



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held on Tuesday 13th June 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor D Smith
Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor L Smith

Apologies: Councillor J Mason

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator

No members of the public were present.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Councillors that the working party has no delegated powers and can only make recommendations to Full Council.

MINUTES

ES23 Election of Chair

/024 It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that Councillor J Burns be elected as Chair of the Energy and Sustainability Working Party.

All in favour.

RESOLVED

ES23 Election of Deputy

/025 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Smith that Councillor A Luccarini be elected as Chair of the Energy and Sustainability Working Party.

All in favour.

RESOLVED

ES23 Apologies for Absence

/026 The above apologies were noted.

ES23 Declarations Pecuniary Interest and requests for Dispensations

/027 None.

ES23 Co-option of Members

/028 It was agreed to defer membership to the Full Council meeting on 26th June 2023.

ES23 Minutes of the previous meeting

/029 It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 3rd April 2023 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ES23 Actions from the previous meeting not on the agenda

/030 ES23/020 Full Council accepted the recommendation of the Energy and Sustainability Working Party to join the Approved Energy Performance Framework as outlined in the agreement.

ES23 Public Forum

/031 No members of the public were present.

ES23 Bee-Friendly Haverhill

- /032
1. Nan Eshelby was invited to attend the meeting but sent her apologies.
 2. The Clerk reported that Nan Eshelby is in talks with Debs Brown at Castle Manor School to arrange interaction with the children on their eco committee.
 3. The Clerk has emailed Damien Parker at WSC asking for an update on the proposals for felling some self-seeded sycamore trees at the bus station and building bug hotels and flower beds to attract pollinators along the riverside. To note that felling trees is embargoed until July.

ES23 Biodiversity Projects

/033 The Town Clerk reported that Councillor J Mason is keen that the Town Council access and make use of as many grants as possible for biodiversity projects.

- a) Cllr Mason highlighted HTC may be eligible for a Persimmon grant. The Town Clerk had already passed details of this to Sara Marsh, however, that was specifically for a grant towards Haverhill in the Park, rather than an environmental project.
- b) Members of The Stour Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty team at the County Council have invited a grant application for a bee-friendly pollinator project at the bus station. This raised a discussion on the merits of felling self-seeded sycamore trees at this site, retaining the timber on site for bug hotels and landscaping. Cllr L Miller-Jones will discuss this with Damien Parker at West Suffolk.
- c) It was decided that in the first instance, potential projects should be identified, before seeking appropriate funding.

Cllr Miller-Jones

- d) It was suggested that the site of the historic Havebury nature reserve at Railway Walk be investigated as a possible project.
- e) Community Open Space at the old Northfields School Playing fields where the community orchard has been planted has the scope for several community groups to become involved in reflecting sustainability.
- f) Wildlife corridors – Railway Walk is a County Site, acting as a corridor for wildlife through Haverhill. It is thin as it passes Tesco. The proposed hedge work within the Community Open Space alongside that section of Railway Walk is intended to create a rewilding space which broadens the corridor. WSC will be consulted regarding gaps they have identified in wildlife corridors through the town.

Clerk

Clerk

ES23 Sustainable Markets

/034 Plans are not yet in place for the September market. Councillors were asked if the Projects Manager had a theme in mind – not at this stage, ideas would be welcomed.

It was disappointing to note that there were several last-minute cancellations and non-attendance by stallholders at the last sustainable market.

ES23 Report from Operations Manager

/035 The Zone – after reviewing the lease, Andrew Oswald at WSC cannot see any issues regarding installing solar panels as long as approval is obtained from the landlord and the tenant – he has forwarded to his legal team for confirmation. Once this is obtained, the panels can be installed later this year.

The unit sales rate will be 15p/kwh. This is what HTC would pay WSC for electricity used through the solar panels, paying the National Grid the usual cost for electricity used through the grid.

Yu Energy contracts – HTC's energy supplier is Yu Energy, through LASER, WSC's agent. LASER has reported that from September the unit price is likely to be half of HTC's current rate, committing to a twelve-month renewal. The general trend is for a 24-month contract. Unit price will be 30-40p down from 80-90p at its peak. The forecast is for a saving of £76k/annum.

Gary Wilson's recommendation is to continue with gas supply brokered by LASER, then to explore the peer-to-peer 'Urban Chain' option through West Suffolk Solar Farms. The meeting agreed this was a sensible proposal.

ES23 Items for the next meeting

/036 Bee-Friendly Haverhill
Biodiversity projects

ES23 Any Other Business

/037 Discussion arose around grass mowing around the town. This is the responsibility of WSC and there is confusion regarding their participation in 'No-mow May' and whether signage should be in place to inform the public if grass is being left to grow. WSC is behind in their mowing schedule due to staff sickness. It would be helpful to understand which areas will be left during May in the future.

Cllr Miller-Jones raised the question of energy recovery – recovery of waste heat. The Town Clerk suggested that Andrew Oswald at WSC may be able to identify companies and organisations willing to participate in this initiative.

Cllr Miller-Jones informed the meeting that WSC is forming a new Sustainability working group and she welcomes suggestions from Councillors regarding issues that they feel require investigation by WSC.

Cllr Miller-Jones asked about the status of the Access Agreement. The Town Clerk reported that this will be signed by the Operations Manager after his return from holiday.

G WILSON

ES23 Date of Next Meeting

/038 Monday 18th September 2023

ES23 Closure

/039 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:53pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date