



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY

Held remotely on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm

- Present:** Mayor D Smith
Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Smith
- Apologies:** Gary Wilson, Operations Manager
- Absent:** Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Page
- In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Committee Administrator
Angela Wilson, Haverhill Tree Wardens

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

ES24 **Apologies for Absence**
/012 The above apologies were noted.

ES24 **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**
/013 None.

ES24 **Minutes of the previous meeting**
/014 It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 5th February 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

ES24 Actions from the previous meeting not on the agenda

/015 a) ES23/030 Application to join the Approved Energy Performance Framework: Cambridge Framework has arranged a meeting for 19th April with the Operations Manager.

There is no progression regarding solar panels for the Clements Community Centre. Cllr D Smith will find out who the current lead is for Solar Power for Business at WSC so that contact can be maintained.

b) ES23/033 Biodiversity project site:

'Go Wild Nature Reserve' behind the old Havebury offices in Manor Road – Havebury Housing has reported that they believe the land behind the building (beside Ruffles Road) was sold together with the building.

The land west of the cemetery being used by Suffolk Mind for allotments – investigations regarding ownership are still ongoing.

c) ES24/003a Meeting with Tree Wardens: Cllr D Smith and Ms Angela Wilson discussed sites for tree planting. Puddlebrook is not considered a secure site for tree planting.

d) ES24/003b Contact Persimmon regarding community engagement: The Town Clerk reported he received a positive response from Isaac Jolly who is supportive of finding additional places to plant trees (locally funded and in addition to the planning commitment given by Persimmon). Thought must be given in identifying places that are not too accessible at the time of planting such as places where building is planned but not yet started and access to the public is therefore currently not possible. This will give the trees time to grow undisturbed without the threat of vandalism.

e) ES24/003c Tree planting at Puddlebrook: discussed in item c) above.

f) ES24/003d Contact Damien Parker regarding the Millfields Country Wildlife site: The Town Clerk spoke with Simon Collin who explained that no tree planting will be carried out at the moment as it is too late in the year. However, he is happy to liaise with Tree Wardens later in the year for winter planting.

Post-meeting note: Christine Williams, WSDC Park Ranger advised the Clerk that Millfields country wildlife site is maintained as a meadow habitat with rare plants and reptiles, so additional trees cannot be planted there.

g) ES24/003e Contact Damien Parker regarding Tree Warden involvement in tree planting around Haverhill: discussed in item f) above.

h) ES24/003f approach Highways about replanting roadside trees in Chapple Drive: barriers to this are not unsurmountable. The first step is to obtain a statutory undertakers' map from Highways to show where the utilities lay along Chapple Drive. This will help to ascertain whether planting along Chapple Drive is possible. (See Appendix 1 for the response from Highways to Cllr Mason.)

ES24 Public Forum

/016 Ms A Wilson thanked HTC for supporting Tree Wardens. A Sponsor a Tree scheme was suggested where the public can make donations towards purchasing larger, sturdier trees which are less liable to be vandalised.

Cllr D Smith

Cllr J Mason

ES24 Eco Maze on Chalkstone Open Space

/017 A willow/living maze would be a good feature on the Chalkstone open space. The Town Clerk is hoping to make some extra capacity within the core team of the council that might free up some time to allow someone to focus on this.

Town Clerk

ES24 Bee-Friendly Haverhill

/018 Damien Parker has confirmed that some dead trees will be cut down during the summer and he is aware that HTC would like some for the bee-friendly project, building a vertical bug hotel adjacent to the bus station.

Angelica Cofer reported to CP that this term they will be very busy getting ready for Castle Manor's Bee Week.

Discussion ensued about celebrating areas of biodiversity within Haverhill and creating a map of these large and small areas, including areas that WSC is creating. The idea of providing a map showing different items of interest within the town, for example liaising with Haverhill Local History Society, and also of creating different routes within the town was discussed. The most straightforward, cost effective and sustainable way would be to create a pdf of each map to post on the HTC website.

Marketing Officer

ES24 Increasing Biodiversity

/019 Recently the Suffolk and Essex National Landscape (Stour Valley Project) gave a public presentation in Clare about swifts and consequently a Swift Box Project is underway in Clare to encourage swifts to nest. It was agreed that this would be a positive project for Haverhill and ideas were to:

- a) Discuss the idea of a workshop in East Town Park to make swift boxes.
- b) Swift bricks – developers to add them near the top of the new houses they build.

In the first instance, Cllr L Smith will contact Simon Hooton, Save Our Suffolk Swifts, for further information.

Cllr L Smith

ES24 Items for the next meeting

/020 No new items added.

ES24 Date of Next Meeting

/021 Monday, 10th June, 2024

ES24 Closure

/022 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:41pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix 1 – response from Highways to Cllr Mason re planting at Chapple Drive

Dear Councillor Mason.

I have received an update from our Winter and Cyclical Team regarding Chapple Drive and planting projects in general:

There are several projects led by Suffolk Highways for the planting of trees that has received recent funding. However, these sites are all on green spaces such as parkland and village greens (or similar), rather than on residential streets.

Any Town or Parish Council that wishes to undertake a planting programme can apply for a cultivation license from our Licensing Team (as has been done on The Glebe in town). Any potential new tree planting would need careful consideration so that the right species of tree is planted in the right location and environment. It is recommended that Town and Parish Councils wishing to carry out tree planting consults with the Arborist from West Suffolk District Council for advice in the first instance.

With regards to Chapple Drive in particular (and other similar roads), the replacement of historic trees – or planting of new ones in built up areas is often complicated and problematic. It is often impossible to site these due to underground utilities – such as water, electric and gas services, or the presence of drainage pipes or other infrastructure.

There are also ongoing issues with root spread damaging the surface of footways/carriageways or nearby walls and other structures and the potential of leaf or fruit fall must also be considered.

While the root issues, or concerns about fruit/leaf fall can be mitigated by selecting an appropriate species of tree and the provision of a root guard, the issue with underground utilities is often impossible to negate - root guards need at least 1mtr square to be installed and in many urban locations there is simply not the space underground without the risk of disturbing underground infrastructure. Even when these can be installed, there is still noticeable root heave to the surrounding areas.

Any road, such as Chapple Drive would have to have the locations for each individual tree reviewed. For each location, the underground utilities would need to be checked – and the relevant company contacted, the species of tree (plus any potential root guard) would need approving and the maintenance of these would need to be established before any planting would be considered.