

Haverhill Annual Town Meeting

Minutes of a Town Meeting

Held at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill on Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm.



Haverhill
TOWN COUNCIL

Chair: Councillor B Davidson, Town Mayor
Present: 46 members of the public
16 Councillors and the Town Clerk

MINUTES

T23/001	Welcome The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.
T23/002	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from: Mr Mark Pendlington - High Sherriff of Suffolk, Cllr Russ McPherson - Mayor of Cambridge, Cllr Hannah Bradnam - Chair of S Cambridgeshire District Council, Cllr Kerry Barnes - Chair of Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council, Cllr Heike Sowa - Suffolk County Council for Haverhill Cangle, Cllr Merrie Mannassi - Chair of Linton Parish Council, Ms Jackie Rudd - ex-Mayor of Haverhill, Revd Wendy Norris – Haverhill and Withersfield Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich, Mrs Karen Chapple - Haverhill Town Council, Ms Caroline Choat - u3a, Mr and Mrs Russell Day - Salvation Army, Mrs Nan Eshelby Mr and Mrs Farr, Mrs Joan Key, Mr Kiernan Mathews - Haverhill Singers.
T23/003	Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2022 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon seconded by Councillor A Luccarini that the minutes be approved. RESOLVED by a show of hands. There were no matters arising.
T23/004	Town Mayor's report: Cllr Bruce Davidson One year ago, I became the Mayor. What an amazing year it has been. It's been pretty much full-on: 244 engagements have been undertaken during my year in office. What were the standout events during my year? That's a very easy one to answer. You wait for ages for the number 13 bus outside of Sainsbury's and three come along at once. And that's exactly what happened to me. In my acceptance speech last year, I said I was honoured and privileged to become the Mayor of Haverhill but never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine how incredible the year would actually turn out. Up and down the country the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were amazing, helped by a great summer's weather that seemed to go on for ever and ever, at least as far as I was concerned. But we were all unfortunately suddenly brought

	<p>back down to earth on the 8th September 2022. Our beloved Queen, Elizabeth II, unfortunately died. Like everyone else I was deeply saddened at her passing but then the protocol swung into action. So, if the Platinum Jubilee and Proclamation weren't eventful enough, this last weekend we had the Coronation of King Charles III: the first coronation in living memory for the majority of us. Scaled down certainly from the 1953 version, but nevertheless still oozing with lots of pomp and circumstance.</p> <p>As I said earlier, it was a true privilege to be the Haverhill Town Mayor for the 2022/2023 year. There were of course many other engagements carried out during the mayoral year but clearly without the same gravitas attaching. One incident that is worth mentioning, of course, was the decision by our current West Suffolk MP to appear on 'I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here' at the end of last year. The majority of Haverhill Town Councillors felt that his action was not appropriate for a serving MP and a letter requesting his resignation was issued. This resulted in not only local media attention, but also national press and TV becoming interested to hear what Haverhill had to say, even including our own Revd Max who was on the front page of the Sunday Mirror.</p> <p>I have lots of tales to tell, but at this juncture I feel that I need to say a few thank yous. First, and most importantly I need to thank my fellow Councillors and specifically those from Putting Haverhill First, the Independent Party. A special mention must go to the man who has become something of a mentor and is Mr Haverhill, himself: John Burns, take a bow. During my year, Councillor Margaret Marks as the Deputy Mayor has stood in for me when I have not been able to undertake certain events, and for that I am grateful. The staff of both Haverhill Town Council and the Arts Centre are instrumental in making so many things successfully happen in this town, especially all the fantastic free events that take place. Many of these individuals are here tonight, working behind the scenes. Revd Max kindly introduced me to the school children as a leader of the town. I naturally never argued with this, I am only the figurehead. The real work is undertaken by our Town Clerk, directed by the Town Councillors, and of course ably assisted by the Town Council and Arts Centre staff. The penultimate word of thanks goes to the Mayor's Secretary, our Deputy Town Clerk, Vicky Phillips. How she has put up with me for the last year, I really don't know. Finally, it would be very remiss of me not to acknowledge the most important person who has looked after me and ensured, in the main, that everything goes along without a hitch. She drives me to engagements, dresses and undresses me, generally makes sure that I'm in the right place at the right time. This hasn't exactly been an easy year for her, but she has come through it stronger and with head held high. I am of course referring to my consort and partner, Elaine McManus.</p> <p>Mayor Davidson presented gifts of thanks to: Mrs Vicky Phillips, Mayoral Secretary; Mr Colin Poole, Town Clerk and Mrs E McManus for her support as Consort.</p> <p>During the mayoral year it was my pleasure to nominate a charity and raise as much as much as possible for a good cause. As most of you are aware, my nominated charity is the Voluntary Network and I am delighted to present a cheque to the Managing Director of the Voluntary Network, Caroline Robinson. The Mayor presented Ms Robinson with a cheque for £3,000 towards local community transport in Haverhill</p>
<p>T23/005</p>	<p><u>Public Forum</u> The Mayor invited any residents of the town to raise any matter relating to the town of Haverhill. No members of the public wished to raise any questions.</p>
<p>T22/006</p>	<p><u>Closure</u> The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.12pm.</p>

Signed:

Dated: