

# Haverhill Annual Town Meeting

## Minutes of a Town Meeting

Held on remotely on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.00pm under regulation 6 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020



**Chair:** Councillor John Burns, Town Mayor  
**Present:** 1 member of the public and invited guest

## MINUTES

<b>T21/001</b>	<b>Welcome</b> The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.
<b>T21/002</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Town Councillor Laura Miller-Jones had given her apologies.
<b>T21/003</b>	<b>Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b> It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor E McManus that the minutes be approved. <b>RESOLVED</b> by a show of hands. There were no matters arising.
<b>T21/004</b>	Town Mayor's report The Mayor gave the following report: This report on the activities of your Town Council covers two years as there was no annual meeting last year. With so many more people adapting to using the internet, it is now deemed acceptable to hold these meetings remotely. We hope next year we can welcome you in person again.  So, to highlight what we have been doing since May 2019:  Armed Forces Day in June 2019 turned out to be a sunny day with veterans (sadly one no longer with us), a great array of exhibits and entertainment organised by a small committee which was concluded by a piper playing the bagpipes on the tower of St Mary's Church. It was interesting to hear afterwards that the steps up the tower were not designed for the larger person dressed in a kilt and carrying a large set of pipes.  In June and July, the Town Council worked with schools in spoken word/rap workshops.  As usual, the summer of 2019 featured a full programme including local fun days, the central Big Day Out on the Recreation Ground, assisting with the Haverhill Show and the Historic Vehicle Rally with the Tribute Nights in August completing the summer events.  Our Halloween Trail in October attracted 3,500 people and although the Family Christmas Night was marred by terrible weather, the changed way of working proved much better, with

the ability for fairground rides to use supplied power rather than diesel generators. A first step in Haverhill becoming more sustainable.

The Remembrance parade and ceremony in November, in its new spot of 11am, was attended by a large number of people and something we hope will continue in years to come. The Civic Carol service was held just before Xmas.

Away from events, our other services continued to operate, with the Zone Youth and Family project opening in Haverhill, continuing the pre-existing soft-play provision on the site and bringing in more support for young people and families. Much work was done behind the scenes to update and upgrade the facility before opening and we thank those involved.

Our youth services provided a range of support both at the Zone and around town from the "On The Spot" van. Our Youth Skills work provided access to training and skills development, plus pastoral support for young people to get back into employability. We have strong links to schools and support their NEET programme to help keep young people in education. In 2019 this service supported 130 young people and engaged with over 80 local businesses to create work experience and apprenticeship opportunities.

We completed the Pump Track at Greenfields Way with the tarmacking of the entrance and provision of bins.

The big event of 2019 was of course the Royal Anglian Regiment exercising their right to parade through the town centre. This was the culmination of intensive planning by the Town Council and the Royal Anglian Regiment.

2020 was planned to be just as action packed but then came the pandemic writing off many of the events we had planned. We did however manage to put on some events, notably marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE & VJ days as well as the annual Remembrance event in November via a live stream feed.

Over 700 people attended *Haverhill Arts Centre Out of Doors* events in the summer and over 1,000 came to the shortened Halloween trail later in the year. We thank the Scouts for the use of their premises.

We also provided a great Winter Kingdom event adjacent to the library in December and just this last weekend we were back at the Scout grounds with a Magical Mayday event aimed at young children.

Our thanks go to our staff, volunteers, Councillors, and artistes for helping us show we could still put on safe events despite the pandemic.

The Town Council invested heavily in supporting people shopping in Haverhill, with £5,000 investment to create the *Heart of Haverhill* loyalty card. The Town Council also invested a further £10,000 in new benches for the town and our staff, who would normally be working at the Zone or in the Arts Centre. turning their hand to refurbishing the existing benches to great success. We continue to fund over £5,000 a year towards Haverhill in Bloom to maintain their floral displays.

The Council also invested in making the Arts Centre safe to use, with a temporary extension at the rear of the Arts Centre to enable us to have toilets on the first floor and allow better circulation space. This meant we were not only able to open in the run up to Christmas with a panto bringing much-needed laughter back to town, but also enabled the Arts Centre to be

	<p>used as the local lateral flow testing centre in town, so that businesses can open with confidence, with free testing for all their staff.</p> <p>As well as businesses, your Town Council was also busy looking after vulnerable people. We created a network of volunteers to shop and fetch prescriptions for people who were shielding. Our volunteers have not just shopped over 300 times but have been literal lifelines to people with nobody else looking out for them, fetching help when people have been found fallen at home. Our thanks go to the fantastic volunteers in our Good Neighbour Scheme, our Managers who set up the service in a matter of days and the staff who have worked in the back-office to make it work. I am pleased that these efforts have been recognised through the Suffolk Lord Lieutenant's Award.</p> <p>As we look forward to the second half of 2021, I am proud to be able to point to what the council has done over the last 24 months and excited by the plans already laid for this year, starting in just a fortnight with the launch of Sustainable Haverhill on 14<sup>th</sup> May, our invitation to the community to get involved in making Haverhill a greener, more sustainable place to live. The Town Council has already moved over to genuine green energy tariffs and invested in LED lighting across all its buildings, which will immediately cut our own carbon footprint.</p> <p>In the last year, your Council has kept going, and kept providing as many services as we could, although of course like all organisations involved in hospitality, events, and entertainment it has been tough. Our staff have proven themselves to be both adaptable and resilient and our Councillors have also adapted to the "new normal" of meeting via Zoom.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
<p><b>T21 /005</b></p>	<p><b><u>Public Forum</u></b>  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>
<p><b>T21/ 006</b></p>	<p><b><u>Closure</u></b>  The meeting was closed at 7.14pm</p>