

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 9th July 2002 at 7.00 p.m.
at Bevan House, Camps Road, Haverhill**

PRESENT: Town Councillors: P French, E Goody, P Hanlon, G Kiernan (items 1-9 only), Maggie Lee, Mrs M Martin, A Smith and M Woodley

BY INVITATION: M Dane (items 10-12 only), and M Dunning

ALSO PRESENT: One member of the public.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Election of Chair

Cllr Gerry Kiernan proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that Cllr Maggie Lee be elected Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, all being in favour. There being no further nominations, and Cllr Maggie Lee being willing to serve as Chair of the Committee, Cllr Maggie Lee was declared Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Hanlon proposed and Cllr French seconded that Cllr Gerry Kiernan Lee be elected Vice-Chair of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, all being in favour. There being no further nominations, and Cllr Gerry Kiernan being willing to serve as Chair of the Committee, Cllr Gerry Kiernan was declared Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee.

4. Declaration of Interest

Cllrs French, Hanlon, Gerry Kiernan, Maggie Lee, Mrs Mary Martin and Smith declared an interest in item 7(c), as elected members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr Gerry Kiernan also declared an interest as a member of the Havebury Board in respect of item 7(b).

5. Minutes

Cllr Goody proposed, and Cllr Mrs Mary Martin seconded, all being in favour, that the minutes of the meeting held 21st May 2002 be signed as a true record..

6. Matters arising

a) Swan Lane

The Clerk reported that the works to the bridge in Swan Lane would not now be completed until mid-September. The Clerk advised that for the evenings of 10th, 17th and 24th August from 7.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m. the road from Mill Road to High Street would be closed, and the traffic flow in Queen Street reversed. This was in connection with the Market Square Band Nights.

b) Willows in Ehringshausen Way

The Clerk advised that due to delays in letting the contract for works to these trees the work would now be undertaken outside of the nesting period.

c) Diversion of Footpath No. 10

The Clerk reminded the Committee that they had approved the diversion of this footpath subject to there being no objection from HAVAC walkers. The Clerk confirmed that they had raised no objection to the diversion.

d) Speed of Traffic, Chivers Road

The Clerk advised that he had received a letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council indicating that no speed reduction works had been demanded as part of the planning design process, and that in the view of the Borough Council it was unreasonable to expect drivers to use the bypass to gain access to Sainsburys. Cllr Hanlon considered that all new feeder roads should be built with traffic calming measures in place. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should write indicating the Committee's dissatisfaction with this answer.

7. Correspondence

a) Countryside Agency – Market Town Healthcheck Initiative

The Clerk advised that the Countryside Agency had invited an application from the Town Council. St Edmundsbury Borough Council Cabinet were being recommended to match fund the potential Countryside Agency Grant with a further £17,000, and if successful the project would commence September with a completion date of February 2003. Cllr Hanlon asked how there could be input into the Healthcheck, especially in terms of health provision. The Clerk advised that health provision was one of the components of the Healthcheck and the Consultants would canvass opinion at the appropriate time. The concerns regarding the shortage of Doctors was raised and the Clerk was asked to invite Reverend Betts, one of the non-Executive Board Members of the Primary Care Trust to a future Town Council Meeting.

b) Havebury – Environmental Improvements Clements Est. Phase 1

The Committee had no objection to the proposed stopping-up of certain thoroughfares in principle, but expressed concerns regarding the materials used in the process, and the final finished appearance of the new, smaller, areas created. In addition the Committee expressed concern that some properties that had been transferred to Havebury had works outstanding that were affecting the visual appearance of the houses. The Clerk was asked to write to Havebury indicating the Committee's concerns.

- c) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Vehicle Licence Plates

The Committee welcomed the new-style Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle plate.

8. **Membership of Outside Bodies**

The Committee agreed that the following Town Councillors should serve as Town Council representative on the external bodies as shown:-

Councillor	Name of External Body
Gerry Kiernan	Haverhill Association of Voluntary Organisations
Gerry Kiernan	Haverhill & District Volunteer Centre
A Smith	Town Hall Arts Centre Programming & Advisory Committee
Gerry Kiernan	Haverhill Partnership

In addition the following Town Councillors served as Minor Local Authority Representatives nominated by the Town Council on the external bodies as shown:-

Councillor	Name of External Body
P French	Westfields County Primary School
Mrs Mary Martin	West Suffolk Community Health Council

At this time there was no nomination for Town Council representative on the Citizen's Advice Bureau Management Committee. In addition the Clerk was asked to confirm with the following organisations that either the organisations had folded, or remodelled their management structure so no Town Council representative was required:-

Cangle Junction Management Advisory Group
West Suffolk Borders Primary Care Group
East Town Park Willow Maze Committee

The Committee agreed that there would be a regular agenda item allowing representatives to brief the Council on matters arising at these groups.

9. **Authorisation of payments**

Cllr Mrs Martin proposed and Cllr Goody 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
28.05.02	1-30	3926-3963	£9,491.46
11.06.02	1-26	3964-3989	£12,604.14
11.06.02	1-4	3990-3993	£5,106.23
18.06.02	1-14	3994-4007	£6,963.72
02.07.02	1-10	4008-4017	£2,329.88
09.07.02	1-29	4017-4046	£23,566.27

The Committee nominated Cllr Goody to undertake spot checks on three random invoices from those recently paid.

10. **Matters of report**

Cllr Hanlon raised the subject of the new speed reduction measures in Chalkstone Way and Millfields Way. The Committee agreed that the new speed humps were failing to control vehicle speeds and noted that the Borough Council, in the light of public concerns, were reviewing the situation. The Clerk was asked to write again to St Edmundsbury Borough Council asking that the review be conducted and completed as soon as possible.

Cllr Hanlon reported that when the trees had been removed in the vicinity of Quendon Place the holes left had not been filled in very well, and could be a danger. The Clerk was asked to write to Havebury regarding the matter.

Cllr Hanlon advised that he had received complaints about the footpath/alleyway that ran between Churchill Avenue and the Cangle Playing Fields. The Clerk was asked to raise the matter with St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council.

Cllr French raised the issue of the damage to the verge and lack of continuous footway to Westfields County Primary School in Manor Road. The Clerk advised that St Edmundsbury Borough Council had issued an order to repair the verge and were reviewing the provision of a footway. Cllr Maggie Lee suggested that the Borough Council may be able to access monies held under the "Safely to School" initiative.

The Clerk advised that the two Casual Vacancies were to be contested by election on 1st August and asked the Committee to agree the decision to request the use of Poll Cards. The Committee confirmed the ordering of the Poll Cards.

The Clerk advised the Committee that, following a report from Cllr Woodley, he had written to St Edmundsbury Borough Council asking that railings be used to direct pedestrians from the Castle Estate to use the pedestrian crossing near Castle Hill School. The Clerk read the response from the Borough Council to the Committee who agreed that the Borough Council be asked to expand upon their unsatisfactory answer.

Cllr Hanlon proposed, and Cllr Mrs Mary Martin seconded that in accord with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters to be discussed will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Act.

11. Bevan House Meeting Room

Cllrs Dunning, French, Goody, Hanlon, Maggie Lee, Mrs M Martin, A Smith and M Woodley declared an interest as Members of the Labour Party who were one of the regular hirers. Cllrs Hanlon and Woodley declared an interest also as members of the TGWU, another regular hirer. Cllr French declared an interest as a member of the British Legion, another regular hirer, and Cllr Woodley declared an interest as a member of both the Parkway Residents Association and the Old Age Pensioners, both regular hirers.

The Committee noted the contents of a paper prepared by the Clerk following a request from the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee had expressed concern that in view of the on-going delays to concluding negotiations on the Arts Centre, some action needed to be taken to ease the pressure on accommodation. The Committee agreed that non-confidential and non-financial filing should be stored in the downstairs kitchen on a temporary basis. The Clerk was asked to action the removal of the appropriate filing, including undertaking a "weeding out" of old papers, and to prepare a paper for the next meeting with a timeline indicating when decisions were required to enable the Town Council to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act by its implementation date of 1st October 2004.

12. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.00 p.m.