

Haverhill Annual Town Meeting

Minutes of a Town Meeting

Held on Tuesday 16th May 2017 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Chair: David Roach, Town Mayor
Present: 57 members of the public, invited guests and press

MINUTES

T17/ Apologies for Absence

001 No apologies for absence were received.

T17/ Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th May 2016

002 The minutes were approved by a show of hands. There were no matters arising.

T17/ 003 The Town Mayor spoke of the recent loss of County and Borough Councillors and Mrs Rose Kiernan, wife of ex-Town Mayor Larry Kiernan and mother to ex-Town Mayor Gerry Kiernan. There was a moment of reflection.

T17/ Town Mayor's report

004 The Mayor gave the following report:

The ceremony of Mayor Making, whilst very simple, confers a huge privilege on the recipient. Donning the robes and receiving the chain of office was a very humbling experience given that you become the public face of the town. It also brings a huge responsibility and you want to do the best that you can and be a good ambassador, both of the town council, the town and its citizens.

I hope that I have managed to do this to your satisfaction and thank you to everyone for all the support and help over the last year.

Mayoral years start with the civic ceremonies around the county with civic receptions and church services all with a unique flavour of each town along with their own history and variations both in regalia, titles and chains. I have really enjoyed learning the history and stories associated with this side of the mayoralty.

Being the Mayor gives you a huge window into the fabric of the community that you serve. You see what goes on below the surface of your town. There are so many groups working hard to make life better for everyone, usually unsung, they just get on with helping people. Whilst the majority of us are busy with our lives there are hundreds of people in our town working to help others that are either ill, suffering from mental health issues, disabilities or just struggling with the everyday things most of us take for granted.

I hope that the role of the Mayor helps a little with some recognition of what goes on, and offers some support and help to bring people together.

Some of the highlights:

Our first Armed Forces Day celebrations were a huge success and something we will build on going forward.

Sitting in the Market Square on a warm Saturday afternoon, at the beer and food market event. Meeting lots of our residents and swapping views and sharing a pint. It was pleasing to see it well supported.

Our Remembrance Day events of which there were many were all very special.

Highlighting the sacrifices made by people from all walks of life for their country across so many wars. The poppy wall in St Mary's churchyard was both impressive and sobering. Impressive, in the work that went into producing it and sobering for what each poppy meant.

Christmas celebrations, late night shopping and the fireworks. This is always well supported with lots of visitors coming in to Haverhill for this. The displays are always spectacular.

Meeting our youngsters from the various schools and seeing some of the work they do. Being invited to the Royal visit of Her Majesty the Queen to open the new Horseracing Heritage centre in Newmarket was an honour.

Our MP, Matt Hancock invited my wife and I to prime ministers questions at the House of Commons which was very interesting. We also had the tour round and it's a really fascinating place.

Visiting so many places over the year and meeting so many people has been so very interesting. I have had the pleasure of opening new business outlets in the town and met lots of others.

My Mayor's charities this year have been for the Synergy Café which supports dementia sufferers in the town and the Haverwell Fund.

Not all of the monies are in yet so I don't have a final figure but we will be making presentations over the next few days.

I would now like to offer my thanks firstly to :-

Vicky for running the Mayor's diary, keeping me up to date with invites and making sure I know what I am doing which in the main has usually worked!

Secondly Colin, our Town Clerk who never ceases to amaze me with his depth of knowledge. He has been of immeasurable help to me and to all of the town councillors and we, as councillors and to all in the town, owe him our thanks as he is responsible for so much that we do not even think about.

Thirdly, my thanks to all our staff at the town council who ensure that not only the council but the Arts Centre are run so well. They make sure that we have a vibrant centre for the town and there is always something for everyone throughout the year.

I would also like to give my thanks to all my fellow councillors over the year. For them voting for me to be your Mayor in the first place and also for giving me their support. Your councillors play a huge part in making Haverhill a great place to live. All of them have the best interests of Haverhill to heart regardless of what political party they represent.

My thanks to Canon Rev Graham Owen for being my Chaplain this year. He has offered words of advice and provoked some thought in his words to council this year.

Lastly and most importantly to my wife Sue. As councillors we all sign up for the job, our partners don't really get the choice! Sue has been my support this year. Checking my diary and reminding me of what and where I should be. Ensuring that, in the most part, what I say actually makes sense!

T17/005 For Haverhill Residents to Discuss Any Matter Relating to the Town of Haverhill

Mr Watton The roads of Haverhill are in a disgusting state of repair, especially between Bumpstead Road and the Sturmer Arches and also along Wratting Road.

Mayor Will pass comments onto Suffolk County Council

Mr Savoury Potholes on Chalkstone Estate and along Millfields Way are at a depth of at least 2-3", this is especially dangerous for Motorbike / Cycle users.

Mayor Will pass comments onto Suffolk County Council

Heike Sowa Highlighted the rail project and would like to see more support for the Haverhill Rail project.

Mayor Thank you, the Town Council support the Haverhill Rail project.

Clive Turner There is a rise in violent crime in Haverhill and would like to hear more information of how this is being dealt with at the next Council meeting.

Insp Cooper *Report on the Intranet shows 38 violent crimes 38 per month in Haverhill and the surrounding parishes. This report includes every aspect of violent crime, including reported crimes from prisons, children's homes, domestic homes and schools from surround areas as well as Haverhill. The way in which these crimes are reported is partly the reason for the rise in violent crime figures. Can look at the patterns in the increase. We need to have statistics for the town itself presented to the Town Council, not the surrounding areas, so the document is not helpful.*

Maureen Byrne *Statistics are passed onto the Police and Crime Commissioner.*

Mayor What is the latest on the Corn Exchange?

Dave Smith *A press release is being issued by St Edmundsbury Borough Council. An urgent works notice to be issued to secure the building before the end of the month.*

Colin Poole

T17/005 Closure

The meeting was closed at 7.25pm