

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 16th February 2010 at 7.43 pm
In The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor:** **E McManus**
 Town Councillors: **L Ager, S Bowes,**
 L Burgess, M Byrne, L Carr,
 P French, A Gower (except items 18-23),
 P Hanlon, P McManus, M Marks,
 Mrs Mary Martin, K Richardson (except
 items 18-23)

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

MINUTES

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Price, Samuels and Woodward.
- 2. Declaration of Interests**
Cllr French declared an interest in any items relating to Suffolk County Council, as a Member of Suffolk County Council. Cllr Gower declared an interest in items 6 and 9 as a Member of Suffolk County Council and items 11 and 12 as a Member of St Edmundsbury Borough Council.
- 3. To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 24th November 2009**
The minutes of the meeting held 24th November 2009 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 to discuss.
- 5. PCSO Chris Strahm**
PCSO Strahm apologised on behalf of Inspector Mason who was on other duties, and updated the Council on the current Safer Neighbourhood Team priorities, which were related to anti-social behaviour in the Lowry Close area, the creation of long-term diversionary activities for young people, and anti-social and other issues in the Sorrell Walk area. PCSO Strahm reported that in the 12 months to the end of January there had been 72 fewer reported crimes in the Haverhill area, although the changing nature of the crimes being reported had meant there was a reduction in the detection rate. However recent public surveys indicated high levels of satisfaction with the Police and how they were dealing with anti-social issues. There had been a very successful inspection by Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, and the Safer Neighbourhood Team Meetings had scored 95 out of a possible 100 for their effectiveness.
Cllr Marks asked a question regarding the recent increase in what

Action

appeared to be pre-planned burglaries and PCSO Strahm advised that there was an active investigation ongoing. Cllr Hanlon asked about reports of a Police Officer from Haverhill being transferred to Bury St Edmunds and PCSO Strahm advised that whilst there were always ongoing operational movements of Officers, Haverhill's core establishment had not changed. Cllr P McManus asked regarding the enforcement of car parking, particularly in the High Street, and PCSO Strahm advised that the vagueness of the Traffic Order when drafted meant it was unenforceable.

6. Simon Barnett, Suffolk County Council

Mr Barnett indicated that the bus shelters at the bus station were to be changed, and that Suffolk County Council was consulting on the changes. The shelters were to be made wider, and numbers 1-3 were to be relocated to the rear of the pathway, thus leaving room for buses to extend their ramps if needed. Numbers 1-3 may also be made longer to accommodate all those who wait for a bus in the morning peak. The timetable was for the shelters, complete with real-time information and timetable cases, to be ordered in March.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A member of the public asked about the bus shelters and stressed the need for them to be truly accessible by users of mobility scooters and people with double buggies. The Town Council offered to help with a mock-up of the size if needed for further consultation.

A member of the public indicated that he was against the Town Council's grant to the Haverhill Community Sports Association for equipment and boring a bore-hole at the new football stadium.

A member of the public indicated the bus shelters needed to be made longer as well as wider.

A member of the public asked if something could be done regarding the parking in Hazel Close and the Town Clerk advised he would contact Suffolk County Council on the matter.

The meeting was reconvened

7. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 3rd November and 1st December 2009, and 5th January and 2nd February 2010.

Community First Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Community First Committee meeting held 26th January 2010.

Arts & Leisure Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Arts & Leisure Committee meetings held 10th November 2009 and 9th February 2010.

Personnel Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held 26th January 2010.

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held 17th November 2009.

8. Review of Audit Arrangements

The Council reviewed the arrangements for internal audit and considered them satisfactory.

9. **Bevan House**
The Council considered the renewal of the lease of Bevan House to British Red Cross, and agreed to renew the lease with break clauses for one, two and three years. The Council recognized this would affect the potential ground rent, but that it gave them flexibility as regards disposal of the site, possibly in conjunction with the County Council's plans for the adjoining Place Court site, the use of which was to be transferred to a new site in Haverhill in that period.
10. **To Nominate a Representative to Be On The Welcome To Haverhill Pack Working Party**
The Council nominated Cllr Marks as its representative on the Welcome To Haverhill Pack Working Party.
11. **Draft St Edmundsbury Economic Action Plan 2010**
The Council considered its comments on the Draft Economic Development Plan. Cllr Byrne asked the Town Clerk to circulate the latest set of deprivation statistics, so that Members could verify whether the statement that "Haverhill South scores highly on indicators for deprivation" was still valid.
12. **Draft St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework Infrastructure Delivery Plan**
The Council considered its comments on the Local Development Framework Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
13. **Public Toilets**
The Council considered whether to fund the installation of cctv facilities covering the public toilets at the Recreation Ground to provide security for users when St Edmundsbury Borough Council withdrew its permanent attendant from the toilets, and agreed not to provide cctv coverage.
14. **To Resolve to Adopt the Power of Well Being**
The Council resolved to adopt the Power of Well Being in accordance with Section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) that extended the power in Sections 2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 (the 2000 Act), of well-being to "eligible parish councils".
15. **Review of Risks**
The Council reviewed the Council's major risks, and agreed that the control measures were appropriate.
16. **Meeting Dates 2010/2011**
After changing the proposed Full Council meeting dates in June to 22nd June, and in September to 21st September the Council agreed the meeting dates for Council year 2010/2011.
17. **Civic Sunday and Council Chaplain**
The Council agreed to introduce a Civic Sunday event in the Mayoral Year and to create an unremunerated post of Council Chaplain.
18. **Budgets 2009/2010**
The Council agreed the budgets and set the precept for 2010/2011 at £720,427, giving a Band D Council Tax of £89.72.

Town Clerk to advise Red Cross and arrange lease

Town Clerk to circulate deprivation statistics

Town Clerk to forward comments to SEBC

Town Clerk to circulate new list of dates

Town Clerk to arrange Civic Service

Cllrs Gower and Richardson left the meeting at this point.

19. To Agree the Dates and Formats for 2010 Open-Air Meetings

The Council, having previously agreed the dates and locations of these meetings for 2010 as two weeks commencing 5th and 19th July 2010, agreed to vary these to weeks commencing 12th and 26th July.

- 20. a)** SALC – Invitations for Nominations to Buckingham Palace Garden Party
The Council agreed to nominate the Mayor.

21. To authorise payments.

The Council authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque No.s	Value
17.11.09	5340-5368	£46,728.66
24.11.09	5369-5385	£25,524.61
01.12.09	5386-5407	£13,641.51
09.12.09	5408-5436	£68,718.78
09.12.09	5437-5443	£6,705.05
15.12.09	5444-5467	£12,025.40
22.12.09	5468	£300.00
05.01.10	5469-5498	£17,259.49
12.01.10	5499-5517	£39,700.63
19.01.10	5518-5534	£6,384.91
26.01.10	5535-5543	£1,559.19

22. To receive urgent correspondence

Cllr Marks reported that following discussions the East of England Ambulance Trust had agreed to increase the rapid response vehicle allocation to Haverhill to 24 hours/day with effect from May 2010, an increase from the current 11 hours/day.

23. Closure

The meeting was closed at 10.20 p.m.