

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7.00pm



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Councillor A Brown (Chairman)
Mayor L Smith
Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor L Miller-Jones (left the meeting 8.42pm)
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Alisha Jenkins, Office Administrator
Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager

Absent: Gary Wilson, Operations Manager

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Clerk

No members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Chair, Councillor T 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.

ES21 Apologies for Absence

/059 The above apologies were noted.

ES21 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations

/060 No declarations were made.

ES21 Minutes of the previous meeting

/050 It was proposed by Councillor Luccarini, seconded by Councillor Burns that the minutes of the meeting held on, Monday 23rd August 2021 be adopted as a true record.

RESOLVED

ES21 Actions from the previous meeting not on the Agenda

/061 ES21/053c – As the Schools were on summer recess until recently, this is still outstanding

ES21/054b – Green High Street event is organised for the 25th September (this weekend)

ES21/056 – Sustainable transport. The Clerk has managed to obtain a few details, but the more the merrier. Councillor Brown noted that SCC are not quick at replacing flags at the bus stops.

ACTION

Clerk

ES21 **Actions from the previous meeting not on the Agenda****/062**

- a) ES21/011: Existing Green Spaces (Nick Keeble), Nick is on annual leave
- b) ES21/031(A)ii: Follow up with professionals and WSDC regarding installation of solar panels to HTC buildings (Gary Wilson) – Not present at this meeting.
- c) ES21/042(b)i: Visit to EfW plant at Great Blakenham. The Clerk advised that Cllr Burns had distributed a link to go on a virtual visit but the site is still not open to the public. Link to be attached to the minutes.
https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting/event/suffolk-energy-from-waste-facility-virtual-tour?fbclid=IwAR037kgSWS_Eu1-Sy5upPf-Pdx_srbYLZLCv7as25myU6ve4e-CS8xc9zWc
- d) ES21/053: Climate Change Action Programme will be progressed now that S Marsh, Customer Service & Marketing Manager is back from annual leave and is timed for October
- e) ES21/054: Big Green Week. Clerk advised that this is happening via the Sustainable Market.

ES21 **Public Forum****/063**

There were no members of the public present.

ES21 **Decarbonising Haverhill's Homes****/064**

Councillor Stinchcombe had circulated a PDF copy of his presentation prior to the meeting which outlined the Government's target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and what would need to happen locally to achieve this. Property owners and new developments would need to move to lower carbon heating, avoiding replacing gas boilers and, if suitable, fitting solar panels. The Government were expecting heat pumps to become the primary heating for homes. Councillor Stinchcombe's presentation showed the different type of heat pumps; air source (ASHP), ground source (GSHP) and closed-loop ground source.

He demonstrated that housing associations such as Havebury could be encouraged to use GSHP's for a cluster of properties and flats.

He concluded that West Suffolk Council needs to:

- Consider suitable locations for heat networks
- Make planning requirements as easy as possible for greener energy installations
- As emergency measures ahead of the new Local Plan, make mandatory for new builds, the following installations, which are much easier and cheaper during construction than as retrofits:
 - PV installations
 - Heat pumps (preferably ground source), or at least install radiators or underfloor heating that are suitable for later use with heat pump

Councillor Brown thank Councillor Stinchcombe for the presentation. Councillor Brown agreed that Havebury or Barley Homes could be a 'beacon' for the town to install GSHP for future proofing, as at the moment these schemes may be too expensive for homeowners and residents. Councillor Stinchcombe mentioned that there is a government scheme giving a subsidy on per unit of energy that is captured through heat pumps.

Councillor Burns suggested that the presentation be officially sent to West Suffolk Council and District Councillor Roach who is responsible for the new Local Plan.

Councillor Burns suggested that large developers such as Redrow, Persimmon and Bloor need to come on board, Councillor Brown agreed that the Town Council need to do all they can to promote this.

Councillor L Smith asked about the expense and aesthetics of the ground source heat pumps. Councillor Stinchcombe agreed that they could be noisy and take up a lot of space which would push people towards air source. Councillor Brown agreed some of the internal devices could be noisy, but these things can be overcome, but is concerned that only those with the space and financial capability are able to put these in place. Housing estates and smaller homes will be left behind. This was why Havebury and West Suffolk should showcase district schemes which work well.

Colin Poole commented that West Suffolk Council did approach the Town Council when they had applied for funding from government to do a district scheme in the High Street based out of the Axa building, so it is on their radar. They are also interested in community energy projects. Additional charging points will be being put in the Arts Centre car park. Colin has also emailed Planning Officer Penny Mills asking the question of whether it was possible for the planning office to bring forward a supplementary planning policy on the existing Local Plan whilst it is preparing the new Local Plan. Haverhill have houses that are being built now which are not having larger type radiators or underfloor heating installed, which is a precursor for renewable heat and could be a good selling point.

Councillor Brown asked if there could be a Town Council Policy for the Planning Committee. The Clerk suggested that once this was written it could be taken through Planning, to bring to Full Council as a position statement, so developers know if advance.

CLERK

Councillor Stinchcombe will add in a few more slides to cover the discussions around those who could act as demonstrators and pioneers for Haverhill such as developers, housing associations and local authorities. Also, an additional slide for developers for selling points on heat pump ready properties. This will then need to go to October Full Council for clarity of purpose for recommendation.

Cllr AS

ES21 **Items for next meeting**

/065 Councillor Burns requested that feedback be given in the form of a short written reports on agenda items a) ES21/011: Existing Green Spaces (Nick Keeble) b) ES21/031(a)ii: Follow-up with professionals and WSDC regarding Installation of solar panels to HTC buildings (Gary Wilson)

**NK
GW**

ES21 **Date of next Meeting**

/066 1st November 2021

ES21 **Closure**

/067 The meeting was closed at 8.07pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....