



Haverhill
TOWN COUNCIL

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 27th March 2012 at 7.00pm in The Studio, Town Hall, High Street, Haverhill

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: M Byrne**
 Town Councillors: L Ager, R André, T Cook,
 P French, E Goody, P Hanlon,
 D Russo, G Stroud, J Stroud
 and C Turner (from item 6, 7.38pm)

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

MINUTES

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. D André, Carr, Green, Hawes and Samuels.

2. **Declaration of Interests**
Councillor Byrne declared an interest in items on the agenda relating to St Edmundsbury Borough Council as a member of that Council, and Councillor French declared an interest in any items on the agenda relating to St Edmundsbury Borough and Suffolk County Councils, as a member of both councils

3. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th February 2012**
The minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2012 were agreed.

4. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**
Councillor Byrne raised a concern that requests to restore individual street lights in Haverhill were being refused by Suffolk County Council on the grounds that the Police have not expressed concerns. She requested that the Police contact Suffolk County Council to ensure that residents' concerns are properly taken into account. The Town Clerk undertook to write to Suffolk County Council inviting them again to a future Town Council meeting, and to email details of refused requests to the Police once these have been received from Suffolk County Council.

At this point, councillors agreed that items 5 and 6 on the agenda should be reversed to allow Sergeant Edley to return to his duties at the earliest opportunity.

5. **Inspector Peter Ferrie**
Sergeant Carl Edley attended in place of Inspector Ferrie. Councillors raised questions and concerns about parking enforcement and traffic problems in and around the High Street, the apparent priority given to

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clearing young people from the town centre over other issues such as parking and traffic enforcement, and the lack of facilities for young people.

Sergeant Edley explained that priorities for action in the town centre were set according what issues are called in by the public, and undertook to feed back councillors comments and concerns to Inspector Ferrie.

Councillor Byrne raised a concern about the overgrown and untidy dirt track behind the Clements Estate, and the Town Clerk was instructed to write asking for a project to improve the state of the track.

Councillor Byrne thanked Sergeant Edley for his attendance, and asked him to convey the Council's disappointment that Inspector Ferrie had been unable to attend for the last three meetings, along with a request that he make every effort to attend the meeting on 24th April 2012.

6. St Nicholas Hospice Care

Councillors received a presentation from Liz Spillane of St Nicholas Hospice Care, who has taken over from Ian Norris as community fundraiser. She outlined the work of the Hospice as follows:

- Contrary to the perception of many, it is not simply a bedded unit, and the Hospice is seeking earlier access by people diagnosed with life-shortening diseases so that they can arrange care and support in the community
- 330 people are currently being cared for in their own home by St Nicholas Hospice Care
- They aim to work with MacMillan to ensure that 24 hour care and support
- Haverhill was the first to benefit from the Hospice Neighbours Scheme, which offers volunteer support to families, providing practical support such as collecting prescriptions, shopping, helping around the house, etc.
- The Scheme has 85 volunteers, 20 in Haverhill, and supports 80 families, of which one fifth are in Haverhill
- It can also act as a signposting service for other Hospice service
- The organisation provided £600,000 worth of voluntary activity last year

Liz urged councillors to promote the activities of the Hospice, and referral to it at an early stage. Referral does not have to be by a GP.

Councillors questioned Liz on the work of the Hospice, and made positive comments.

Councillor Byrne thanked Liz for her attendance. She stressed that Haverhill knows the Hospice, offered congratulations and thanks for its excellent work, and praised the volunteer scheme.

The Town Clerk was instructed to write to Ian Norris thanking him for his work and wishing him well.

SGT EDLEY

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The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.45pm for the public forum. No matters were raised by members of the public, and the meeting resumed at 7.45pm.

7. Adoption of Committee Reports
Planning Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 28th February and 20th March 2012.

8. Code of Conduct and the Registration/Disclosure of Interests

The Town Clerk summarised a report circulated with the agenda detailing forthcoming changes to the Code of Conduct and the Registration/Disclosure of Interests.

Councillors asked the Town Clerk to seek clarification on issues of paying for a defence against a code of conduct complaint, whether councillors would need to complete a new disclosure form in July, and whether there would need to be a change to standing orders.

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9. Predetermination

The Town Clerk summarised a report circulated with the agenda detailing changes to legislation in respect of predetermination.

Councillors discussed and noted the changes.

10. Place Court Residential Care Home

The Town Clerk read a response from Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, declining the Town Council's request for a meeting to discuss the future of Place Court.

Councillors debated the text of a draft letter, and considered:

- the consultation process undertaken by Suffolk County Council, and in particular the lack of attention paid to the 4,000 signature petition against the outsourcing of the home, and the holding of a public meeting that clashed with the Safer Neighbourhoods public meeting
- the lack of openness in the decision-making process
- the level of investment required to maintain and improve standards at the home

Councillors approved the draft letter, subject to it being circulated to all councillors before sending.

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The Town Clerk was asked to look into the addition of a standing agenda item for feedback by Borough and County Councillors.

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11. Police Community Support Officer

This item was deferred to the full council meeting on 24th April, as information on the funding and management of a PCSO was still awaited from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Constabulary.

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12. To Agree End of Year Transfers to/from Balances

The end of year transfers to and from balances were agreed.

13. ONE Haverhill & Haverhill Area Working Party Meetings

The Town Clerk updated the Town Council on the ONE Haverhill Board and Haverhill Area Working Party (HAWP) meetings of 14th and 15th March 2012 respectively. The main issues discussed at the ONE Haverhill meeting were:

- Progress in developing the Neighbourhood Community Budget pilot
- The next ONE Haverhill Public Forum, scheduled for 26th April 2012, 6.30pm at Samuel Ward Academy, including a 'health' theme
- The 'Portas Pilot' bid for Government funding to establish a 'Town Team' for Haverhill, being developed by ONE Haverhill

The main issues discussed at the HAWP meeting were:

- The 'Destination Haverhill' shopper survey results, and next steps to be undertaken by Kent Business School in acting on the results of the survey
- Responses to consultations on the Haverhill High Street Improvement Scheme and the related Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). A report to HAWP had explained that the case for pedestrianisation had not been made. It also seemed likely that the TRO will not be approved. An alternative scheme had been presented at the HAWP meeting, but had not gained support from those present. The design scheme for the Market Hill area had been approved by HAWP

The Town Clerk was asked to find out the reasons for the ONE Haverhill Board meetings not being held in public.

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14. To authorise payments.

The Town Council approved the following cheque lists:-

| Date | Cheque Numbers | Value |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 21.02.12 | 007590 – 007606 | £ 11,779.21 |
| 21.02.12 | 007607 – 007608 | £ 70.00 |
| 28.02.12 | 007609 – 007626 | £ 36,343.21 |
| 06.03.12 | 007627 – 007645 | £ 7,598.08 |
| 13.03.12 | 007646 – 007667 | £ 50,288.28 |

15. To receive urgent correspondence

No urgent correspondence was received.

16. Closure

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.