

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held remotely on Tuesday 16th March 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

Present: Councillor A Brown (Chairman)
Mayor J Burns
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor P Fox
Nick Keeble Arts & Leisure Manager

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole Town Clerk
Gary Wilson Operations Manager
Saffron Owen Climate Change Project Officer
Alisha Jenkins Office Administrator

No members of the public were present.

Welcome:

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Saffron Owen, for whom this was her first meeting. The Clerk advised that the meeting was being streamed live on the Council's YouTube Channel.

ES21 Apologies for Absence

/014 The above apologies were noted.

ES21 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations

/015 No declarations were made.

ES21 Minutes of the previous meeting

/016 It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor A Luccarini that the minutes of the meeting held 9th February 2021 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED

ES21 Actions from the previous meeting not on the Agenda

/017 a) ES21/009 – Hopper Buses: The Clerk has had a discussion with Suffolk County Council Public Transport who have suggested arranging an online meeting to discuss the possibilities.

ACTION

CLERK

- b) ES20/009 – EV Charging points: The Clerk reported that an expression of interest has been made to ‘Plug in Suffolk’ and he has subsequently had a conversation with Peter Frost at Suffolk County Council regarding the installation of two non-rapid plug-in charging ports in the Arts Centre car park.
It was also reported that an additional eight charging points put in at a West Suffolk car park in Brandon. With two charging points at Tesco’s and seven rapid charging points at the Elveden Inn installed, Brandon is significantly better served than Haverhill. The Clerk has approached West Suffolk to ask their opinion on the Plug-in Suffolk proposal and whether Haverhill was in any case in line for more charging points soon. He will report back to the committee.
- c) ES21/011 – Existing Green Spaces: This had been suggested as an agenda item by the Arts & Leisure Manager, who had given his apologies. Deferred to the next meeting.

CLERK

ES21 **Public Forum**

/018 There were no members of the public present.

ES21 **Climate Change Officer**

/019 Saffron Owen been working on some background research on ways to engage with the community and potential activities and solutions that can be set up in Haverhill. Conversations have been had with Sustainable Frome, which are one of the leading transition towns, with another meeting arranged next week and also speaking with the Wiltshire Climate Alliance, who have recently run a youth conference. The Councillors welcomed and thanked Saffron for all the work that she has already done.

ES21 **Action Plan (inc reports from Operations Manager and Climate Change**
/020 **Officer)**

To review progress against the Action Plan:

- a) Internal goals for the Council:
 - i. Reduction of energy consumption in HTC buildings: The Operation Manager has been doing some work on the energy bills that have been received. A staff survey to establish Haverhill Town Council’s carbon footprint is taking place, including staff commuting, to be completed in a presentable format in April.
Concerns were raised regarding the utility bills which remained high despite the buildings being shut for most of the year. The Operations Manager is looking into this, to ensure that the estimated meter readings are correct.
 - ii. Electric bike: A bike with a rear panel is in the process of being purchased. Thanks were noted to the Mayor Councillor John Burns for using his locality funding to help fund the electric bike and the inferred camera.
- b) External Goals for the town
 - i. IR Camera: Is in the process of being purchased.
 - ii. To consider options within a draft delivery plan for an online public launch of community engagement in sustainability: Thanks were noted to the Climate Changer Officer for her report sent to members ahead of the meeting. Members were asked to email after the meeting any feedback on the delivery plan.
 - iii. Members held a discussion surrounding which meeting structure would be most suitable. It was agreed a launch event with an online plenary and Q&A including speakers on the main topics of interest was the most practical arrangement.

**Operations
Manager**

**Operations
Manager**

**Clerk/
Operations
Manager**

**Clerk/
Operations
Manager**

ALL

- iv. Looking at the suggested topics Councillor J Mason was nominated to speak regarding litter picking, as the founder of the Keep Haverhill Tidy litter picking group.
- v. It was noted that the main emphasis was on what individuals could do rather than what businesses or commercial shops could do. It was agreed to host an additional event aimed at businesses.
- vi. The Clerk to add topics targeted for businesses and general plastic use to the survey.
- vii. It was also suggested that Suffolk County Council may have available speakers and somebody from a recycling plant. The Climate Change Officer to look at setting up a Sustainable Haverhill Facebook group.
- viii. The Climate Change Officer was looking at a main speaker for the Plenary sessions including Tim Smit who is the founder of the Eden Project restored the Lost Gardens of Heligan.
- ix. The conference is pencilled for the week commencing the 17th May 2021, but the actual meeting date would depend on the availability of key speakers.

Climate Change Officer

Clerk

Climate Change Officer

Climate Change Officer

ES21 Sustainable transport

/021 This agenda item was covered under the matters arising.

ES21 Wildlife Survey

/022 It was suggested to buy a low-cost camera to investigate the biodiversity of animals that might be found on the railway walk. Suitable signage would need to be placed, sufficiently prominent to advise walkers but not close to actual camera sites, to minimise risk of theft. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns and seconded by Councillor L Miller Jones that the purchase and installation of cameras and signage be placed on Railway Walk to monitor wildlife.
RESOLVED.

Clerk

ES21 Items for next meeting

/023 Decarbonisation of homes: it was suggested that this item could be taken in the future.
Installation of solar panels to HTC buildings. The Operations Manager will review previous work and report back.

Operations Manager

ES21 Date of next Meeting

/024 Monday 12th April 2021

ES21 Closure

/025 The meeting was closed at 20.54pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....