

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 17th December 2002 at 7.00 p.m.
at The Woodlands, Coupals Road, Haverhill**

PRESENT: Town Councillors: M Dane, P French, E Goody, P Hanlon,
G Kiernan, Mrs M Martin and A Smith

BY INVITATION: M Dunning, M Graham, L Kiernan, C Pinker and M Woodley

ALSO PRESENT: Five members of the public.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Maggie Lee.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Gerry Kiernan declared an interest as an elected Member of both St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council. Cllrs French, Hanlon, Larry Kiernan, Mrs Mary Martin, and Smith declared an interest as elected Members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr Goody declared an interest in the Chalkstone speed humps issue as a resident of that estate. Cllrs Dane, Graham and Smith declared an interest in Grant applications to be considered.

3. Minutes

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the minutes of the meeting held 11th September be accepted as a true record, all being in favour.

4. Matters arising

- a) Swan Lane
Cllr Hanlon enquired regarding the making good of Swan Lane after the completion of the bridge works. The Clerk advised that work was due to start in Swan Lane in January.
- b) Speed Humps, Chalkstone Estate
The Clerk advised that no further correspondence had been received on this matter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr Hanlon reported that he was still awaiting information from a Borough Officer on this matter.

- c) Traffic Speeds, Chivers Road
The Clerk advised that St Edmundsbury Borough Council had agreed to introduce some form of traffic calming on this road.

5. **Correspondence**

- a) Suffolk County Council – Appointment of Minor Local Authority Governors – Burton End Community Primary School, New Cangle Community Primary School, and Coupals Primary School
The Clerk advised that Minor Local Authority Governors were still being sought for these schools. The Clerk added that he had received an expression of interest from a member of the public in the vacancy for Coupals Primary School. Cllr French indicated that he might be willing to serve at New Cangle Community Primary School. The Clerk was asked to publicise the vacancies.
- b) Haverhill & District Local History Group – Millennium History of Haverhill
The Clerk reported that the Millennium History of Haverhill was to have been published with joint support from Haverhill Town Council and Awards for All. Sickness and the loss of key researchers had meant that the history could not be published within the timescale set by Awards for All. The Local History Group had asked therefore whether the money already paid over by the Town Council could be put towards the purchase of a microfiche reader/printer; at present the nearest such facilities were at Bury St Edmunds. Cllr Hanlon proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the money already paid over to the Local History Group be used to purchase a microfiche reader/printer, all being in favour.
- c) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Street Trading Consent, High Street
The Committee noted and agreed to the renewal of the Street Trading Consent for a further year for the market to trade in the High Street on Saturdays.

6. **Matters Raised by Councillors**

- a) Clements Close – Orbit Housing Association Issues – Cllr Mick Graham

Cllr Graham reported on a simple matter that had taken many months to resolve, involving Orbit Housing and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, with both parties denying liability. Cllr Graham added that this was just one example of many within the town involving residents where positive sustained intervention by the Town Council might resolve issues. Cllr Smith confirmed that he too had had to intervene with Orbit Housing on behalf of one of their tenants, and found Orbit Housing difficult to deal with. Cllr French wondered, if the Borough Council were involved, why residents were not contacting their Borough Councillors for assistance in resolving the matters. Cllr Hanlon agreed that if there were issues to be resolved then the Town Council should be assisting in their resolution, and perhaps starts by inviting a representative of Orbit Housing to a future Town Council meeting. The Town Clerk was asked to obtain details of the Borough Council's representative on Orbit Housing Association, and Cllr Graham was asked to circulate his list of issues. The Clerk was asked to put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b) Prevention of Underage Drinking – Cllr Mabon Dane

Cllr Dane proposed, and Cllr Mrs Mary Martin seconded, that this item be deferred to the next meeting, all being in favour.

7. **Supported Public Transport**

Cllr Woodley declared an interest in the matter to be debated and left the meeting.

The Committee considered a report on a possible taxibus scheme. The Town Clerk advised

that there were, at this early stages of negotiations, some issues that needed agreement from the Town Council. The Town Council agreed that whilst taxibuses should be permitted to access the pedestrianised areas, they should not use High Street on Saturday, and that any further discussions regarding control of access for motor vehicles to the pedestrianised areas should involve consultation with the public and shopkeepers.

Cllr Woodley rejoined the meeting.

8. Grants

Cllr Smith declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of a Grant to the Haverhill Operatic Society. Cllrs Dane and Graham declared an interest and left the meeting during consideration of a Grant to Haverhill Striders.

The Committee agreed to Grant the following organisations:-

Organisation Name	Amount Requested
Hamlet Croft Pre-School	£300
Haverhill & District Operatic Society	£400
Haverhill 'HiLites' Majorette Troupe	£150
Haverhill Striders Athletics Academy	£400
West Suffolk Victim Support	£300

The Committee agreed to ask West Suffolk Relate to resubmit their Grant application for consideration in May 2003, and similarly Haverhill "HiLites" in respect of their request for support funding.

9. Precept 2003/2004

The Committee noted the report submitted by the Clerk, based on the integration of the Town Council and Arts Centre accounts. Cllr Hanlon proposed, and Cllr Goody seconded, that the Committee recommend to the Full Council a precept of £144,917, all being in favour.

10. Authorisation of payments

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Gerry Kiernan seconded that the payments as shown on the following lists be authorised for payment, all being in favour.

Date	Item Numbers	Cheque Numbers	Total of Schedule
26.11.02	1-10	000093-000102	£5,804.52
03.12.02	1-11	000103-000113	£9,754.21
17.12.02	1-16	000114-000127 & 000134-000135	£4,725.88
17.12.02	1-6	000128-000133	£5,269.67

11. Matters of report

There were no matters to report,

12. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.00 p.m.