

Haverhill Annual Town Meeting

Minutes of a Town Meeting

Held on Tuesday 15th May 2018 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Chair: David Roach, Town Mayor

Present: 74 members of the public, invited guests and press

MINUTES

T18 /001	Welcome The Mayor welcomed civic guests from around Suffolk, Honourable Freemen of Haverhill, Residents.
T18/ 002	Apologies for Absence No apologies for absence were received.
T18/ 003	Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2017 The minutes were approved by a show of hands. There were no matters arising.
T18/ 004	The Town Mayor spoke of the recent loss of two previous Mayors, Mary O'Neill and Larry Kiernan.
T18/ 005	Town Mayor's report The Mayor gave the following report: It is unusual to be Mayor for two years, so I will be careful not to repeat last year's speech. Thank you for putting your faith in me for a second year – it has been an honour and privilege to serve you. Haverhill is a vibrant community with 100s of volunteers in the town working for others and asking nothing in return but doing what they can. We are proud to acknowledge them here and offer them what support we can. Your Town Council and Councillors work hard to give you a town to be proud of and over the course of a year we put on free events to enjoy enjoy events around the town and in the town centre, including concerts, the Halloween Trail which gets better and better every year, Christmas Lights switch-on including fireworks. The Council runs the Arts Centre with a varied and excellent programme, including a beer festival, Live music; something for everyone. We also have a Civic Life – Commemorations and remembrances, civic services and parades. Mr role includes representing Haverhill in supporting other Mayors and towns by attending their events. All towns do things differently – Thetford's Mayoralty is 800 years old. Thanks to Rev Canons Graham Owen and Ian Finn for their support and their thoughts at Council meetings which have been quite sobering Highlights of his Mayoral year include attending the Queen's royal visit to Newmarket and meeting Prince Edward more recently at Castle Manor School. It has been a privilege and honour to have been the Town Mayor for the last two years. Thank you for the opportunity and best wishes to my successor.

T17/ 006	For Haverhill Residents to Discuss Any Matter Relating to the Town of Haverhill	
	Corn Exchange	Please can we have an update on the Corn Exchange, which the Council were going to try and acquire? It is in a terrible state, which is sad as it would have made a good alternative venue.
	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>We tried to purchase the building and spent a lot of time and energy trying to acquire it to create a new public venue for Haverhill. Unfortunately we were not able to make headway with the purchase. We tried for 18 months and got nowhere with the vendor and in the end we had to draw a line under the matter. It is a listed building and we have taken up with the Borough Council the need to take action to protect it from further degradation.</i>
	Cutting the verges	Who is responsible for cutting the verges?
	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>Suffolk County Council Highways are usually the responsible authority, although some verges are also owned by private landowners or the Borough and it is not always obvious who is the responsible party. The frequency of cutting has been reduced but they have just started a round of verge cutting this week..</i>
	Pot holes	<i>The state of the roads locally, is a concern.</i>
	<i>Mayor</i>	<i>The Mayor took the Portfolio Holder for Highways around Haverhill pointing out the problems locally. An additional £21m has been made available to tackle the state of roads, but across the whole of Suffolk this would be spread very thinly.</i>
	Shearman Court	<i>Is it possible to have a mirror fitted on the opposite side of Mill Road to improve vision on exit?</i>
	<i>Clerk</i>	<i>We will pass this to SCC Highways to ascertain what permission is required to get such mirrors installed.</i>
T18/ 007	Closure The meeting was closed at 7.10pm	