



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 30th September 2008 at 7.00 pm
In The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present:Chair –Town Mayor: Les Ager
Town Councillors: L Carr, A Gower (except items 20-23),
P Hanlon, E McManus, P McManus,
M Marks, A Samuels, A Sisson and T
Woodward

Also present: Five members of the public.

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Anderson, Byrne, French, Price, Richardson and Thomas.
2. **Declaration of Interests**
No Members declared any interests they may have on items on the agenda.
3. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 16th September 2008**
The minutes of the meeting held 16th September were signed 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 not covered by the agenda.
5. **Inspector Andrew Mason, Suffolk Police**
The Mayor welcomed Inspector Mason to the Town. Inspector Mason reported that overall crime figures were low at present, with an overall detection rate of 32%, and an individual detection rate higher than that for domestic burglaries, thefts from motor vehicles and violence in a public place. There was a 6.5% reduction on crime levels compared to last year. Inspector Mason recognised the concerns of the Town Council regarding frequent changes of Inspector but advised that he expected to be in Haverhill for at least two years. The Inspector was asked to ensure a Police representative attended a meeting of CATRA.
6. **Tina Hanks, Town Centre Manager**
The Mayor welcomed the new Town Centre Manager who provided an update on her work plan until March 2009. Cllr Marks asked if the Town Centre Manager could bring action to bear to ensure any banners erected on the old railway bridge over Wratting Road were removed promptly.

Action

7. **The Centre for Computing History**

Keith Brown and Gillian Blackmore gave a presentation on the Centre for Computing History and progress/achievements to date. The Council agreed to work with the Centre for Computing History to help them achieve their aims.

Local Government Act 1972 S111 and Charities Act 1993 S78

8. **Andy Everett, Contracts Manager, WRVS**

In the absence of Mr Everett this item was deferred to a future meeting of the Council.

9. **A1307 – Feedback from Councillors Attending the Recent Meeting held 23rd September**

No Members of the Council had attended the meeting and there was thus no feedback to be given.

At this point, with the agreement of the Council, the Mayor brought forward item 17 in order that it could be dealt with before the Public Forum

17. **Haverhill Area Working Party – An Update**

The Mayor welcomed Patsy Dell, Head of Planning and Engineering Services, who provided the Council with an update on issues recently discussed or agreed by the Haverhill Area Working Party. Consultation was taking place on Queen Street enhancements and ahead of the bus station refurbishment starting early 2009 three temporary bus shelters would replace the existing damaged ones. Cllr Hanlon asked if proper paving could be provided across the grass strip leading to the Chalkstone estate from beside the new Subway take-away.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A member of the public commented that the bus station needed a clock and directional signs to the toilets. A member of the public asked that schools be involved in any artwork for Queen Street. A member of the public stated he was disappointed regarding the lack of publicity and feedback given to the Town Council's response to the Boundary Committee.

The meeting was reconvened after the Public Forum

10. **Adoption of Committee Reports**

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 5th August and 2nd September 2008.

Arts & Leisure Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Arts & Leisure Committee meeting held 9th September 2008.

11. **Car Cruisers**

The Council considered the issues around the car cruisers and the reports of anti-social behaviour associated with the group. The Council agreed to write to the Police asking for their assistance in this matter and to try to work with the group to enable them to show their vehicles at a future Town Council event.

Crime and Disorder Act 1998 S17. Town Clerk to write to Police and engage with Car Cruisers.

12. **To Receive The External Auditor's Notes on the 2008/2009 Accounts**
The Council noted the completion of the audit and the unqualified report. The Council noted the action taken in annotating the minutes with the relevant legislation to satisfy the comments of the External Auditor on the accounts for 2008/2009.

13. **Councillor Surgeries**

The Council decided to continue to hold surgeries for a further six months and to review the situation at that time. The Town Clerk was asked to put the dates of the Surgeries on the website.

Local
Government
Act 1972 S142
as amended
by Local
Government &
Housing Act
1989 S38.
Town Clerk to
update
website.

14. **Arts Centre Working Party**

The Council noted the composition and agreed the terms of reference of the Working Party. A proposal was made that the Town Clerk be added to the composition of the Working Party. Members asked for advice from the Town Clerk regarding Standing Orders Paragraph 36 which seemed to indicate that no reversal of a decision shall take place within 6 months of the decision unless agreed following the submission of a Special Resolution.

At this point Cllr Marks proposed and Cllr Carr seconded, all being in favour, that in accord with the Provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted

The Town Clerk advised the Council that whilst Paragraph 36 would generally apply there were occasions when, following the receipt of additional information, particularly if the intended decision were to prove to be unlawful, or lead the Council into litigation, it would not apply. In this particular instance the decision to omit from the composition of the Working Party the one Officer of the Council tasked with advising Council on, and assisting in, the formulation of policies, and who was also the Council's Responsible Financial Officer and the Arts Centre's Designated Premises Supervisor, as well as Director of the Charity's Trading Company, could result in a grievance being lodged against the Council, with particular reference to the duty of the Council, as employer, to ensure mutual trust and respect.

The public were re-admitted.

On being put to the vote the composition of the Arts Centre Working Group was agreed as:-

Town Mayor, Cllr L Ager
Cllr E McManus
Cllr M Byrne
Cllr P Hanlon
Town Clerk
Arts & Leisure Manager
Accountant

15. **Meeting Room Facilities**

The Council agreed to investigate the availability and costs of alternative

Town Clerk

meeting rooms, the costs of addressing the issues of acoustics and sound-deadening in the Studio, and obtain other quotations for a microphone-type system, before proceeding further.

to research.
Local
Government
Act 1972
S133 and
S134.

16. Freedom of Information Act – Model Publication Scheme for Town/Parish Councils

The Council noted the introduction of, and formally agreed to adopt, the new Model Publication Scheme for Town and Parish Councils.

18. To Consider Sponsorship of Telephone Kiosk, Chalkstone Way

The Council considered sponsorship of the telephone kiosk in Chalkstone Way threatened with removal and agreed to enter into an agreement, initially for 12 months, at a cost of £500 per annum, to retain the kiosk.

Town Clerk
to enter into
agreement.
Telecommu-
nications Act
1984 S97

19. To Confirm The Arrangements for Presentation of the Freedom of Haverhill

The Council agreed the arrangements for presentation of the Freedom of Haverhill as being made at a special Town Council meeting to be held in the Main Hall and for there to be a light buffet provided for recipients and their guests, at an estimated cost of £1,364 plus costs of calligraphy estimated at £50. The Council also approved the production of a commemorative booklet at a cost not exceeding £560.

Town Clerk
to arrange
date. Local
Government
Act 1972
S137.

Cllr Gower left the meeting

20. Correspondence

a) St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Parish Council Conference 6th November 2008

No Councillors wished to attend the Conference. The Town Clerk indicated he would attend on the Council's behalf.

21. To authorise payments.

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
22.07.08	004117 – 004130	£7,164.18
05.08.08	004131 – 004157	£52,541.46
07.08.08	004158	£6,884.84
12.08.08	004159 – 004179	£17,878.75
20.08.08	004180 – 004192	£10,504.72
26.08.08	004193 – 004208	£9,807.81
02.09.08	004209 – 004227	£6,381.16

22. To receive urgent correspondence

The Mayor read to the Council a statement to the effect that Haverhill had been selected as a pilot area in Suffolk for the devolution of powers, decision-making and funding, and that a further report would come before Council as the arrangements were finalised.

23. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.40 p.m.