

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 15th May 2001 at 7.00 p.m.
at Bevan House, Camps Road, Haverhill**

PRESENT: **Chair:** **Cllr. Maggie Lee**
 Town Councillors: E Bowman, E Goody, Angela Millar

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Hancock, Gerry Kiernan, and Smith.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Cllr Goody proposed and Cllr Millar seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2001 be signed as a true record, all being in favour.

3. Matters arising

a) Clements Surgery - Hanchett End Surgery

Cllr Maggie Lee reported that the Partners at the Clements Surgery had decided not to open a second surgery at Hanchett End. Cllr Maggie Lee reported that a NHS review of surgery provision was currently taking place in the Town. The Town Clerk was asked to invite a representative of the Primary Care Group to speak to the Town Council on the subject. Cllr Millar reported that the Clements Surgery was the only surgery currently accepting new patients.

b) Local Air Quality

The Clerk reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council had re-affirmed that the Local Air Quality legislation required them only to measure certain individual pollutants, and that whilst a wider range of pollutants had been measured as part of the Clements Health Improvement Programme, and found to be within individual permitted limits, there was no requirement to study the "cocktail" effect of the combined pollutants. The Clerk was asked to write to the Environment Agency asking for a more detailed study to take place.

c) Financial Seminars for Voluntary Organisations

The Clerk reported that the first two seminars would be attended by thirty representatives from twenty local organisations, and that Suffolk ACRE were likely to sponsor the seminars on an on-going basis.

4. Correspondence

a) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Wednesdays for Women Group Funding

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council were unable to continue to fund the Wednesdays for Women Group, although this had yet to be confirmed by the Director of Leisure Services. The Committee considered that withdrawal of funding by the Borough Council should be opposed, given the recognition and success that this group had achieved, and the positive impact it was making to the participants.

b) The Countryside Agency – Vital Villages (Parish Plans, Community Services and Transport)

The Clerk reported that the Countryside Agency were distributing funds for projects mentioned in the Rural White Paper, under the umbrella title of “Vital Villages”. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should obtain details and submit proposals for those projects for which the Town Council was eligible, although Councillor Maggie Lee felt it was important that Haverhill be recognised as a Town, and not a village.

c) Suffolk County Council – Proposal for Dependant’s Pensions

The Clerk reported that Suffolk County Council were considering extending the Superannuation Scheme to include non-married partners of employees, together with other relatives who were financially dependent or interdependent upon the employee at the time of the employee’s death. The Committee agreed to support this extension of the scheme.

d) Suffolk Police Authority – Policing Forums

The Clerk reported that no Policing Forums were being held this Spring.

e) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Members Information Bulletin

The receipt of the Members Information Bulletin was noted.

5. 2000/2001 Financial Comparison & Accounts

The Committee noted the 2000/2001 outturn figures against the original and revised budgets, together with notes of the significant variances.

6. Long Term Investments

The Clerk reported that on the maturity of the Council’s 6-month investment he had re-invested it, together with the accrued interest, for a further 3 months, at the then highest rate of 4.34%. The Committee endorsed the Clerk’s action.

7. Grants

The Clerk reported that in 2000/2001 the budget for the Summer Fun Playscheme had been £2,060, but that only £1,500 had ever been claimed, and that it was unlikely that this would be the requirement for 2001/2002. The Committee agreed that the budget for this head be revised to £1,500.

The Committee received a schedule of Grant Applications. Cllr Bowman declared an interest as a Trustee of the Haverhill & District Volunteer Centre, and Cllr Millar declared an interest as the parent of a member of the Sapphires Majorettes. The Committee agreed the following Grant applications:-

Organisation Name	Start Up/ Support/ Project	Amount Requested	Amount Granted
British Red Cross	Support Grant	£300.00	£300.00
Hamlet Croft	Match Funding	£75.00	£75.00
Haverhill & District Local History Group	Equipment	£250.00	£250.00
Haverhill & District Volunteer Centre	Equipment	£250.00	£250.00
HAVO & Volunteer Centre	Project	£400.00	£400.00
Haverhill Art Group	Support Grant	£90.00	£90.00
6 th Haverhill Brownies	Support Grant or Match Funding	£300.00	£300.00
Haverhill Harlots	Equipment	£250.00	£250.00
Haverhill Rovers Girls Football Club	Project Equipment	£300.00 £200.00	£300.00 £200.00
Haverhill Skate Park Committee	Start Up	£150.00	£150.00
Haverhill Silver Band	Equipment	£250.00	£250.00
Haverhill Sinfonia	Support	£300.00	£300.00
Haverhill Town Football Club	Sporting	£180.00	£180.00
1 st Kedington Ranger Guides	Project	£300.00	Sponsorship of Haverhill residents to maximum of £300.00
LAMP H	Equipment	£181.04	£181.04
Pye Friendship	Support (Room Hire)	£60.00	£60.00
Samuel Ward Pre-School	Match Funding	£500.00	£500.00
Sapphire Majorettes	?	£300.00	£300.00
Suffolk Family History Society (Haverhill Group)	Project	£400.00	£400.00

HAVO were asked to resubmit their application for matched funding, and all organisations seeking assistance with staffing costs were to be advised that the Town Council would not grant aid these under this scheme. The Haverhill Harlots and Haverhill Rovers Girls Football Club were to be asked to supply a list of equipment that the Town Council would purchase and then present to the organisations.

8. Authorisation of payments

The payments shown on the lists detailed below were approved for payment.

List Date	Item Numbers	Cheque Numbers	Total Value for List
10.04.2001	1-18	3299-3316	£13,763.81
17.04.2001	1-5	3317-3321	£4,673.71
02.05.2001	1-16	3322-3337	£2,325.96
02.05.2001	1-10	3338-3347	£3,084.16
15.05.2001	1-9	3348-3356	£7,054.89
15.05.2001	1-6	3357-3362	£3,205.71

9. Matters of report

Cllr Bowman enquired whether the Town Council could assist the Wednesdays for Women Group in any way, given that the Town Council would not grant aid salaries. Cllr Maggie Lee confirmed that the salaries of crèche workers could be aided by the Town Council as these were enabling mothers with children to attend the group.

Cllr Goody reported that he had spoken to Sergeant Lockyer regarding the traffic and parking on the pavements in the High Street, but had been advised that there was little that could be done to enforce the restrictions.

10. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.30 p.m.