



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Tuesday, 8th April 2025 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Mayor D Smith
Councillor L Smith (Chair)
Councillor J Burns
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Page
Councillor A Stinchcombe
- Apologies:** Councillor B Davidson
Sara Marsh, Comms & Customer Experience Manager
- Absent:** Councillor Q Cox
- In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager
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**
/013 The above apologies were noted.

ES25 **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**
/014 No declarations of interest were declared.

ES25 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
/015 It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 4th February 2025 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

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

/016

- a) ES24/050a Swift boxes: the meeting on 18th March had a very good turn out and was well-received. There were lots of interested people who stayed on after the meeting. Some swift boxes are being sited at the Arts Centre at the end of this month. We have two swift callers – one will be used at the Arts Centre and the other will be available for another organisation to use. Thanks to the Events Manager and her team for all their hard work with this initiative.
- b) ES24/050b Ecovend: Councillor L Smith met with Councillor Janne Jarvis at the machine at the leisure centre. Councillor Jarvis is very keen for local businesses to become involved and offer discount vouchers, alongside the national offers. Councillor Jarvis would like to think about placing a second Ecovend machine in Haverhill. Councillor L Smith will forward the suggestion of placing one in a secondary school.
- c) ES24/050d Puddlebrook: Councillor D Smith and Councillor L Smith gave some of their locality budget towards a consultation that the running club were going to have to see what can be done with the area. Tree planting has been discussed and incorporating it into any plans. Damien Parker will speak to Tree Wardens as plans are made.
- d) ES24/050e Chalkstone Open Space: A meeting has been held to look at plans for a competition regarding the artistic design of a gate into the open space. Hedgerow trees have been planted. The area designated for a wildflower meadow has been very roughly ploughed. The next step is to refine the first ploughing by tilling, which will be carried out by Community Wardens. The dry weather is delaying sowing the seeds as they need to be well-watered in, in order for them to flourish.

Councillor Miller-Jones and the Town Clerk will meet at the open space to take measurements for creating a living maze. Advice needs to be taken regarding the best hedging to use for this project.

- e) ES24/052 EV charging: Councillor Stinchcombe presented his report. The uptake of electric vehicles is sluggish, a large hurdle being little guidance for householders and planning applications. Under current planning legislation there is no requirement for planning permission for the installation of a private charge-point serving off-street charging but, by default, permission is required if the charge-point serves on-street parking. A way around this might be by WSC removing this requirement and bringing forward a Local Development Order or a Neighbourhood Development Order. The Town Clerk will look into this to ascertain if an NDO would give HTC the same power as an LDO, and streamline the planning application process. Councillor D Smith will approach WSC Planning and Environment to look at how we can use this legislation to our benefit.

ES25 **Public Forum**

/017

No members of the public were present.

**Councillor L
Smith**

**Councillor
Miller-Jones
& Town Clerk**

Town Clerk

**Councillor D
Smith**

ES25 Energy efficiency

/018 Clements Community Centre quotes: The Operations Manager reported that he arranged for three companies to visit the site and provide quotes for an air source heat pump. It is noted that this is a lengthy, time-consuming business.

Company A: total including labour and parts: £21k based on a 16kw system (roughly the wattage of a house).

Company B: total cost £54k based on a 42kw system (our current boiler is running at 44kw).

Company C: although this company visited the site and took measurements, they declined to provide a quotation.

The Operations Manager had a conversation with the company who looks after our current boiler who suggested a VRV/VRF system (they are both the same product) which is similar to an air conditioning system (air to air). Company B agree with this and estimates the cost to be £20k-£30k.

It is noted that the systems are not directly comparable. The air to air system does not heat water and an add on would have to be costed and sourced. Further, insulating the space above the false ceiling needs to be taken into account, and the hall is a large, open space, making it difficult to heat. The Operations Manager will investigate and forward information to Councillors

HTC's application to the decarbonisation initiative fund specified an air source heat pump. Councillor Miller-Jones will ascertain from WSC if the funding would support a VRV system if it is decided that is the way forward.

**Operations
Manager**

**Councillor
Miller-Jones**

ES25 Eco event: 17th May, 2025, 11-2pm

/019 Despite outreach earlier in the year, the overall response from new participants has been lower than expected. Confirmed participants (but drop-outs likely):

Education & Environmental Awareness

- West Suffolk Park Ranger – insights into local wildlife.
- Luke's Bees – demonstrating the importance of bees in ecosystems, offering information on beekeeping and selling honey-based products.
- Mini Monsters – bringing live insects and creatures to educate about their role in the environment.
- Borneo Again (Eco-Themed Street Entertainer) – a street entertainer with an orangutan mascot, raising awareness about rainforest conservation.
- The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) – conservation through educational materials/memberships.
- Free Food in Haverhill – supporting the community by reducing food waste.
- Haverhill Town Council – we would like to sell the swift boxes donated by Men's Shed but need volunteers to staff the stall.

- Youth Services Sewing Workshop – teaching sustainable textile skills and upcycling techniques.

Art

- Community Art Workshop (Keith Hopewell) – art based activity on wildlife recorded in Haverhill which will lead to revamped street furniture.

Food

- Verruchia's Ice Cream.
- Super Crepes.

Crafts & Handmade Goods

- Guilt Free Soapery – selling eco-friendly soaps and beauty products.
- Moody Cow Crafts – handmade crafts.
- Apothakelly – natural skincare.

Councillor Miller-Jones thanked the Events Manager for all her hard work and the exciting range of stalls and activities. Councillor Miller-Jones proposed a story corner for children, telling stories with an eco-theme, and has other ideas that might dovetail/compliment the stalls already confirmed and will liaise with the Events Manager.

**Councillor
Miller-Jones**

ES25 **Tree planting locations**

/020

- a) Anglian Water Treatment Works – this piece of land is being used for another eco project so we are unable to plant trees here.
- b) Offer of an 8ft horse chestnut tree – a member of the public has offered this tree which is too big for their garden. We cannot move it for replanting until autumn/early winter. Councillors to think about where this could be relocated within the town.
- c) The Glebe, Chapple Drive – we have been given funding for tree planting to help address antisocial behaviour in this area. The trees could potentially be planted by Tree Wardens but the Town Clerk will speak to Angela Wilson in the first instance. If Tree Wardens are unable, Community Wardens will plant the trees. There will probably be 3-4 substantially sized trees.

**All
Councillors**

Town Clerk

ES25 **Recycling of items not covered by the kerbside collection**

/021

There was discussion about items that can be recycled but are not picked up by kerbside collections. Some shops around the town offer places for individuals to recycle items such as crisp packets and toothpaste tubes and it was agreed that raising public awareness of these services is important. In the first instance, Councillor L Smith will make enquiries around the town to ascertain what is available.

**Councillor L
Smith**

ES25 **Environmental Policy review**

/022

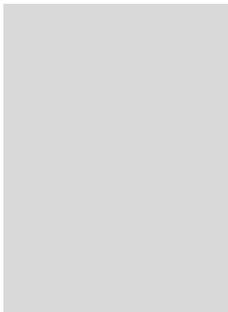
The Town Clerk will circulate the policy to working group members for review. Comments to be received in good time before the next meeting. The Town Clerk will present the proposed revised policy, taking comments into account, at the next meeting.

Town Clerk

ES25 **Items for next meeting**
/023 No further items to add at this time.

ES25 **Date of next meeting**
/024 Tuesday, 10th June 2025

ES25 **Closure**
/025 The Chairman declared the meeting closed 8.05pm.



Signed
Chairman

Date