

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 29th June 2005 at 7.39 pm
In Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



**HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL**
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Present: **Chair:** **Tim Marks**
Town Councillors: **M Dane (except parts item 9), H Dudley-Smith, S Fanning, E Goody, E McManus, Mrs Mary Martin (except item 11), E Morton, A Thomas, E Trebble and R Warwick**

Also present: **Thirteen members of the public**

MINUTES**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Cullum, Graham, Rudd and Samples.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Goody, Mrs Mary Martin and Thomas declared an interest as members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr Marks declared an interest as a member of Suffolk County Council..

3. To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 24th May 2005

The minutes of the meeting held 24th May were agreed as a true record.

4. To deal with any urgent matters arising from the Minutes not covered by this agenda

There were no urgent matters arising from those minutes.

5. Steve Cook, Chief Executive, Havebury Housing Partnership

Mr Cook gave presentation on the work of Havebury Housing Partnership. Members asked about the likely number of new Havebury Housing Partnership properties to be built in the near future and raised concerns about the time taken to fill vacant properties.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A member of the public commented on the differing standards of grass-cutting between Havebury Housing Partnership sites and sites under the control of the Borough and County Councils.

A member of the public asked whether Havebury Housing Partnership had any scheme to assist the elderly tenants with maintenance of their gardens, and Cllr Mrs Mary Martin

commented on the untidy aspect of a number of gardens and enquired what enforcement procedures the Partnership had to require gardens to be kept tidy.

The meeting was resumed after the Public Forum

6. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 7th June 2005.

Leisure & Arts Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Leisure & Arts Committee meeting held 14th June 2005

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 21st June 2005

7. To Receive The Internal Auditors Notes on the 2004/2005 Accounts

The Council is required to received and noted the comments of the Internal Auditor on the accounts for 2004/2005. The Council confirmed that they had already agreed, in the next Precept, to take steps to increase the balances to £100,000 within a short time-frame.

8. To Sign Off The External Audit Form for the 2004/2005 Accounts

Cllr Fanning asked that it be minuted that she had grave concerns over the Town Council's Accounts and that she would like to see a working group established to monitor the situation. The majority of members felt that this was the role of the existing Finance Committee. A debate took place regarding the Statement of Assurance required to be given to the External Auditors by the Council, during which Cllr Dane left and rejoined the meeting a number of times, absenting himself when reference was made to his official objection to the 2003/2004 accounts. The Council agreed by a majority to sign the Statement of Assurance. Cllrs Dane and Fanning asked that their vote against be recorded. Cllr Fanning then formally proposed that a separate working group of members be established to monitor cashflow. This proposal on being put to the vote was lost. Cllrs Dane and Fanning asked that their vote for this proposal be recorded.

9. Investigate Potential Museum Opportunity

Cllr Mrs Mary Martin declared an interest and left the meeting.

The Council agreed that the Town Clerk investigate the current potential for providing a museum facility in the town and report back to future meetings of the appropriate Committees.

Cllr Mrs Mary Martin returned to the meeting.

10. Committee Quorum Numbers

The Council agreed that Committee quorum numbers return to those originally contained in the terms of reference.

11. To Review Financial Regulations

The Council agreed that no changes be made to Financial Regulations.

12. To Review Standing Orders

The Council agreed that no changes were required to Standing Orders. Cllr Dane asked that his abstention be noted.

13. To authorise payments.

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
12.05.05	001449-001490	£43,196.63
16.05.05	001491-001513	£10,325.55
24.05.05	001514-001533	£75,776.17
07.06.05	001534-001555	£32,639.57
14.06.05	001556-001579	£12,628.14

14. To receive urgent correspondence

The Clerk reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council was inviting a response on the suggestion that the Cleales and Gurteen sites be included in the Local Plan as retail areas, and that the matter would be considered by the Planning Committee on Tuesday 5th July.

15. Staffing Recharge to Hartseats Limited

The Council considered the letter from Hartseats Limited regarding staff recharges and agreed to rebate the charges by £5,600 per annum to reflect the cost of the single-status implementation. Cllr Fanning asked that her abstention be noted.

16. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.50 p.m.