

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 20th November 2001 at 7.00 p.m.
at Bevan House, Camps Road, Haverhill**

PRESENT: **Chair:** **Cllr. Maggie Lee**
 Town Councillors: **E Goody, Mrs Martin (except items 1 and 2) and**
 A Smith

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Minutes

Cllr Goody proposed and Cllr Smith seconded that the Minutes of Meeting held 18th September 2001 (previously adopted at Full Council on 25th September 2001), be approved as a true record, all being in favour.

3. Matters arising

a) Clements Surgery

The Clerk reported that he had held meetings with representatives of the West Suffolk Borders Primary Care Group, with a view to arranging a meeting between all interested parties and Dr Platt, to see if there was a way forward for the Clements Surgery. Subsequently the Clements Surgery had written advising that they were submitting an application to St Edmundsbury Borough Council to build a new surgery on land adjacent to the existing surgery. The Clerk reported that he had made arrangements to discuss the proposals with the Practice Manager and Dr Platt and would report further to Full Council.

b) Wednesdays for Women Group

The Clerk reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council Environmental Health & Housing Committee was being recommended to grant aid this group for 2002/2003. The Committee welcomed this support by the Borough Council.

- c) Suffolk County Council – Nomination of Additional Co-opted Governor Representing Minor Authority – Burton End Community Primary School

The Clerk reported that no nominations had been forthcoming for the position of Governor representing Minor Authority at Burton End Community Primary School. The Clerk advised that this was one of a number of schools where these positions were unfilled.

- d) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Cleales Site

The Clerk reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council were having difficulties securing full rights of access over the existing access road. As a result, and to avoid further delays with the project, it was proposed to provide for access off Helions Walk, although this would involve removing several mature trees on that boundary. The Committee noted the position and asked to be kept updated.

- e) Hanchett End – Proposed Pharmacy – Change of Location

The Clerk reported that approval had been given for the change of address for the proposed pharmacy, from Brybank Road to Sainsburys. The information was noted.

- f) Social Impact Study

The Clerk reported that the Social Impact Study was now expected to be published at the end of November. The information was noted.

4. Correspondence

- a) Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – Quality Town & Parish Councils

The Committee considered the Consultation Paper received from DEFRA regarding how “quality” Town and Parish Councils should be assessed. The Committee agreed that the mere publication and distribution of a quarterly newsletter was noted a measure of quality and that this measure should be omitted. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Suffolk Association of Local Councils regarding their likely response to the document. The Clerk was asked to copy this Council’s response to the Chair of this Committee.

- b) Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions – Abandoned Cars

The Committee noted the intention of DTLR to introduce new legislation to speed up the removal of abandoned vehicles, and welcomed the proposals wholeheartedly.

- c) West Suffolk Community Health Council – Nomination of Member

The Chair proposed, and Cllr Goody seconded, all being in favour, that Cllr Mrs Mary Martin represents the Town Council on the Community Health Council.

- d) Department of Health – Modernising the NHS

The receipt of this document was noted.

- e) Suffolk County Council – Bridleway Creation Order – Bridleway 44 (off Howe Road)

The receipt of the Bridleway Creation Order was noted.

f) Suffolk County Council – Town Bus Services

The receipt of details of the revised bus timetables for the Town services was noted. The Clerk was asked to explore with Suffolk County Council the possibility of introducing through ticketing with other services operating out of Haverhill.

5. Grants

The Committee received a schedule of Grant Applications. Cllr Smith declared an interest as a helper with Haverhill & District Operatic Society, and withdrew during consideration of that Grant request. The Committee agreed the following grants:-

Organisation Name	Type of Grant	Amount Requested	Amount Granted
Gatehouse Charity	Support	£500	£500
Haverhill & District Operatic Society	Project Support	£400 £300	£400 £300
Haverhill Association of Voluntary Organisations	General Equipment	£244.09	£244.09
Haverhill Community Transport	Support	£500	£500
Haverhill Round Table	Support	£300	£300
Haverhill Twin Towns Association	Matched Funding	£500	£500
Haverhill United Girls Soccer	General Equipment	£475	£475
Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	Support	£300	£300
West Suffolk Crossroads Caring for Carers	Support	£300	£300
West Suffolk Relate	Support	£500	£500
Winged Fellowship Trust	Support	£300	£300
TOTAL		£4,119.09	£4,119.09

In respect of the application by Haverhill Advocacy and Mentoring Service it was agreed to invite a representative to speak at the Full Council meeting in January to explain how the services would continue in the event of no further funding from DfES being available.

6. Precept 2002/2003

The Committee considered the papers presented by the Town Clerk, and agreed that at this time no account be taken of the Leisure Committee's paper on potential staffing. In addition Cllr Maggie Lee proposed, and Cllr Goody seconded, that the official representatives for the celebration of the 20th Anniversary Town Twinning with Ehringshausen be reduced to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The net effect of these changes was to produce a precept of £129,353, equivalent to £17.84 for a Band D property, and £13.87 for a Band B property, an increase of 9.22%. The Committee agreed to recommend this precept to Full Council.

7. Authorisation of payments

Cllr Goody proposed and Cllr Smith seconded that the payments shown on the lists detailed below were approved for payment, all being in favour.

List Date	Item Numbers	Cheque Numbers	Total Value for List
26.09.01	1-5	3659-3663	£1,319.18
09.10.01	1-11	3664-3674	£1,616.84
09.10.01	1-5	3675-3679	£5,315.86
23.10.01	1-8	3680-3687	£5,653.47
13.11.01	1-14	3688-3701	£7,691.47
20.11.01	1-4	3702-3705	£3,032.94
20.11.01	1-5	3706-3710	£5,116.99
20.11.01	1-6	3711-3716	£2,594.40

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Mary Martin would undertake the check on payments for this quarter.

8. Matters of report

Cllr Maggie Lee reported that she had received a complaint that as a result of the extension to the Sports Centre the combined footpath and cyclepath to the Chalkstone Estate had been reduced to just a cyclepath. Cllr Goody advised that it was only obstructed whilst the building work was in progress. The Clerk advised he would investigate and take the appropriate action as required.

Cllr Mrs Martin enquired regarding the two "Residents Only" parking spaces that had been made in Helions Walk. The Clerk stated he would investigate accordingly.

9. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.55 p.m.