

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely by videoconference on Tuesday, 08 February 2022 at 6pm.



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

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

Apologies: Mayor L Smith

Absent:

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager
Alisha Jenkins, Office Administrator

No members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Councillor J Burns 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

ES22 /001 Apologies for Absence
The above apologies were noted.

ES22 /002 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations
No declarations were made.

Councillor A Brown arrived 6.02pm

ES22 /003 Minutes of the previous meeting
Subject to a minor amendment, it was proposed by Councillor L Miller Jones, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st November 2021 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED

ES22 /004 Actions from the previous meeting not on the Agenda
a) ES21/031(A)ii: Follow up with professionals and WSDC regarding installation of solar panels to HTC buildings: The Operations Manager advised that, as previously discussed, Haverhill Arts Centre would not be suitable as it is a listed building and would not be approved for the installation of solar panels and the Leiston Centre would also not be suitable as it has too easy access to the roof which could lead to the solar panels getting vandalised. This just leaves the Zone building, for which two quotes

have been received for installations by companies based in Suffolk, and GW has enquired with West Suffolk Council regarding their Solar for Business scheme. The scheme provides and installs solar panels at no cost to the business. The electricity generated is sold to you at a rate lower than your current electricity tariff to help you cut your energy bills. West Suffolk Council will take the responsibility of planning and designing, finance and installing and maintaining the solar installation with minimal disruption. The benefits of the scheme include:

- Reducing energy bills
- Reducing the businesses carbon footprint
- Have a positive impact on your community.

To sign up to the Solar for Business scheme next steps would include:

- Expressing an interest in the scheme to West Suffolk Council, including information on who owns the property and a copy of the last electric bill.
- West Suffolk Council will visit the property to assess its suitability for supporting solar panels and to discuss the rate for the solar electric.
- If the property is deemed suitable, the panels will be installed along with an inverter, a smart generation meter and a smart export meter to allow for accurate billing and monitoring.
- Once the system is up and running invoices will be sent twice a year, in January and July, for the electricity consumed during the previous six months.

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller Jones and seconded by Councillor J Burns for the Operations Manager to gain further professional advice before making a final decision.

RESOLVED.

- b) ES21/054: Haverhill Green Market: The Clerk mentioned that on the 26th of March the Marketing and Communications Manager is arranging a green-themed market on Haverhill High Street. There will be additional activities including face-painting, crafting, outdoor activities, storytelling and stalls from West Suffolk Wildlife Trust and other eco-organisations. To date 10 eco-organisation stalls have signed up to attend. The Marketing and Communications Manager to

Councillor J Burns added that the West Suffolk Market Review Group are encouraging special markets including the sustainable market and the makers market to integrate with the weekly market traders throughout the High Street on that day.

RESOLVED

ES22 Public Forum

/005 There were no members of the public present.

ES22 Update on energy saving and lighting projects

/006 The Operations Manager shared the Haverhill Arts Centre heat map data from March 2019 to April 2020 where energy consumption has been measured and recorded every half an hour. This has been cross-referenced with the events programme and bookings system to identify the sources of higher energy consumption. There is some correlation with events that use the main staging lights having the higher energy consumption, which would include pantomimes, comedy events and live music events. An unexpected result was the use of the WRVS kitchen appears to correlate with high energy usage. There are two big

**Operations
Manager**

old industrial catering ovens that are mismatched to the Arts Centre's actual needs as they were bought when WRVS cooked meals on wheels. The Operations Manager has asked for a similar heat map to be provided by Ecotricity for 2020 to 2021 to further understand energy usage in the Arts Centre and monitor changes that the tech team have already made in the building. The Operations Manager to chase Ecotricity for the data.

**Operation
Manager**

It was queried whether more sustainable lighting could be implemented on the rig and stage. The Operation Manager to speak to the tech team to gain further information.

**Operation
Manager**

The Working Party thanked A. Jenkins for the work in mapping out all the data provided.

ES22 **Review of progress on Action Plan**

/007

The Clerk reported:

That training for staff and Councillors has not yet been arranged.

Reduction of carbon footprint by reducing energy consumption in Town Council buildings: Work has been done to identify current baseline of the carbon footprint and energy consumption of the town council. Work has been completed in replacing all lighting to LED's and looking at areas of high consumption and what we could do to reduce this.

So far, the town council has been unsuccessful in securing additional funding to change heating systems in the town council buildings. We do not know when the next round of SALIX funding might take place.

The town council has changed to a Green Electricity Provider.

As agreed, the Community Warden continues to use a second-hand van, which is currently in good condition and only does small mileage around the town and will be swapped to an EV at the end of its useful life.

The Town Council purchases battery-powered grounds maintenance tools when new power tools are needed, we have followed what Saffron Walden Town Council has done by getting electric tools that have proven to be good quality and last.

No further progress has been made with purchasing an electric bike and the price has since increased temporarily due to a shortage of computer chips. The Operations Manager to arrange for a staff discussion around using the electric bike with staff.

**Operation
Manager**

It was queried whether the funding set aside for the electric bike could be used to installing electronic locks and installing a timer for the boiler at the Leiston Centre which would then reduce the likelihood of staff needing to use the electric bike. The Clerk advised that plans are being made to upgrade the Leiston Centre which would also include replacing the doors, windows and having coded access to the building.

Within the community, the tree wardens have been busy planting trees in northeast Haverhill, at a local school and they will be helping at the Chalkstone Open Space by digging in the soil improver in readiness for the delivery of the community orchard trees.

The Full Council has agreed a budget to identify the current baseline carbon footprint of Haverhill and work is due to start in the new financial year.

There has been no current take up by a sustainable company to get involved with the project.

ES22 Review of Sustainability Policy

/008 The Working Party reviewed the Sustainability Policy, and no changes were identified, the policy will be reviewed annually.

ES22 Items for next meeting

- /009**
- a) Councillor Alan Stinchcombe presentation document.
 - b) 2020-2021 heat map diagrams.

ES22 Date of next Meeting

/010 Tuesday 15th March 2022 – for solar comparison update.

ES22 Closure

/011 The meeting closed at 7.44pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....