



Haverhill
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

COMMUNITY EVENTS WORKING PARTY

Held on Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns (Chair)
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor D Page
Councillor D Smith (Mayor) (to 7.59pm)

Apologies: Councillor B Davidson
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Jane Lomas – Council Administrator

In Attendance: Councillor J Mason
Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Sara Marsh – Events Manager
Gary Wilson – Operations Manager

MINUTES

CE24 Welcome

/036 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that as a Working Party it has no delegated authority, and all recommendations must be ratified by the Leisure and Community Committee or implemented by the Clerk under his delegated powers.

CE24 Apologies for Absence

/037 The above apologies were noted.

CE24 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation

/038 None.

CE24 Minutes of the previous meeting

/039 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 8th July 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

CE24 Matters Arising not on the agenda

/040 None.

CE24 Public Speaking

/041 There were no members of the public present.

ACTION

CE24 /042 **Community Events wash-up**

Event	Date	2024 Budget
Chalkstone Fun Day	Wednesday 24 th July	£1,800
Clements Fun Day	Thursday 25 th July	£1,800
Picnic in the Park	Wednesday 31 st July	£4,600
Parkway Fun Day	Thursday 1 st August	£1,800

SaM reported that events ran smoothly, were well attended and no negative feedback was received. Budget reports have yet to be finalised but projections show overall spending is within bounds once income is taken into account.

CE24 /043 **Haverhill In The Park Report**

The Town Clerk shared a post-event report by Steve Marsh. Attendance figures in 2024 were much higher than last year's event. Reasons contributing to this may have been that the schedule was tighter as it was held over two days (not three) and acts were on stage with shorter intervals, which kept the audience interested. Popular tribute acts were booked and the event was better advertised. Although there was an increased drive on social media and advertising the idea of varying layout and style of the material to garner interest was discussed. Gross figures came in close to budget.

It was noted that the profit on the burger bar was not as high as the commission received from other food vendors, which were noticeably busier. This may have been because they were offering something different, however the burger bar offered affordable food, which was its purpose.

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that Steve Marsh be given a vote of thanks in recognition of his hard work this year and in previous years, in helping to make this event a huge success.

RESOLVED

It is noted that the event does not happen without the people behind it, for example security and volunteers. Thanks also to StM for attracting these people to offer their help.

CE24 /044 **Knife Angel**

SaM shared a report she has prepared for Ironworks showcasing the Knife Angel's month in Haverhill and the work surrounding it. There was a good turn out at the opening ceremony. SaM had a community meeting at Chalkstone Community Centre which was very positive and helped to gain traction around planned events and the formation of new events. A lot of work took place with community groups and schools. The Police visited almost every school and attended the Abbeycroft Sports Day. Their knife amnesty culminated in the collection of 200 blades. The Fire Service attended the Knife Angel for a day, and Haverhill Family Practice organised anti-bleed demonstrations. Engagement through Faith included church workshops. Suffolk County Council and the Department for Work and Pensions also got involved.

Closing ceremony numbers were a little disappointing. However, poems created by schools will be on permanent display at the Arts Centre as a legacy to the Knife Angel and Haverhill's stance against violence.

The meeting discussed the positivity and inclusion that the Knife Angel created within the town. Many positive comments were received on social media and councillors reported wider conversations around the project. It was heartening to see the community come together and the number of people against the Knife Angel dwindle as the month progressed. Councillors praised the 'Haverhill spirit'.

Councillor P Hanlon thanked the Barfield family and the Councillors for taking the risk to bring this installation and its positive message to Haverhill.

SaM reported that the Barfield family is continuing to fundraise and would like to continue working with Haverhill Town Council.

CE24 Community Events for 2024

/045

Event	Date	Provisional Budget
Halloween Trail	Friday 1 st November	£16,000
Christmas Event	Saturday 30 th November	£11,000
Christmas Fireworks	Saturday 30 th November	£8,000

a) Halloween Trail

Six/seven acts have been booked as well as professional props, and homemade props. Centre Stage is coming back. There will be a fairground attraction at the end. There will also be facepainting, henna tattoos, and burgers and hotdogs. Last year there was some trouble in the queue as a group of teenagers became bored. This year a storyteller and fire-eaters will be in place to occupy people in the queue. Posters are being created to show when break times will be which should help people plan when they visit to avoid long queues.

The trail is running, and facing, in the same direction as last year as it worked relatively well and allowed large numbers to be accommodated in the queue. The fairground attraction at the end allows people to drip feed out, rather than exit in large groups. Volunteers from the Rangers, and hopefully the Cadets will be helping to marshal.

b) Christmas Event

SaM and GW are meeting with the carnival company to walk the route and work out logistics. The Queen Street traders are no longer holding a Santa's Grotto. The Arts Centre is taking responsibility for the Makers Market this year which adds extra work. Activities include a card fair at the Arts Centre, nativities by Churches Together, fireworks, lights switch on by a collection of people in costume. A rough running time (subject to change) is: Carnaval at 4.30pm, lights switch on at 5.15pm, fireworks at 5.30pm. Makers Market and charity stalls will start from 11am.

The Town Council is grateful to the traders who organised the Santas Grotto and all the work carried out during previous years.

CE24 Community Events 2025

/046

Event	2025 Proposed Date	2022	2023	2024
CAMRA Beer Festival	April			
Chalkstone Fun Day	Wednesday 23 rd July	£3,000	£1,700	£1,800
Clements Fun Day	Thursday 30 th July	£3,000	£1,700	£1,800
Picnic in the Park	Wednesday 6 th August	£3,450	£4,200	£4,600
Parkway Fun Day	Thursday 13 th August	£3,000	£1,700	£1,800
Haverhill in The Park	Fri 15 th – Sun 18 th August		£35,000	£30,220
Halloween Train	Friday 31 st October	£15,000	£16,000	£16,000
Christmas Event	Saturday 29 th November	£12,000	£11,000	£11,000
Christmas Fireworks	Saturday 29 th November	£8,000	£8,000	£8,000

It is noted that the Halloween and Christmas events struggle with the budgeted allowance as the artists take up most of the allocation. Otherwise, the budget looks to be fairly manageable.

CAMRA is keen to come back but they are looking at May/June.

VJ Day, 80th anniversary clashes with Haverhill in the Park. As VJ Day will be a simple civic event, it is anticipated that both events can be accommodated simultaneously. However, consideration must be given to staffing and resources when planning commences next year. It is also noted that Parkway Fun Day is during the same week as Haverhill in the Park.

Haverhill in the Park has not yet been agreed by Full Council as at this time the budget is unknown. However, the meeting agreed that this event is gaining momentum and brings the community together. As this year was a success with a popular headliner and trimming to two days, it was felt that it should go ahead. The idea of inflatables was raised. The site plan would need to be refigured and health and safety taken into account, but it can be discussed. For next year the idea of commissioning more diverse activities was discussed, for example, henna tattoos and hair braiding. StM has been given permission to provisionally book acts and has already pencilled in a top name tribute act. If the Council decides not to go ahead, there will be a small fee to pay for loss of deposit, but this should be considered in the context that the best acts need to be booked far ahead. StM will keep councillors updated regarding bookings and progress.

The Christmas Fireworks have remained at the same cost for several years. Discussion arose about inflation and why costs have not increased. It was agreed that the event should be monitored to ensure the fireworks are not trimmed down in order to keep to the same cost.

Councillor A Brown proposed, Councillor P Hanlon seconded, that the dates proposed for Community Events in 2025 be recommended to the Leisure and Community committee.

CE24 Any Other Business

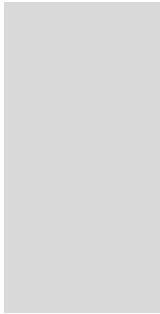
/047 None.

CE24 Date of Next Meeting

/048 To be arranged.

CE24 Closure

/049 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:27pm.



Signed
Chairman

Date