



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

# Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## **ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY WORKING PARTY**

Held remotely on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Mayor D Smith  
Councillor J Burns  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor J Mason  
Councillor D Page  
Councillor L Smith

**Absent:** Councillor L Miller-Jones

**In Attendance:** District Councillor Janne Jarvis  
Nan Eshelby  
Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Gary Wilson, Operations Manager  
Jane Lomas, Committee 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**

**ES24** **Apologies for Absence**  
**/023** The above apologies were noted.

**ES24** **Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation**  
**/024** None.

**ES24** **Minutes of the previous meeting**  
**/025** It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor D Page, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

**ES24 Actions from the previous meeting not on the agenda**

- /026**
- a) ES24/015 Solar panels for Clements Community Centre. No response received. Councillor D Smith will follow up.
  - b) ES23/033 Biodiversity site – as no responses have been received after several times of trying, this cannot be progressed.
  - c) ES24/003f Replanting roadside trees in Chapple Drive. Matthew Fox (Suffolk Highways) has suggested that planting in large pots so as not to interfere with underground utilities is possible. However, consultation with residents in Chapple Drive must be carried out in the first instance. The Town Clerk will consider the best way to progress.

**Cllr D Smith**

**Town Clerk**

**ES24 Public Forum**

**/027** There were no members of the public present.

**ES24 Energy Efficiency at Haverhill Arts Centre**

**/028** The Town Clerk and Operations Manager recently met with Miles Messenger at Equans. This autumn, Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme will be launched. Over three years (2025-2028) £1.7b of funding will be distributed. Salix will be awarding funding using a holistic approach, examining each application and awarding on merit. Once an officer from Equans has been allocated to HTC, the first step will be to draft an economic plan with timescales. The second step will be to create an outline of the business case, followed by an IGP (Investment Grade Proposal). Work on this needs to progress as soon as possible in readiness for the Salix website going live. No dates have been issued yet, but the Operations Manager will inform this Working Party once they have.

**ES24 Bee-Friendly Haverhill**

**/029** Angelica Cofer at Castle Manor School has organised a week of bee-related events at the start of July. These activities will be fun as well as educational and the whole school will be involved. Nan Eshelby has sponsored 250 pieces of plantable seed paper for the school.

Ms Eshelby referred to SCC resuming spraying Glyphosates on weeds. This is disappointing, but SCC maintain there are no other options in some circumstances. Acetic acid has been trialled but has not worked and proved non cost-effective (for example, paving slabs having to be pulled up, weeds removed and then the slabs replaced). However, WSC is against using glyphosate and is leaving meadow areas to grow. It has been heartening to see lots of bee orchids growing around the town. SCC staff have been told to ensure that these flowers are left to grow and the grass in these areas is not cut.

Whilst the use of Glyphosates continues in Haverhill Ms Eshelby has decided that she does not want her work linked to the Bee-Friendly Haverhill project.

The Working Party thanked Nan for all her work.

**ES24 Increasing Biodiversity**

**/030** Councillor L Smith met with Eddie Bathgate, Save Our Suffolk Swifts (SoSS) and he provided some information which Councillor L Smith will circulate. SoSS will supply a limited number of swift nesting boxes for use by public bodies. Ideas for community involvement were discussed. Councillor L Smith will speak to schools in September to promote this initiative and find out if any are interested in becoming involved. She will also speak to the Men's Shed to find out if they are interested in making the boxes; and Sarah Marsh regarding publicity.

Councillor J Burns will speak to Persimmon and Redrow to discuss the possibility of including 'swift bricks' in their new builds.

It was noted that nesting boxes need to be in situ this autumn to attract the swifts in the spring next year.

**ES24 ECOVEND Recycling Units**

**/031** ECOVEND has started a deposit return scheme which is the first of its kind in England. A six-month pilot scheme siting two units in Newmarket and two in Bury St Edmunds is almost at an end. It has been very successful and is expected that the scheme will be extended. The scheme works by securing sponsorship from national and local businesses: when an individual returns a bottle, they are awarded points to spend at local or national businesses. Councillors were keen to obtain units for Haverhill. Councillor J Jarvis suggested two units in the first instance and suggestions for sponsors and sites are welcomed. The units require electricity and run on a wireless 4G system.

Councillor D Page proposed, Councillor L Smith seconded that the possibility of Haverhill taking part in the ECOVEND deposit return scheme be added to the agenda of the next Full Council meeting.

**RESOLVED**

**ES24 Items for the next meeting**

- /032**
- a. Grass cutting.
  - b. Review of website page, Sustainable Haverhill.

**ES24 Date of Next Meeting**

**/033** Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2024

**ES24 Closure**

**/034** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:06pm.

**Cllr L Smith**

**Cllr J Burns**

**Town Clerk**

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date .....