>

<p><b>C23 /121</b></p>	<p><b><u>Grant Applications over £2,000</u></b>  <i>Cllr A Luccarini left the room for this agenda item.</i>  a) Haverhill History Group £4,400 for premises rental and activities. Mr Brian Thompson, Trustee &amp; Secretary/Treasurer spoke in support of the Haverhill History Group’s grant application. Cllr A Brown remarked on the huge amount of work undertaken by the Group and their endeavours to include everyone.  It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor M Marks that the grant of £4,400 be awarded.  <b>RESOLVED</b>  <i>Cllr A Luccarini rejoined the meeting</i></p>	
<p><b>C23 /122</b></p>	<p><b><u>Mayor’s Report</u></b>  Mayor’s report – see appendix 4.</p>	
<p><b>C23 /123</b></p>	<p><b><u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u></b>  A Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> September. There will be more to report at the next Full Council meeting.</p>	
<p><b>C23 /124</b></p>	<p><b><u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u></b>  a) <u>Finance Working Party</u>: It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023 be agreed as a true record.  b) <b>RESOLVED</b>  c) <u>Planning Working Party</u>: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the minutes of the meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> July, 8<sup>th</sup> August and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be agreed as a true record.  d) <b>RESOLVED</b>  e) <u>Leisure &amp; Community Committee</u>: Minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 not circulated so will be held over to the next Full Council meeting.  f) <u>Energy &amp; Sustainability Working Party</u>: Minutes of the meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 not circulated so will be held over to the next Full Council meeting.</p>	<p><b>Town Clerk</b>          <b>Town Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>C23 /125</b></p>	<p><b><u>Financial Matters</u></b>  <u>Authorisation of payments</u>: It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the listed payments totalling £222,609.89 be authorised.  <b>RESOLVED</b></p>	
<p><b>C23 /126</b></p>	<p><b><u>Actions taken under delegated powers</u></b>  HTC was invited to make proposals for UK funding under the Levelling Up programme for capital spend to support work in the High Street. Before the elections, a proposal was submitted for improving tourist information, but this was rejected during the summer. Cllr Q Cox has carried out some research regarding a second digital display in Market Square. The total cost is estimated at £22,000-£23,000; HTC would have to spend £13,000 to leverage £10,000 (the minimum is a spend of £4,000 to leverage £10,000). The proposal has been sent to WSC and, at the time of meeting, no decision has</p>	

	been received. The Town Clerk suggested that Full Council fully consider this project if WSC agree the proposal. The question arose whether HTC would be required to pay rates. The Town Clerk confirmed that rates are only paid if the sign is used commercially, ie business advertising. <b>NOTED</b>	
<b>C23</b> <b>/127</b>	<b><u>To receive urgent correspondence</u></b> None.	
<b>C23</b> <b>/128</b>	<b><u>Date of next Meeting:</u></b> Tuesday, 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023. Tuesday, 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 will start at 7.30pm due to a clash with WSDC.	
<b>C23</b> <b>/100</b>	<b><u>Closure</u></b> The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.18pm.	

Signed .....

Date.....

**Chairman**

- APPENDIX 1 – County Councillors’ reports**
- APPENDIX 2 – District Councillors’ reports**
- APPENDIX 3 – Mayor’s Report**

## **APPENDIX 1 – County Councillors’ reports West Suffolk District Councillor J Mason**

Apologies for not being able to attend Full Council this month. I have received a special invitation to attend Suffolk Community Awards. I sincerely hope this report is informative and indicative of issues I have been responding to.

The Suffolk County Council meeting isn’t until October. I will be attending SCC Scrutiny this coming Thursday where we are scrutinising IT Systems Security. West Suffolk District Council do not meet until Tuesday this coming week.

I would like to remind members that I am one of 3 County Councillors and that you can also contact Councillors Roach & Sowa if there are any specific questions and concerns not covered in this report.

Local issues I am engaged with, and Topics covered in this report.

1. [Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre](#)
2. [Highways Update](#)
3. [Highways Locality Funding](#)
4. [£10 million new funding to fix residential roads.](#)
5. [Persimmon Estate & Relief Road](#)
6. [S106 – Improvement to Ann Suckling Road and Wrating Road](#)
7. [Lorry Lay-by on A1017](#)
8. [Anaerobic Biodigester](#)
9. [Lloyds Bank Closure](#)
10. [County Councillor Award](#)
- .....
11. [General WSC Council News since last report](#)

### **1. Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre**

No update again this month, work continues, site visit pending. Hopefully will report back in October’s TC meeting.

### **2. Highways Update**

Since last meeting Ehringhausen way junction was resurfaced after patching mess. Much better but disappointed the full repair was not carried out in the first instance.

- **Missing signs, town centre, Ehringhausen Way Delivery Drop off Zone and any other TRO (Traffic Regulation Order issues)**

This is the first Town Council meeting since the first draft was put together. I have had further representations from Cllr Lucarini and Cllr David Smith which I have included and where I feel these should be included as part of issues that require consultation. See final Draft Copy as separate document. Cllrs Heike Sowa, David Roach & John Burns have contributed to this, and I invite any last suggestions and amendments, no later than Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Frustratingly, this work will not be carried out immediately as the new contractor “Milestone” is starting in October. It is my hope job packs can be created, and then we will start chasing dates for installation/changes. Due to the summer recess and workload, I was not able to update members regarding this final draft sooner. However, we can now move forward with a clear plan.

- **Bus Stop, Greenfields Way.**

This has now been green-lighted after considerable congestion between legal departments and the NHS. I will be discussing the installation of the Bus Stop with Highways in October and ensure it is added to the Milestone list of jobs to action.

Please note, this project which I am happy to say I helped get unblocked, was not a solo effort, and I want to thank Town Clerk Colin Poole for his research and support in getting this over the line. This project was initiated over 3 years ago by then Cllr Paula Fox and so I am pleased that this has been honoured. The bus stop will provide much needed convenience for those people wishing to visit the Unity Health or the Pharmacy on Greenfields Way.

### **3. Highways Locality Funding**

- **Slow Signs Approved for Howe Road**

Following concern from residents, I have had SLOW signs approved for Howe Road close to where the Railway Track and the Playground Area is. I have now spent all my Highways locality funding.

- **Dropped Kerb on Clements Lane**

The dropped kerb project for Clements Drive was approved. Thanks to David Roach who contributed to my locality pot to get this over the line. Milestone will receive this and works will be done, I have been told before Christmas. I think this is hopeful as Milestone will have to work through quite a backlog as Keir stopped non urgent projects some time ago. Improving Accessibility for wheelchair users and mobility scooters has been important to me in this area and I am pleased that the changes have been warmly received by users with mobility difficulties.

Frustratingly, Clements Close does not belong to Highways and I am awaiting a response from Havebury to see if they will fund dropped kerbs to complete the route up Clements Lane.

Please note Highways locality funding is not for potholes but for initiatives that improve our highways whether for safety or accessibility.

### **4. £10 million new funding to fix residential roads.**

As reported previously, local road surfaces in villages and residential areas in Suffolk will be targeted as part of a new £10 million programme. I am keen that Haverhill gets its fair share of resurfacing. I have had an initial response from Highways which may yet change, but I was disappointed that more could not be done, e.g. for estate roads on the Clements Estate. When the list of roads is finalised, I will of course be happy to share with members. Across the County, £10million, does not go as far as I had hoped.

### **5. Persimmon Estate & Relief Road**

- Work continues. I have raised concerns regarding completion and hitting the end of Spring 2024 target deadline. There has been a delay due to the Gas Pipeline and Cadent should now be on site working on this. Needless to say, we will begin to get worse weather as the weeks progress towards winter. I have pressed that every effort is made to try and meet the extended deadline which as it is, will be at least 12 months overdue.

- **Persimmon Community Room/Hall**

No further news. I refer councillors to my report in May. The Community Room will be part of the new school development. This has been drawn up, but I have been told that the earliest start to the build will likely be by 2026. So, this will go on a back burner for now. But I remain committed to pressing for this development to have a hireable space for residents in this part of town to use.

- I am disappointed to report my profound concern regarding the work Persimmon have been doing on Phase 2B and Phase 6. Phase 6 required a new submission, which I know the Town Council planning committee had a neutral position on. Whilst I have no objections, I have with WS planning officers and gone through in detail the increase in levels of some properties, and it will be essential in my opinion that some mitigations (trees) are added to the site to mitigate the change from the original reserved matters application for the benefit of residents along Ann Suckling Way.
- The playpark that is being installed by contractors is appalling and I have made clear to Persimmon the urgency and need for better delivery of amenities. To be honest I have a long list of items but for brevity I will leave it there. I am close to going very public with the state of affairs. Persimmon have agreed an onsite visit with West Suffolk Planners and myself, to go through the items mentioned above and many more.

## **6. S106 – Improvement to Ann Suckling Road and Wratting Road**

I am due to have another meeting soon with SCC leader Matthew Hick and Highways Engineers regarding the program for works and funding for Ann Suckling Road. It is almost certain that there is insufficient funding for all works including the Toucan Crossing on Wratting Road, Speed Mitigation including priority chicanes as well as Cycle Lanes along Ann Suckling Road. I am awaiting final costed reports from highways and when works are confirmed I will share with members.

### **7. Lorry lay-by on A1017 nr Aragon Road**

Following a lot of correspondence, with at times Cllr Roach and Cllr Sowa contributing, I have finally made progress with the lay by issue and the foul/antisocial behaviour of lorry drivers leaving human excrement for dog walkers to find along the back of Aragon Road. Issues were compounded by a refusal of West Suffolk CPE to enforce the TRO - refrigerated units were vibrating nearby properties.

This lay-by will now be closed. A job pack will be created in the first instance to make the closure temporary whilst an impact assessment is carried out. At the end of that, provided, issues are not pushed onto other residential areas, the lay by will be permanently closed and returned to grass verge. Residents have been complaining about this for years and the process has been long and tortuous. Happy to detail with members informally what happened and what was needed to get it to this final stage.

### **8. Acorn Anaerobic Biodigester.**

As all members are aware Suffolk County Council have now validated the application, there will be a period of consultation and I invite all members to contribute their concerns if they have any on the SCC planning portal. There will be strong representation from local county councillors at the planning meeting and if you wish to relay your comments to either Cllr Bobby Bennett (SCC for Withersfield), Cllr David Roach, Cllr Heike Sowa & myself, we will consider representing your position, in addition to any points we wish to make.

To make clear - Local County Councillors are against this Anaerobic Biodigester in this location. Put simply, it's the right idea but in the wrong place. Please see our piece in the Echo for slightly more detail.

### **9. Lloyds Bank Closure**

I am fully aware that a few members have voiced their concern regarding the closure of Lloyds bank. This has been echoed across the community. Cllr David Roach and myself, were approached by Lloyds as County Councillors and we will be meeting with them to discuss the closure, seek assurances and understand in detail the plan going forward. If members want to have specific questions asked, please do email, Cllr David Roach and myself and where we can, we will put these to Lloyds when we meet and then report back to you.



## **10. Suffolk County Councillor Award**

It was my great pleasure to award local fundraiser David Kennedy with a Suffolk county Councillor Award for his work volunteering in the community.

<https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/haverhill/news/selfless-charity-fund-raiser-recognised-with-county-award-9323431/?fbclid=IwAR2zNWD5DxoBND0ArFxBZcbK5VMjCeNO9exXAfCgdBtPyBRbQGpowvJV6yg>

## **11. General WSC News**

I have been busy with many residents' requests with support regarding street furniture, fencing & foliage across the Cangle District. I have tried to keep District members informed where I can if it was in their ward.

I am involved in a consultation with residents on the Glebe regarding a biodiversity project to help resolve anti-social behaviour. West Suffolk officer Jon Eaton is carrying this out and is liaising with highways. I hope to fund this with locality funding. I also have another project possible with Haverhill Cricket Club that is in its embryonic stages.

### **Havebury**

I am most frustrated with Havebury at the moment, who in my opinion are not responding to residents' requests appropriately on a wide range of issues. A number of residents I have supported have been frail and vulnerable and I do not believe Havebury has met the standards of support that people should expect as a minimum level of service.

I will be making representation to the Chief Exec, once I have compiled a report of concerns I have, regarding the upkeep of the areas they are responsible for, but also the customer service and support provided for vulnerable residents.

### **Coming up in the Chamber at West Suffolk Council**

On Tuesday we will be debating in the Chamber the decision to cancel the Western Way project. I will be happy to report back on the debate at the next Town Council meeting and I will try to keep my comments factual and not political at the moment as this is quite controversial.

At Cabinet concern was raised by the Leader Cliff Waterman of the risk in the current economic climate of proceeding with a project that would require borrowing at a time of high interest rates. Counter-concerns have been raised by the cost of cancelling this project and the waste of 4 years of officer work and lack of public consultation. Should the Council decide to cancel the reduced project of the replacement of the Leisure Centre, there will be £2.4million of costs with significant additional costs of essential maintenance to keep the Leisure centre running for up to a further 10 years, before there needing to be an entire rebuild as currently planned.

This is a complex discussion of which I have only touched on some of the implications. It will likely divide the Chamber and I would urge members to view the debate which I believe will be shown on YouTube. Whatever happens it is most certainly an interesting way to start following the summer recess.

For Haverhill residents there is uncertainty about the location of the Local History Archive which was to be relocated to the new development. I will be discussing with Suffolk County Council their ideas to keep it in West Suffolk. The last thing we want is for it to be relocated to Ipswich, which will certainly not make Local History local. I will make my position public in the meeting on Tuesday.

## APPENDIX 3 – County Councillors' reports

### Town Councillor J Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues albeit at a much-reduced rate and deferral of some work on Phase 8 – off Chalkstone Way. The temporary access road in Chalkstone Way has been permanently closed and all construction traffic uses the new roundabout into Donovan Way. Plans were discussed with the planning committee for the next phases recently. Redrow confirmed that the land offered to Samuel Ward Academy by the landowner (Mrs Pelley) was transferred to the Academy in May 2023.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for July 2023 were distributed on 7<sup>th</sup> September. The July edition of Constables County is available here: <https://www.suffolk.police.uk/your-area/snt-newsletters-july-2023>. Due to ongoing illness, I have not been able to resume putting out the repaired VAS as I had planned.
- **SCC Highways:** I continue to work on proposed TRO changes to be presented to SCC soon.
- **Combined Authority:** No further useful updates other than their plans for a new local transport scheme were rejected recently at a board meeting. How that affects our side of things I do not know.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** Work progresses on the Dean Road crossroad closure and installation of new roundabout at Bartlow Crossroads. Road closures at the new roundabout are scheduled for weekends of 30<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> October.
- **Parking:** No real update especially in the town centre. It has been noticed, despite promises to the contrary, the New Croft facility is allowing vehicles to park on the verges due to lack of stewarding whilst the overflow car park at Samuel Ward is left ½ empty.
- **Markets:** No progress to date although I have now passed over the detailed recommendations made by the working group in 2022 for someone else to take up the mantle.
- **Sturmer Arches:** National Archives confirmed the catalogued papers which I had hoped related to all areas of the country only related to three sites, none of which were Sturmer Arches. I am trying to find alternative catalogued entries as well as pursuing the Suffolk Record Office side of things in respect of the 1927-74 missing HUDC papers.
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** Still no news.
- **Fox PH (Wratting Road):** No further news.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** This came up for auction again on 13<sup>th</sup> September with a reduced guide price (down from £650,000 to £450,000) however failed to sell again even though there were two bidders and which the highest bid was for £465,000. I passed this information to WSC planners and to their Barley Home directors hoping someone will take some action.
- **Strasbourg Square:** Despite the money and effort undertaken on the Square in June, and promises made about maintenance, nobody from WSC had made any attempt to maintain the planting with weeds and grass growing through the bark. I reported this and have been told that grounds maintenance will make sure they included on their schedule – we wait with fingers crossed.
- **Old St John's Ambulance Station, Burton End:** Was sold at auction for £250K on 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- **Market Square:** The dips around the edge have still not been fixed by SCC as was requested to them by WSC.

- **Other work:**

- Helped out at the events held in July and August where possible especially HitP where a long week of hard graft was undertaken by all present including my providing equipment to film all the acts via 4 x cameras resulting in 2.2TB of video data.
- Have been keeping an eye on the Splash Pad and communicated with Town Clerk recently my recommendation to close the pad so an attempt can be made to clean it by HTC staff which scheduled to happen on 26<sup>th</sup> September using an industrial pressure washer. If not successful, and more of a trial and error to try to remove the moss-like substance growing, then it will be closed for the winter and a proper clean made thereafter using hot water. A proper cleaning schedule will be drawn up for 2024 so we don't have reports of slipping and/or discolouration.

There has been some deliberate and accidental damage done to two of the features. Replacements are really expensive to source through the supplier who obtains from a company in Canada. An alternative local source is being sought that could manufacture suitable replacements.

Fixed a problem where the grey water tank had not been discharging to the foul drain since it was recommissioned in April.

- The HTC server suffered a failure of its data drive resulting in having to restore data from the previous night's backup to the 2<sup>nd</sup> drive. A replacement drive has been received and awaiting a suitable time to install. In the meantime, an alternative method of securing data on a 2<sup>nd</sup> server in HAC is being tested by end users.
- For HitP made quite a few changes to allow the new HTC bar system to be used as a temporary till system for the burger bar connecting to the network in the kiosk. That worked extremely well.

It is hoped to resume testing and installation of the new HAC bar till system now new power and ethernet connections have been installed.

- An ongoing repeating failure of the HAC internet system resulted in a lot of work liaising with the providers. Openreach found at least 6 faults on the cables between the HAC and the local cabinet. It was very frustrating for staff in HAC as both being able to work with suppliers such as banking/card machines was compromised but also had an effect on the cloud-based box office systems. Barclays suffered from not being able to use their own systems in the media hub.

In the end, and following a costing exercise, a quick decision was taken to upgrade the HAC, Zone and Kiosk to FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) system resulting in a stable internet circuit some 8-10 times faster than the previous analogue circuits. The HAC was completed on 14<sup>th</sup> September and Zone on 19<sup>th</sup> September. The Kiosk was worked on all day on 22<sup>nd</sup> September however we were unable to commission as Openreach have an odd way of separating out jobs for the external and internal cabling. The system is however in all aspects ready to go and hopefully will be switched on this coming week.

The Clements Community Centre cannot be upgraded at this time as FTTP is not available in that area – nor Chalkstone or Birds estates – due to lack of underground ducting. Instead, the circuit has been converted to what is known as SoGEA which basically removes the requirement to have a dedicated phone line attached to the broadband line.

The new FTTP system should see savings of around £100 per month across all the sites.

The previously reported network firewall hardware failure turned out to more involved as the hardware cannot be repaired despite being less than 3 years old. An alternative product is being sourced however the new FTTP routers have some extensive firewall protection in them and may prove sufficient.

- Installed 3 x 2.4/5Ghz new wireless access points in HAC to improve coverage and make sure Wi-Fi available to Barclays in the media hub. The 2 x old units (2.4Ghz only) were removed and used in the Zone to improve coverage there for the card machines.
- Continue to regularly approve HTC/HCT invoice payments.
- Attended various HTC meetings both physically and online facilitating live broadcast where relevant.
- Have a meeting scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> September to walk the Remembrance Parade route with HTC staff and other organisers.

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **Mayor's Report to Haverhill Town Council Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Engagements since our last Full Council have been many varied, but as always happens during the school holiday period many events clash and so it is not possible to accept to all invitations.

On 20<sup>th</sup> July I was proud to have been asked to perform the official opening of the Haverhill version of the Mutiny In Colour Exhibition at the Arts Centre. What an extraordinary collection of art to have in our town. I have spoken with many people at the events I have been to since and they have all said how wonderful it was, and when are we doing it again! Congratulations to Sara Marsh who curated the exhibition, Dan, and all of the people that brought it all together. I managed to grab a quick word with the owner of many of the pieces, John Brandler, who despite initial reservations was extremely pleased with how the works were presented.

The next morning, I was back at the Arts Centre to take part in a photo shoot for HTC's Christmas pantomime, Dick Whittington. You may have seen the picture on the front of the Echo a few weeks ago. Dressed up in my finery, I had a few comments from people that thought I was in the actual production. To which I replied, "Oh no I'm not!"

On 24<sup>th</sup> July I was asked to open the Free Food operation at its new base on the Charter House Trading Estate. The organisation collects surplus food from nearby supermarkets and distributes them to anyone free of charge in order to prevent food waste and perfectly good food being sent to landfill.

The start of the school holidays saw the commencement of our community events, the first of which was the Big Day Out. The event was bigger and better than ever this year, and I think I managed to speak to every one of the stall holders many of whom were there for the first time. They will definitely be coming back again.

Due to inclement weather, the Chalkstone Fun Day was put back a couple of weeks which meant that I was able to attend both it and the Clements Fun Day the previous week. Each event had its own unique character, and, thanks to decent weather, were well attended. Haverhill in the Park was brilliant. Again, I performed the official opening. The attendance was slightly disappointing, but those who weren't there missed a treat. The eclectic mix of local and headlining acts meant that there was something for everyone. With hindsight, I wish I'd arranged a guest spot with the Faux Fighters. That would have been fun.

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August I was asked to be the guest starter for the 200<sup>th</sup> Haverhill ParkRun. This event has gone from strength to strength and have run every Saturday morning, except for the forced cessation during Covid, otherwise the milestone would have been reached sooner. There were people from far and wide taking part who happened to be in the area. Unfortunately, I was unable to take part as I had to shoot off to work. I'm sure I would have done well.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> we said goodbye to Lizzi Cocker who has been our West Suffolk locality officer for Haverhill for many years, and been a fantastic supporter of the town and all those who have represented it. We will miss her as she retires but we will see her around the aforementioned pantomime.

I was privileged to be invited to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Leiston Centre Coffee Morning, which has been under the stewardship of Joan Keys. I have got to know many of the members over the years, and if ever you want to know the opinions of people of a certain age they are always willing to give theirs!

Liz and I had a wonderful morning at the library on 9<sup>th</sup> September, giving out certificates and medals to some of the 160 children that completed the Summer Reading Challenge. Always a joyous event.

Later that evening we attended the Chair of Mid-Suffolk's Summer Barbecue in Needham Market. The Persian cuisine provided was certain a departure from the normal fare to be had at such events.

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September saw a double header, with a brief visit to The Women's Institute's National WI Day. And, yes, I did have a piece of cake.

From there we went to Haverhill Local History Group's heritage day at Gurteens. It provided a fascinating glimpse into what it would have been like for workers in the factory in years gone by. Our thanks to Charles Gurteen for giving Liz and myself a personal tour of the warehouse to see how Caroline, the factory's magnificent steam engine, would have connected up with the 200 machines that were powered by it. Also being demonstrated was a rope making machine. A glimpse into a bygone age.

The next day we were honoured to represent Haverhill at West Suffolk's Battle of Britain Service at St Mary's Church in Bury St Edmunds. The takeaway for me was the vast number of people that were needed on the ground to make sure that "The Few" got into the air to defend our skies. This is often overlooked.

This thought returned to me last Tuesday when we were at the awards ceremony for the Air Training Corps. Haverhill has a fairly small squadron, just under 50 recruits, but they came second in the region for the number of badges earned during the year, beating many much larger squadrons. They are not all going to be Tom Cruises, or Douglas Baders for that matter, but ground crew and admin staff are just as necessary to the successful of running an organisation as those in more visible roles.

My last engagement this period was to visit Memories are Golden to see what work they are doing for the community, especially for those with dementia and their carers. They are facing the loss of their facility as Unity Partnership have plans to redevelop the Park Road site, and hopefully I was able to give some assistance in their search for a new, permanent premises. I enjoyed a game of Shut The Box with Linda, Jane and Joe before I got kicked out as it was time for their lunch!

A long report this time, but it has been a while since our last meeting, and I look forward to more engagement with our residents in the future.