

## HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at 7.04pm in The Studio, Town Hall, High Street, Haverhill**



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:**      **Chair: Town Councillor: P Hanlon**  
                         **Town Councillors: R André, M Byrne,**  
   **P French, B Hawes,**  
   **B McLatchy, A Samuels,**  
   **G Stroud and C Turner**

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

### **MINUTES**

1.    **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Carr, Cook, Russo and J Stroud.
  
2.    **Declaration of Interests**  
Cllr Samuels declared an interest in item 11 on the agenda as an employee of the Castle Partnership, and would not vote on that item. Cllr André declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, as his son was an employee of the Castle Manor Partnership. Cllr Byrne declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 on the agenda as she was being considered as a committee member. Cllr French declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda as a County Councillor.
  
3.    **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 were agreed.
  
4.    **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**  
The Town Clerk reported that GPs had been unable to attend the previous Healthcare Working Group meeting but would be invited to a future meeting. Responses to queries in respect of PCSO funding and respite care beds were awaited.
  
5.    **Inspector Peter Ferrie**  
Inspector Ferrie reported on crime statistics for the year to 11<sup>th</sup> November against a 3-year average for a range of crimes:

Type	Yearly Total Crimes	3-Year Average
Total Crimes	1111	1259
Anti-Social Behaviour	821	1203
Domestic Burglary	29	36
Other Burglary	64	92
Sexual Offences	16	8

### **ACTION**

and on weekly crime statistics for Criminal Damage/Arson for the week to 11<sup>th</sup> November, 16 compared with a 3-year average figure of 8. Inspector Ferrie had checked the figure for the week 21<sup>st</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November and this had fallen to 9.

Inspector Ferrie considered that the picture was generally good, with the main crimes showing a reduction. He also reported that as yet the Police were no nearer finding out who had damaged the bollards in Queen St, and that this was being treated as a car crash. He also reminded Councillors that PC Will Wright and the Town Clerk had been working together on addressing traffic and parking issues in the High Street, and was happy with the current situation. The next public SNT meeting would be provided with updated figures on this issue.

Cllrs G Stroud and Byrne queried the figures on sexual offences. Inspector Ferrie confirmed that these were replicated elsewhere, and that victims and offenders were dealt with by dedicated teams.

Cllr G Stroud also queried the figures relating to criminal damage/arson. Insp Ferrie felt this was just a 'blip' and not necessarily related to fireworks.

Cllrs Byrne and Hanlon expressed concern at the exclusion of Insp Ferrie from a meeting with County Councillor Guy MacGregor in respect of the High Street. Insp Ferrie said he was surprised at his exclusion.

#### **6. Women's Refuge, Bury St Edmunds**

Annie Munson, Manager of the Women's Refuge in Bury St Edmunds, and Nicky Nolan presented to councillors on the work of the Refuge, and on the need for a replacement vehicle.

The refuge catered for victims of domestic abuse, including ten Haverhill families in the previous two years. The minibus was used to recover belongings, and to transport families, including on outings. The existing minibus was 10 years old and the bottom was dropping out of it.

In response to councillors' queries, Annie confirmed the following:

- The Refuge was a limited company with charitable status
- That Richard Howitt MEP and trade union branches were also being approached for funding for a replacement minibus, and that Bury Town and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils would also be approached
- That educational programmes were in place and being expanded
- That the aim was to obtain a new vehicle by next summer

Councillors expressed their support for the work of the Refuge, and agreed a contribution of £3,000 towards the purchase of a replacement minibus.

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.55pm for the public forum.

There being no matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 7.55pm.

**7. Adoption of Committee Reports**

**Leisure & Community Committee**

Town Councillors moved the adoption of the minutes of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**Planning Committee**

Town Councillors moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

**8. Healthcare in Haverhill**

The Town Clerk reported that:

- The working group had met for the second time on 14<sup>th</sup> November
- The group looked at responses to FoI requests and data provided by Cllr André. Particular concerns were raised around ambulance cover and response times, and funding disparities
- Patient representatives had provided useful background – including a claim that if we lost a couple of GPs the service locally would collapse. They also highlighted insufficient transitional funding following the closure of the Crown Health Centre, and a need for two long-term additional GPs, instead of the temporary funding for 4 short-term GPs
- The group was now looking for more local stats on GP waiting times
- The Town Clerk had contacted 3CT who are keen to engage with transport to West Suffolk Hospital
- The next meeting would be in mid-January 2013

Cllr Hawes reported that Cllr André's figures had been passed to Matthew Hancock MP.

Cllr Byrne expressed concern about Care UK as provider of residential care and the Out of Hours Service. Councillors agreed that this would remain high on the Town Council's agenda, and would be investigated.

Cllrs Hawes, André and Byrne expressed concern that the CCG was approaching ONE Haverhill for inclusion in their engagement process. Town Councillors agreed that the Town Council's Healthcare Working Group was the appropriate body for this purpose.

**9. Haverhill High Street**

The Town Clerk reported that:

- At the Haverhill Area Working Party meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November, the Clerk had put the Town Council's position, including general support for principle of pedestrianisation, concern that £750k for improvements might be lost, and discussion about location of 'face' sculpture
- A response from County Councillor Guy MacGregor and subsequent exchanges with County Officer Suzanne Buck indicated that the County are consolidating their preference for a

‘shared space’ solution

- Local work to with PC Will Wright to address traffic and parking problems was continuing, despite a refusal by the Borough Council to offer a short period of free parking

Cllr Hanlon said that the location of the ‘face’ sculpture needed careful consideration, and that placing it on the Market Square by the Drabbet Smock might adversely affect both local events on the Square and the Christmas tree.

Cllr Turner said that Diss offers a short period of free parking.

Cllr Byrne said she was surprised at the Borough Council’s response to the request for free parking, especially since the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recognised particular problems in Haverhill. She was also angered by a photograph in an advertisement in the Haverhill Echo for Chapman & Son, showing their van parked illegally on the pavement.

Cllr Hawes asked about a question to the Full County Council. The Town Clerk reported that he would arrange this.

Cllr André affirmed his support for a question to the County Council, and for discussions with County leader Mark Bee about the impending waste of public funds on minor aesthetic improvements.

**10. Burton Centre**

The Town Clerk reported on:

- A letter from County Officer Duncan Johnson confirming that the Town Council’s bid for the Centre had been unsuccessful
- A subsequent exchange with another officer, Suzanne Buck which elicited explanations for the unsuccessful bid
- A draft appeal for councillors’ consideration
- A request for meeting with Deborah Cadman and Mark Bee

Cllr French confirmed his full support for the Town Council bid.

Cllr G Stroud said that the County Council was ignoring the people of Haverhill, and that for one County Councillor to support a bid that went against ONE Haverhill’s view was unbelievable.

Cllr Turner said he would be surprised had the consultation with County Councillors not had a bearing on the outcome – if so there would be no reason for doing it. He also said that where a County Councillor had multiple roles, these must be in line with each other.

Cllr Byrne said that the process had been flawed and unprofessional, and gave the impression that people had not been up front and honest. ONE Haverhill should confront the County Councillor concerned. The Town Council’s open air meetings had shown youth provision to be a high priority for the town.

Councillors agreed the appeal letter for sending.

**TOWN CLERK**

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**11. Castle Partnership – SEBD School Proposal**

Town Councillors agreed to support the bid by the Castle Partnership to establish an all-through SEBD school.

**12. To authorise payments.**

Councillors authorised the following cheque lists:-

<b>Date</b>	<b>Cheque Numbers</b>	<b>Value</b>
23.10.12	008248 – 008264	£18,448.68
30.10.12	008265 – 008280	£42,358.10
06.11.12	008281 – 008299	£7,296.68
13.11.12	008300 – 008317	£51,059.25
20.11.12	008318 – 008332	£14,084.52

**13. To receive urgent correspondence**

The Town Clerk advised the Council of a letter from the Communication Workers Union regarding the proposed closure of the Cambridge Mail Sorting Office. Councillors expressed concern at the proposal, and its effect of both service and employment

The Town Clerk further advised the Council of an email received from Cllr Tim Cook regarding the recent BBC radio broadcast of the programme Any Questions, which had portrayed the town wrongly in a poor light. Councillors considered that the issue should not be highlighted. Instead the focus should be on Haverhill as a great place to live, work and be educated.

**12. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.04pm.