

Haverhill Annual Town Meeting

Minutes of a Town Meeting

Held on Tuesday 14th May 2019 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



Chair: Councillor Anthony Brown, Town Mayor
Present: 33 members of the public and invited guests

MINUTES

T19/001	Welcome The Mayor welcomed civic guests from around Suffolk, Honourable Freemen of Haverhill, Residents.
T19/002	Apologies for Absence Town and County Councillor Paula Fox had given her apologies.
T19/003	Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May 2018 It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes be approved RESOLVED by a show of hands. There were no matters arising.
T19/004	Town Mayor's report The Mayor gave the following report: Firstly, could I welcome everyone to our Annual Town Meeting – The Council's 30th year of existence - doesn't time fly - 1989 seems like only yesterday and I can remember Gerry Kiernan at that first meeting. As always it has been a busy year for the council and for our staff at the arts centre; I thank all our staff for all the hard work that they have put in - we are so lucky to have such dedicated people. During the past year these are some of the many projects that we have been working on as a council: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Renewing the arts centre frontage with a digital information sign and the installation of new stone plinths, all is nearly finished and will be unveiled soon.2. We have worked hard with Haverhill South People's Forum to assist them and help deliver their wonderful BMX pump track at Puddlebrook. It seems to be a great success and always busy when I go past; it's a great credit to all those involved, I particularly thank Councillor Dave Smith, the Forum's Chair.3. The town council have taken on the old Chalkstone school playing field from Suffolk County Council and are currently working on some exciting plans on how to bring this back into use as a Community Open Space.4. We worked with the local history group to produce a local list of historic and significant buildings in Haverhill, to provide to the local planners so that they can take into account the sensitivity of these buildings when considering relevant planning applications.5. We are striving with partners to provide a better high street with a shop front refurbishment project and also working to unlock key areas of the town centre masterplan and we are working hard with One Haverhill and the District Council on a

strong bid for the government's Future High Street Fund. Hopefully watch this space.

6. The town council continues to work with our neighbouring councils as part of the Haverhill Area Forum and meet regularly to discuss things of mutual interest, e.g. the A1307, health provision, policing etc. Our next meeting is scheduled for June.
7. We now have taken over the Leiston community centre and are using it for many local group activities, we also have a state-of-the-art training kitchen installed this year which was generously funded by Neff and B&Q. It is now being regularly used to teach all types of groups cooking skills and has been a great success. It is a fantastic resource.
8. The town council have also installed 4 new information boards at various locations around the town so people in Haverhill can be better informed about what is going on in their community.
9. Some of the biggest work that we do is as a member and facilitator of the One Haverhill Partnership, from the small steps we were taking when the organisation first founded a few years ago the Partnership is now starting to deliver large strides. These are just some of the projects that we are currently working on.
 - a. Health and Wellbeing
Haverhill LifeLink, social prescribing, which has been a great success.
Working with Abbeycroft Leisure to provide better leisure and sports facilities.
 - b. Education training and employment
We have the new West Suffolk Learning Centre at the old Parkway school site provided and staffed by West Suffolk College.
The Department for Work and Pensions are leading the 'Haverhill4jobs' project to get young people into employment.
Youth skills delivered by the town council, funded by the County and District councils; we work with young people in danger of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Training or Employment) as well as brokering apprenticeships. A big thank you to Karen Chapple and Dan Cooke for all the excellent work that they do on this.
 - c. Crime and anti-social behaviour
The police are working with owners of homes of multiple occupancy (HMOs) to tackle anti-social behaviour associated with some of these addresses. The Partnership also secured funding for a drugs outreach worker funded by Suffolk County Council, employed by the local REACH organisation
 - d. Youth Strategy
This is overseen by the Youth Advisory Group on behalf of the town council and includes:
Outreach youth work from the On The Spot van, the chill-out zone youth club that we run at Simmo's playzone and a social media project to promote existing youth opportunities in Haverhill.
The work that we are undertaking with our partners for the youth in Haverhill is something far ahead of what other towns in Suffolk are delivering, something of which I am really proud.

Before I finish I must also congratulate Nick Keeble and all the staff of the art centre, plus the many fantastic partners in town that we work with to provide the terrific events that go on in town throughout the year, including the

- Summer festival
- Armed Forces Day
- Big Day Out
- Tribute nights
- Halloween at East Town Park
- The Christmas late night shopping and fireworks

There are many more smaller community events that they put on, a big thanks to all involved.

	<p>Finally as part of my mayoral year I've dedicated some of my time along with arts centre staff to try to help raise money for a local charity, the Joshua Tarrant trust, it has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside Denise and Shaun to try to get them some money together this year, they work so hard alongside the other trustees and volunteers to raise money for this wonderful local charity . I would now like to present them with a cheque for the money that we have raised.</p>
T19 /005	<p><u>Presentation of Mayoral Charity Cheque</u> Mayor Tony Brown presented a cheque for £6,600 to Mrs Denise Tarrant, for the work of Joshua Tarrant Trust.</p>
T19 /006	<p><u>Public Forum</u> The Mayor invited any residents of the town to raise any matter relating to the town of Haverhill. No member of the public wished to speak.</p>
T16/ 007	<p><u>Closure</u> The meeting was closed at 7.22pm</p>