

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 6th May 2003 at 7.30 p.m.
At The Town Hall Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

PRESENT: **Town Mayor:** **M Martin**
 Town Councillors: **R Avallone, M Dane, A Daniel-Ward, S Fanning,**
 E Goody, M Graham, G Kiernan, , L Robinson,
 J Rudd, L Samples, A Thomas, N Whelan (except
 items 1 and 2), and R Warwick

IN ATTENDANCE: **Clerk to the Council – Gordon Mussett**
 Arts & Leisure Manager – Nick Keeble
 Mayor’s Secretary – Vicky Ward
 Thirty-four members of the public

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Cullum and Maggie Lee.

2. **Election of Town Mayor**

Cllr Dane proposed and Cllr Fanning seconded that Cllr Daniel-Ward be elected as Town Mayor. There being no further nominations, and Cllr Daniel-Ward being willing to stand, Cllr Daniel-Ward was elected as Town Mayor by a majority and signed her declaration of acceptance of office, and took the Chair.

3. **Election of Deputy Mayor**

Cllr Dane proposed and Cllr Daniel-Ward seconded that Cllr Rudd be elected as Deputy Town Mayor. There being no further nominations, and Cllr Rudd being willing to stand, Cllr Daniel-Ward was elected as Deputy Town Mayor by a majority.

4. **Vote of Thanks**

Cllr Daniel-Ward proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Cllr Mrs Martin, and Cllr Dane proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Deputy Mayor, Cllr Kiernan. Cllr Mrs Martin thanked all who had helped her during her period of office.

5. **Mayor's Allowance**

Cllr Kiernan proposed and Cllr Dane seconded, all being in favour, that the budgeted sum of £675 be paid over to the Mayor as an allowance.

6. **Town Council Committees**

The Town Clerk explained that the distribution of Committee Seats, as set out in Standing Orders, was pro-rata to the overall distribution of Members between the party groupings. The Clerk explained that as the pro-rata distribution did not give whole numbers he had offered the leaders of both parties a suggested solution, and that this had been accepted by the leader of the Labour Group. Cllr Dane indicated that as Leader of the Haverhill Representative Alliance he was prepared to accept the Clerk's solution. Committee seat allocation would therefore be:-

	Finance	Leisure & Arts	Personnel	Planning	Community First	Appeals
Total Seats	Mayor plus 5 chairs plus political balance	8	5	8	8	5
HRA	6	6	3	6	6	3
Labour	3	2	2	2	2	2

7. **Outside Representatives**

The Clerk explained that the Town Council nominated representatives to represent it on outside bodies. Cllr Kiernan proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the Town Council delegate authority to Committees to make appointments of representatives of outside bodies.

8. **To confirm Minutes of Meetings held 25th March 2003**

Cllr Kiernan proposed, and Cllr Goody seconded that the minutes of the meeting held 25th March 2003 be adopted as a true record, all being in favour.

9. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the Minutes**

Cllr Dane stated that the problems with motorcycles using the railway walk, and pedestrian areas on Chalkstone Estate were persisting and he would be raising the matter with the Police.

10. **Adoption of Committee Reports**

Leisure Committee

Cllr Goody proposed, and Cllr Kiernan seconded that the minutes of the Leisure Committee held 22nd April 2003 be adopted, all being in favour.

Planning Committee

Cllr Mrs Martin proposed, and Cllr Kiernan seconded that the minutes of the Planning Committee held 15th April 2003 be adopted, all being in favour.

11. To confirm the Council's response to Consultation on the Waste Local Plan for Suffolk.

The Clerk advised that the County Council was consulting on the first draft of the Waste Local Plan, and that the previous Council had asked for a draft response to be brought to this Council. The Clerk read out his draft response to the Plan.

Cllr Dane stated he was totally opposed to incineration as a means of waste disposal and called for a complete ban on incineration.

The Clerk stated that there was a hierarchy of waste disposal and incineration was low on that scale, but could not be discounted because there were some items of waste (e.g. clinical waste) that required incineration.

Cllr Kiernan declared an interest in the matter as a Member of Suffolk County Council, and stated that he agreed with the Clerk's draft response, subject to the inclusion of wording to protect the environment from the visual intrusion of vehicle disposal/scrap yards in particular.

Cllr Fanning felt that as a newly-elected Councillor she was being asked to vote on something without having read the report.

The Mayor asked if businesses were aware of the Draft Plan. Cllr Kiernan stated that it was a publicly-available document and the Clerk advised that it would have been the subject of a formal notice in the press. Cllr Graham stated that of the businesses he had spoken to, none were aware of the Draft Plan.

Cllr Dane suggested that the Town Council accept the Town Clerk's comments plus a comment that incineration was only to be used as a last resort. Cllr Kiernan stated that this might mean contaminated waste travelling through the County for incineration elsewhere, and that such was best disposed of on site, such as low-level radioactive waste at Sizewell. The Clerk advised that there were very few existing incineration plants, and these included pet crematoria.

Cllr Thomas proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that, subject to inclusion of a section to protect the environment from the visual intrusion of vehicle disposal/scrap yards in particular, the Clerk's draft response, previously circulated, be accepted. On being put to the vote the proposal was carried by a majority.

12. To confirm the Clerk's re-appointment as Responsible Financial Officer.

The Clerk advised that the Council is required to appoint a Responsible Financial Officer, and that this was currently the Clerk. Cllr Mrs Martin proposed and Cllr Kiernan seconded that the Clerk be re-appointed Responsible Financial Officer, all being in favour.

13. To authorise urgent payments.

There were no urgent payments to be authorised.

14. To receive urgent correspondence

There were no items of urgent correspondence.

15. Matters of report

The Clerk reported that the Planning Meeting scheduled for 13th May had been cancelled. Cllr Mrs Martin asked why the meeting had been cancelled and Cllr Dane stated that the Haverhill Representative Alliance would not be able to select members to serve on that Committee by that date. Cllr Kiernan stated he was disappointed by this response. Cllr

Dane stated that the Town Clerk had been authorised to take decisions on outstanding planning applications until a meeting could be held. Cllr Kiernan asked if the Haverhill Representative Alliance could nominate Members to attend just for that meeting, even if they would not be the regular Committee members, and Cllr Dane agreed to do so in order that the meeting could be held.

16. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.44 p.m.