

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held on **Tuesday, 14 April 2026** at 7.15pm

Present: Councillor L Smith (Chair)
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor A Stinchcombe
Councillor D Page

Apologies: Mayor Q Cox

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips, Deputy Clerk
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager
Angela Wilson, Tree Warden

MINUTES

ACTION

ES26 **Welcome**

/001 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ES26 **Apologies for Absence**

/002 The above apologies were noted.

ES26 **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**

/003 None.

ES26 **Minutes of the previous meeting**

/004 It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe and seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that the minutes of the meeting held 9th December 2025 be agreed as a true record, the scheduled meeting of 3rd February 2026 had been cancelled.

RESOLVED

ES26 **Actions from the previous meeting not on the agenda**

/005 a) ES25/040 a) – Ecovend

Councillor L Smith reported that she had spoken with Councillor Jarvis several times, but had not made much progress. Although they had tried to resolve the issue, the machine at the Leisure Centre is still not working, so until that is sorted there is not much point in looking into installing other machines in the town. Councillor L Smith also reported that an upcoming change in government legislation will introduce a deposit return scheme, which may reduce the need for Ecovend machines. Additionally, the new recycling scheme being introduced will include bins that will accept a wider range of items, including items that couldn't be recycled at home before. The exception being blister packs.

	Discussion also took place around sharps bins, currently there is one at Haverhill Family Practice, with another one soon to be installed in the Stourview Wellbeing Hub. Councillor L Smith will continue to speak to Mark Walsh and the Eco Vend app provider. Councillor L Smith will look into retailers who will accept blister packs and crisp packets. Councillor L Smith also suggested that we should explore the idea of a volunteer collection service. Councillor L Smith will contact the local Laptop repair company. Once all the information has been collected, Councillor L Smith will also contact Joe Dexter regarding updating the Town Council's Facebook page.	LS LS LS
	b) <u>ES25/040 b) – Chalkstone Open Space</u> The Clerk reported that the Community Wardens were scheduled to plant Willow whips near the Community Orchard and will check the condition of the existing trees on site, particularly the Silver Birch. The Clerk is looking at borrowing a water bowser from West Suffolk or obtaining our own, so we can keep everything watered. A new tow bar has been fitted to the van, so watering can be more easily carried out at the site. Work to address the damage to the hedgerows caused by last year's drought will be carried out and a rented all terrain lawnmower is being trialled to create improved access across the site. Councillor L Miller-Jones suggested overripe bananas can be used when planting the willows to support growth. G Willson will contact Free Food in Haverhill to see if they have any left over and coordinate a collection.	GW
ES26 /006	<u>Public Forum</u> Angela Wilson, Tree Warden, wanted to highlight that the best time for planting is between autumn and late winter (October to February) but thought that the watering system may help if planting later on the sites that the Clerk had previously mentioned to her. It is important to think about the time of year. The Clerk confirmed that he had took on board the time of year for planting. The Clerk reported that there are a couple of sites that he had considered for tree planting, a site near the Glebe and Chapple Drive but this area would only be able to accommodate a small tree, and there was a need to avoid planting nearby residential homes. The other site was a triangle of land near Helions Park Avenue, which could only take one tree. Given these constraints, it he suggested that the tree wardens plant one tree and then use the rest of the funding to consider a broader biodiversity, such as pollinator-friendly planting, rather than focusing solely on trees. AW agreed that this approach would align with updated guidance encouraging habitat creation over supplemental feeding for wildlife. Angela also raised a concern over the wildflower mound around the edge of the Recreation Ground, which seems to have been mown recently. Councillor L Smith will contact Damian Parker or Simon Collins to see what has happened. CP to meet AW at Helions Park Avenue, CP to send dates.	LS CP
ES26 /007	<u>Bee Friendly Town Status</u> The Clerk explained that there already has been a lot achieved but now would need to concentrate on what to do going forward. He suggested that Haverhill in Bloom could take the lead in contacting and engaging with schools to encourage involvement in wildlife-friendly planting. He also thought that we could piggyback off the Science Festival, CP will work with J Dexter on that.	CP

CP advised that there had been a discussion around planting at the bus station, including wildflower planting, bug hotels and planting along the bus station, but that needs following up, but unfortunately may have missed the planting window. LS to contact DP.

CP had spoken to Simon Barnett regarding planting on bus shelter's roofs, but had not heard back. LS will check on this with D Parker as well.

LS

LS

ES26 Methodist Church

/008 To carry to next agenda.

ES26 Energy Efficiency

/009 a) Arts Centre

The Operations Manager reported that there was nothing much further to report, work was still ongoing.

b) Clements Community Centre

GW reported that he had put in a request for quotation for the variable refrigerant flow system, which has gone to ten agencies, hoping to be in discussions and meeting with them in the next couple of weeks. The end date is 1st June, just ahead of the next meeting. Seven firms have already engaged. Hopefully the project will progress toward completion by the end of the summer.

ES26 Items for Next Meeting

/010 None

ES26 Date of Next Meeting

/011 Monday, 08 June 2026

ES26 Closure

/012 The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Signed

Date

Chair