



HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 23rd March 2010 at 7.00 pm

In The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: Chair: Town Councillor: E McManus (except items 1-6 and 21 and 25)
Town Councillors: L Ager, S Bowes, L Burgess, M Byrne, P McManus, and M Marks

Also present: Eight members of the public

MINUTES

In the absence of Cllr Iain McManus, Cllr Paul McManus, Deputy Town Mayor, took the Chair.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Carr, French, Gower, Hanlon, E McManus, Mrs Mary Martin, Price, Richardson, Samuels and Woodward.

2. **Declaration of Interests**

No Councillor declared an interest in any items on the agenda.

3. **To confirm Minutes of Meeting held 16th February 2010**

The minutes of the meeting held 16th February 2010 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. **Inspector Andrew Mason, Suffolk Police**

Cllr Byrne referred the Inspector to the Suffolk Police Authority Three Year Plan, and asked whether what was known as "Sarah's Law" was to be introduced in Suffolk. Inspector Mason advised that all persons on the Sex Offenders Register were regularly monitored to ensure public safety, and advised that he would speak to County Councillor Tim Marks as the local member of the Police Authority to advise him of Cllr Byrne's enquiry. The Clerk offered to research when such a law was likely to be operative.

Inspector Mason advised the Council that he was being transferred as part of a Force reorganisation and that from April Inspector Chris Gally would be in charge of the Haverhill and Bury South Sector. Cllr P McManus, on behalf of the Council, thanked Inspector Mason for his

Action

Inspector Mason to speak to County Councillor Tim Marks. Town Clerk to research and report to Council.

efforts in the town, and wished him well in his new position.

6. **Simon Pickering, St Edmundsbury Borough Council**

Simon Pickering gave a presentation on the new mobile evening youth provision and asked the Town Council if they would consider supporting its annual running costs, estimated at £4,500 per annum. The mobile provision was to operate initially on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, and then to extend to operate on Saturday nights. A recent trial of a similar mobile provision had attracted around seventy young people each evening. The Town Council agreed to fund £4,500 per annum towards the annual running costs.

Local
Government Act
1972 s19.

With the approval of the Council the Chair amended the agenda so that items 21 and 25 were considered next, and advised the Council that the report in item 25 was no longer exempt from public viewing.

21. **A New Standard of Care Homes for Older People**

Ian Patterson from Suffolk County Council gave a presentation on the proposals to create a new, purpose-built, facility on the Chalkstone Middle School site (the School being scheduled to close as a result of school reorganisation) to replace an existing smaller facility at Place Court. Existing residents and staff of Place Court would transfer to the new facility that would continue to be operated by Suffolk County Council. Although being designed specifically as a facility for people with dementia, any elderly frail residents at Place Court at the time of closure would be eligible for the new facility. Members were concerned that the new facility was being built under the Private Finance Initiative, and the impact of that scheme on future charges for residents. Mr Patterson advised that it was the building that was being funded by PFI, and those charges would fall on the County Council and be shared amongst all Council Tax payers; the day to day operation of the facility was to remain in the control of the County Council. If finance was secured the facility was likely to be open in 2015.

25. **Schools Reorganisation**

Maggie Peck from Suffolk County Council gave a presentation regarding the process of consultation the County Council was required to undertake on the future disposal of school sites declared redundant as part of the schools reorganisation. Cllr Byrne indicated that the number of Haverhill pupils attending Special Educational Needs provision outside of Haverhill would seem to indicate there was a need for a specialist facility in Haverhill, perhaps utilising one of these sites. The Chair indicated that the Town Mayor had called a meeting for Wednesday 24th March to which local organisations interested in perhaps making a bid to transform a redundant school site into a community facility had been invited.

Cllr Elaine McManus joined the meeting at this point and took the Chair.

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum

A member of the public asked if the Council could explain why the Town Council Council Tax had increased so much. The Town Mayor indicated she would provide the resident with a written answer.

The meeting was reconvened

7. Adoption of Committee Reports

Planning Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 2nd March 2010.

Finance Committee

The Council agreed the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held 16th February and 16th March 2010.

8. Report from the Town Council Representative on the Standards Committee

Cllr Marks advised that since the last meeting there had not been a meeting of the Standards Committee.

9. Report from the Town Council Representative on the Haverhill Area Working Party

The Mayor advised that she had not been able to attend the last meeting, but read the Council a report prepared by Cllr P McManus who had attended the meeting.

10. Report from the Town Council Representative on the Haverhill Partnership Executive

Cllr Ager reported verbally on the two meetings held on 11th and 26th February 2010.

11. Review of Standing Orders

The Council reviewed Standing Orders, and agreed to include a Standing Order that would normally limit meetings to two hours duration.

Town Clerk to issue revised Standing Orders

In view of having adopted a Standing Order limiting the length of meetings the Town Mayor advised that only those items considered urgent would be considered tonight and all other items would be deferred to another meeting of the Council to be held on Monday 6th April.

15. To join the Digital Funding Partnership (attached)

To resolve, in accordance with Section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act) to become a shareholder in the Limited Company known as the Digital Funding Partnership. This would enable the Town Council, should it wish at a future date, to take advantage of bulk buying of digital projectors and digital screening rights by the new company, which was a Limited Liability Partnership.

Section 77 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

16. Depreciation Policy

The Council agreed the new depreciation policy.

20. Grant Request from REACH

The Council agreed to make a grant of £1,000 towards the resource centre on the Clements Estate.

Local Government Act 1972 s142

Cllr P McManus proposed and Cllr Burgess seconded, all being 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

27. Arts Centre Grant

The Council noted the current position and authorized the Town Clerk to negotiate future terms no less favourable than as shown in the attached report.

28. Bevan House

The Council agreed the terms for the renewed lease.

29. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.26 p.m.