

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Tuesday 15th June 2021 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Councillor A Brown (Chairman)
Mayor L Smith (from 7.10pm)
Councillor J Burns
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor A Stinchcombe
- Apologies:** Councillor A Luccarini
Nick Keeble Arts & Leisure Manager
- Absent:**
- In Attendance:** Colin Poole Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips Assistant Town Clerk
Gary Wilson Operations Manager (from 7.10pm)
Saffron Owen Climate Change Officer

No members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Chair, Councillor A Brown, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that this was a working party and that all decisions are to be ratified at Full Council. The Clerk advised that the meeting was being streamed live on the Council's YouTube Channel.

ACTION

- ES21 /037 Apologies for Absence**
The above apologies were noted.
- ES21 /038 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations**
No declarations were made.
- ES21 /039 Minutes of the previous meeting**
Following a minor amendment, it was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 12th April 2021 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED
- ES21 /040 Actions from the previous meeting not on the Agenda**
- ES21/011 – Existing Green Spaces: As this was requested by the Arts & Leisure Manager who has given his apologies, this item was deferred to the next meeting.
 - ES21/022 – Installation of solar panels to HTC buildings.
The Operations Manager had reported previously that solar panels would not be able to be placed on the Haverhill Arts Centre as it is a grade II listed building, although there is the possibility of having them installed in the courtyard which is out of the view of the general public. Following the report from WSC, the Operations Manager then followed this up with two

professional solar installers and is hoping to meeting up with them soon with the idea of them looking at the building in order to come with a solution for all of our buildings. GW will also contact West Suffolk Council.

ES21 Public Forum

/041 There were no members of the public present.

ES21 Launch of Sustainable Haverhill (Climate Change Project Officer)

/042 a) Sustainable Haverhill Launch.

Saffron Owen advised that 53 people attended the launch, less people attended the topical follow-up meetings but overall there was a very satisfactory turn out from the public. Councillor Brown was impressed with Chris Hine who he felt was an inspired speaker. It was requested that a letter of thanks be sent to the speakers.

The main result from the meetings and follow up talks was 5 people coming forward to be Tree Wardens for the town.

The Clerk also reported that it was great that we worked with SALC who provided the webinar. They have been enthused by what we are doing and this has given them impetus to start a group for Parish Councils in Suffolk who want to work on Climate Change. The chance to compare notes with other councils will be welcome.

The Clerk has also talked with Dr Amy Morton who is interested in holding a repair café at the Chalkstone Community Centre. Felixstowe TC had had a similar idea and it would be good to compare notes if they went ahead and pass these on as a useful spin off from Sustainable Haverhill.

Although there were no complaints from the public, C Poole wondered if Councillors had found the sign-up process long-winded, with a lot of advertising which could not be switched off for this event. C Poole to speak to Sara Marsh to ask if this collects data and whether Spektrix needs to be used.

Councillor Burns confirmed that all events are on Youtube. C Poole confirmed that the event was publicised on Facebook, HAC website and as much as possible. Everyone who went to the event had been emailed directly and agreed that subsequent meetings will be continued to be publicised more widely.

The Committee took this opportunity to record thanks to Saffron. Saffron has now completed her 100 hours and more, which is much appreciated.

b) Topical follow-up meetings.

i. Recycling

A Keep Haverhill Recycling Group run by N Keeble already exists and needs more members. N Keeble has spoken to J Moss regarding volunteers and there is a Facebook page which has contact details. The stall takes tetra packs to recycle, which is unavailable to the general public or the recycling centres as they need to be sent directly to a specialised recycling centre of which there is only one in the country. The stall also collects blister packs.

A visit to tour the refurbished recycling centre and Energy From Waste plant at Great Blakenham is to be arranged.

Town Clerk

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- ii. Sustainable Living
The Clerk advised that he anticipated this will be the main social media engine of the Sustainable Haverhill page, to swap tips and recommendations.
 - iii. Community energy
Councillor Stinchcombe to do a presentation at a later meeting on heat pumps. The Suffolk Together Fund works with community energy groups and that we may find that there may be a buying group or an investment group come out of this. Councillor Burns advised that there is funding available but how to apply is not widely known, so to have a central place to find out is useful.
 - iv. Tree Planting
This had had the best attendance and five people have shown interest in becoming tree wardens, one of whom is interested in becoming a co-ordinator. The Clerk spoke to Christine Williams at ETP about using their meeting area for a training course. Francis Jannaway, Co-ordinator at Suffolk Tree Warden Service, is interested in coming down and running an introductory training service.
 - v. Keep Haverhill Tidy
This session went well. Keep Haverhill Tidy is a well-established group which is being supported by the Town Council through Councillor Mason. Councillor L Smith explained that there was a Keep Clements Clean project that links up with Keep Haverhill Tidy and that as Mayor she will be judging posters that children have done on fly tipping.
- c) Sustainable Business Launch
S Owen and C Poole had a meeting with Peter Frost who is involved with Plug-in Suffolk and the Carbon Charter. A launch for businesses was discussed, either as a physical face to face launch or if preferred, online. There was no agenda, it could be that Peter and Groundworks, who are the other partners, are invited to come along and give their existing presentations on the Climate Charter to businesses to talk about how they are able to cut their energy usage, save money and improve their green credentials. C Poole asked the views of business owners present. Councillor Burns believes that business will need to be 'hand-held' through the process and we may need to be more proactive and send out information first. His business has installed solar panels and explained that there are lots of grants available for businesses. Councillor Brown said that business are more aware now of climate issues now and if we could make something simple and interactive that would work better for busy people. Also to emphasise the opportunities.
C Poole summarised that the launch should therefore be online or created and watched later and to emphasising the positives. C Poole to talk to S Marsh regarding publicising the launch and our website.

Clerk to put on agenda

Town Clerk

ES21 /043 Action Plan (including updates from Operations Manager)

To review progress against the Action Plan:

- a) Internal goals for the Council:
 - i. Reduction of energy consumption in HTC buildings:
Ben Prickett has been looking at the figures and GW and BP have been going through some of the statistics and are analysing them at the moment. However, with such a small sample nothing is conclusive, so there will need to be a larger data set, say 4-6 months.

- ii. Extended carbon footprint: GW has not done too much more on this at the moment.
 - iii. Electric bike: CP explained that once the Arts Centre is open again, this will be useful to have. Some staff have raised concerns over safety and he had had a brief look at electrical scooters but until the law is changed there can be no progress on this, so will continue with the electric bike idea.
- b) External Goals for the town
- i. Has been covered above.

ES21 **Sustainable transport**

/044

- a) The Clerk, Chair, and Councillor J Burns met with Simon Barnett and Susan Davey, both from SCC Public Transport, to discuss ideas for sustainable transport in Haverhill for example Hopper Buses. The first starting point is to do a travel survey to get an idea of the data. The Clerk has received an email from Richard Carlton at SCC Public transport sending through examples of travel to work surveys. A county-wide survey is taking place in October for two weeks and the Clerk has asked that Haverhill be included.

Historically there has been little or no data collected for Haverhill and this is the chance to ensure that there is good quality data collected and that SCC includes Haverhill in its considerations for transport needs. Councillor Burns outlined that there is some new government legislation coming out to take away the 'monopoly' situation.

Councillor Brown requested that the new Combined Authority Mayor is invited to the Haverhill Area Forum to talk about his new transport plans.

Mayor L Smith recently visited the Epicentre and public transport was raised as an issue for them when publicising their office space and asked if businesses could be included in the transport plan survey. Could supermarkets be asked to provide community bus services?

Clerk to note

ES21 **Items for next meeting**

/045

Councillor A Stinchcombe offered to produce a presentation on heating systems in homes, which was accepted with thanks.

Cllr A Stinchcombe

Other items for future meetings:

- No-mow May - grass cutting regimes in Haverhill.

ES21 **Date of next Meeting**

/046

TBC – Clerk to email date

ES21 **Closure**

/047

The meeting was closed at 8.23pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....