

# Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely by videoconference on Tuesday, 14 June 2022 at 6pm.



HAVERHILL  
TOWN COUNCIL

- Present:** Councillor J Burns (Chairman)  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor A Stinchcombe
- Apologies:** Mayor L Smith  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor A Luccarini
- Absent:** Gary Wilson, Operations Manager
- In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk

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.

**ES22** **Apologies for Absence**

**/012** The above apologies were noted.

**ES22** **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations**

**/013** No declarations were made.

**ES22** **Minutes of the previous meeting**

**/014** It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Miller Jones, that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 be adopted as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**ES22** **Actions from the previous meeting not on the Agenda**

**/015** a) ES21/031(A)ii: As G Wilson was not in attendance C Poole updated the group that there has been no further response from West Suffolk. Cllr A Stinchcombe continued to express concerns previously raised regarding previous comments that the Arts Centre would not be suitable for solar panels as it is a Heritage site. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the Heritage Officer to discuss the implications of solar panels for the Arts Centre and if there were more attractive design options that could be approved.

**ACTION**

**CLERK**

- b) Cllr L Miller Jones confirmed that there have been three quotes for solar at the Zone; Solar East Anglia, East Green Energy and West Suffolk, although it was felt that West Suffolk offered the best deal in terms of cost and reliable service.
- c) ES21/054: Haverhill Sustainable Market: Cllr Miller Jones confirmed there have been two markets since the previous meeting both which were very successful and well received by the stall holders and would therefore like to arrange regular markets if possible. A special call out was given to Liam Judd from East Town Park who had previously run a nature stall which was a huge success.

Councillor J Burns added that the West Suffolk Market Review Group are reporting their recommendations on Thursday which will include encouraging the sustainable use on markets of single-use plastics.

Cllr L Miller Jones reported back a request from Keep Haverhill Recycling that future sustainable markets coincide with their stall running, which is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month.

C Poole to look into the cost implications to the Council of running regular markets and report back.

CLERK

- d) ESS22/007: Salix Funding: Cllr Miller Jones gave an update on current position with regards to funding. There are rounds being released all the time however due to bad timing the last round was missed. It was suggested that in the future may have to be submitted officially and it is understood that Cambridgeshire County Council already have a procurement model in place which could possibly be used by Haverhill.

C Poole to arrange a meeting with Miles to discuss potential costs in using the Cambridgeshire model and whether this would be a viable long- term option.

CLERK

**ES22** **Public Forum**

**/016** There were no members of the public present.

**ES22** **Eco-Literacy Champions**

**/017** Cllr L Miller Jones reported on the *Get Haverhill Reading* project run by Suzanne Stevenson and how the project now has Eco Literacy champions in place to encourage equality through literacy. The team are planning to put on events like an Eco fair for children which will focus on the environment and would like to ask for help from the council with ideas and possible funding for items like prizes.

C Poole suggested that the Eco fair be linked to the Picnic in the Park on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022.

Cllr J Burns suggested that maybe funding could come from the Suffolk Community Foundation.

Cllr L Miller Jones is also going to contact energy companies to see if any free items can be donated as prizes which will encourage energy saving.

C Poole to meet with Sara Marsh to discuss cost implications and requirements for the Eco Fair and whether it can be linked to Picnic in the Park.

CLERK

**ES22 /018** **Helping residents save energy to mitigate prices increases**  
C Poole gave an update on progress to the question previously raised by Cllr A Brown of how Haverhill can help residents on saving energy. At the Clerk's request, ONE Haverhill had been given a presentation by REACH on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June, giving an update on the cost of living crisis. It was suggested that regular surgeries be held in the town to help with community energy and debt management advice coupled with a Community Grocers/Pantry. It was also suggested that a task group be set up to look into these issues.

C Poole advised that the proposed £6k contract which Haverhill had agreed to enter into with Groundworks Trust to undertake a baseline energy survey, which had been agreed by full council, had lapsed through non-performance due to staff leaving Groundworks Trust, therefore there is a surplus in the budget of £6k and the Clerk suggested that this could be used towards funding required for energy advisors.

The meeting endorsed this approach.

C Poole to go back to Full Council to propose the reallocation of the £6k funding potentially available to be used for high street surgeries in collaboration with other services like REACH and the Salvation Army.

**CLERK**

**ES22 /019** **Update on energy saving and lighting projects**  
G Wilson was unable to attend so no update was given.

**ES22 /020** **Review of progress on Action Plan**  
The meeting reviewed progress against the adopted Action Plan. The Clerk will update the action plan in accordance with the discussion.

**CLERK**

**ES22 /021** **Review of Sustainability Policy**  
The Working Party reviewed the Sustainability Policy, and no changes were identified as all was still relevant.  
**NOTED**

**ES22 /022** **Items for next meeting**  
a) G Wilson to attend to give updates.  
b) Cllr L Miller Jones raised an issue regarding a letter she received for consideration regarding the use of pesticides on grass verges, work which is not carried out by the Town Council but is done by West Suffolk Council. Cllr Burns agreed to find out what policy there is with regards to spraying grass verges within West Suffolk.

**Cllr Burns**

**ES22 /023** **Date of next Meeting**  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**ES22 /024** **Closure**  
The meeting closed at 7.32pm

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....