

## HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7.02pm in The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AR**



HAVERHILL  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:**       **Chair: Town Councillor: P Hanlon**  
                    **Town Councillors: R André, T Cook,**  
  **P French, E Goody,**  
  **B McLatchy, D Russo**  
  **A Samuels, G Stroud**  
  **and C Turner**

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

### **MINUTES**

1.     **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Byrne, Hawes and J Stroud.  
  
Cllr French advised the meeting that he remained a Town Councillor despite no longer being a County Councillor after the forthcoming election.
2.     **Declaration of Interests**  
Cllr French declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11 on the agenda as a county councillor. Cllrs André and Hanlon declared non-pecuniary interests relating to an expected discussion during the Public Forum on the Haverhill Show, as committee members of the charity LAMPH.
3.     **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were agreed.
4.     **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**  
The Town Clerk reported that an update on the recent car fire in The Parkway was still awaited from the Fire Service. The Watch Commander had indicated that problems locating a hydrant may have been in part due to poor lighting and in part the hydrant being hidden by a parked car. A fault with the street lighting at the time had now been repaired. Cllr Stroud advised that Parkway Residents Association was aware. Cllr Goody asked if there were still inspections of hydrants to ensure visibility and accessibility. The Town Clerk undertook to find out. Cllr Turner asked that hydrant locations be obtained from Anglian Water.  
  
The Town Clerk reported that he had obtained 'in principle' approval for the installation of up to six bollards in the High Street to protect the pavement areas from illegal parking. Cllr Goody asked whether these

**ACTION**

**TOWN CLERK**

would be on the road or pavement. The Town Clerk advised that they would all be on the pavement, close to the road. Cllr French suggested that planters also be used to protect the pavement.

**5. Inspector Peter Ferrie**

Inspector Ferrie reported on year-to-date crime statistics in Haverhill as follows:

| <b>Crime</b>            | <b>Recorded crimes Apr '12 - Mar '13</b> | <b>Comparison with same period in 2011/12</b> |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Violence against person | 329                                      | Down 5% (18 fewer)                            |
| Domestic burglary       | 50                                       | Down 21% (13 fewer)                           |
| Public disorder         | 107                                      | Down 6.1% (7 fewer)                           |
| Drug offences           | 63                                       | Up 21% (11 more)                              |
| Sexual offences         | 38                                       | Up 36% (10 more)                              |
| Total recorded crimes   | 1879                                     | Down 1.8% (35 fewer)                          |
| Anti-social behaviour   | 1252                                     | Down 21% (326 fewer)                          |

Inspector Ferrie referred to some of the highlights of the last year's Police activity:

- May 2012 – Prolific criminal Lee Holland jailed for seven years for aggravated burglary
- July 2012 – Olympic Torch Relay conducted in good humour, a wonderful day
- November 2012 – Operation Gunpowder, Police and partners knocked on vulnerable people's doors on every estate giving help and advice, and received excellent feedback
- January 2013 – Police in Haverhill up to full strength, with 5 sergeants and 20 PCs on the Neighbourhood Response Team, and Sgt Bartley, 4 PCs and 5 PCSOs on the Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Inspector Ferrie reminded the meeting that the next public SNT meeting would be held on 10 June at 7pm at Samuel Ward Academy.

Councillors asked Inspector Ferrie about the following:

- Whether the drug offences could be broken down by type. Insp Ferrie said these figures were not available, but that the number of serious offences was low compared with other towns
- Whether the recorded sexual offences were largely historic? Insp Ferrie confirmed that this was the case, some dating back to the 1950s and 1970s. He also said he would not discourage historic reporting
- How the violence against the person figures compared with elsewhere. Insp Ferrie said he would report back on this as the next meeting
- Whether better signage was required to reduce the number of HGVs in the High Street, and possibly a weight restriction. Insp Ferrie said that these measures could not do any harm

The Mayor thanked Inspector Ferrie for his report.

**INSP FERRIE**

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at 7.23pm for the public forum.

David Doughty, a local businessman, advised the meeting of his plans to reinvigorate the Haverhill Show in the light of recent adverse publicity. He and a group of fellow businesspeople had joined together to plan a bigger and better show than at present, which would provide support to LAMPH and other charities through funds raised. He reported that the existing show had not provided any funds to LAMPH in the past two years. The new arrangements would be more transparent, and it was possible that Barclays Bank would match the funds raised with their own contribution.

Cllr André confirmed that no money had been received by LAMPH in the last two years.

Cllr McLatchy advised that she was organising a country fayre on 31 August and could link this with Mr Doughty's show. Mr Doughty advised that this date was not available to him. Cllr McLatchy said she could consider changing the date.

Cllr French commented that the show seemed to have shrunk in recent years, and that he was happy to contribute.

Cllr Turner asked what authority the existing committee had. The Town Clerk said he was unaware whether it had been formally constituted.

Cllr Stroud said he was dismayed that no money had been given to LAMPH, and that he would support a tie-in with the Town Council's Big Bash event.

Cllr André expressed concern that alcohol might be sold at the new show, in the alcohol-free zone.

Cllr Turner suggested the issue be placed on a Full Council agenda. The Town Clerk advised that there would be regular reports to Council and committees, but that the short timescale meant that action may be needed more immediately. If necessary the event could be combined with the Big Bash, and in terms of Council standing orders this would represent an extension of the Big Bash, so no further authority would be required.

Cllr Goody expressed concern about possible fraud in relation to the existing show.

The Mayor thanked Mr Doughty for his attendance.

There being no further matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 7.52pm.

## **6. Adoption of Committee Reports**

### Planning Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013.

### Finance Committee

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013.

## 7. Neighbourhood Community Budget

The Town Clerk reported progress towards a Neighbourhood Community Budget. The final Community Budget report, confirming the proposals, funding, delivery arrangements etc. for the youth and public realm projects (as reported at the previous meeting), would be finalised in May and presented to the ONE Haverhill Board for approval.

The Town Council was in discussion with Suffolk County Council over the possible transfer of the former Magistrates Court site to for use as a youth hub and community centre. Representatives of the Town Council and the ONE Haverhill Youth Steering Group had viewed the site and agreed that it has potential. Further discussions with SCC were awaited, but the pre-election purdah period was preventing this at the moment. Matthew Hancock MP had said he would write in support of the Council's bid for the site, and the Town Clerk encouraged as many people as possible to write individually to Duncan Johnson, County Council Assistant Director for Corporate Property, reinforcing that support. The Town Clerk would circulate a form of words for use.

Councillors had already agreed £150,000 capital and £80,000 revenue as a contribution to achieving a youth facility, and it is proposed that this commitment be made available for the development of the former Magistrates Court site.

The negotiations could be complicated by the particular location – this site formed part of a wider site including Place Court that has previously been discussed for possible housing development. Bevan House (owned by HTC and leased to the Red Cross) may also form part of this site, and it is proposed that this be available to the Town Clerk as part of the possible negotiations, subject to ensuring a secure future for the Red Cross.

Cllr Turner asked what was meant by “making Bevan House available”, and suggested approaching the Big Lottery Fund for support. The Town Clerk said that Bevan House could be included as part of a wider discussion about the site covering both Place Court and Bevan House, and that this might form part of an agreement with the County Council. The suggestion of lottery funding would be passed to the ONE Haverhill Youth Steering Group.

Cllr André commented that this was a substantial site that could accommodate a both youth hub and other community activities, including the Red Cross if needed.

Cllr Goody said that councils have difficulty making grant applications, and that one could be made via the charity.

Cllr McLatchy reported that the Wellbeing Fund would include facilities for young people.

Cllr André proposed that the previously agreed commitment for the Neighbourhood Community Budget be transferred to any suitable premises available in Haverhill. Town Councillors agreed this proposal.

**TOWN CLERK**

**8. Healthcare Working Group**

The Town Clerk updated the Council on the work of its Healthcare Working Group, which had last met on 16 April. The latest draft of a directory of health services in Haverhill had been considered and amendments suggested. This looked like being an important document – a full directory of services available – GPs, out of hours, services at Camps Rd Clinic, transport services and help with transport costs. The document would also tell people what they can expect, e.g. response times for out of hours. The CCG was producing it and we will work to have it made available as widely as possible.

The document would be useful to people with an ongoing interest in healthcare, but was likely to be too much information for people who occasionally want to know who to contact and when. The Group was therefore looking to develop a shorter summary leaflet. This would contain just the basic information – who to contact under what circumstances, and what to expect. The idea would be to have it distributed to every home in Haverhill – perhaps with the Weekly News. This would be a Town Council publication, at an estimated cost of £2,500. This was considered a small price for getting some of the most important information into every house in the town. A designer had been approached to develop an initial draft.

Cllr Turner suggested that a leaflet could include advertising. The Town Clerk advised that this might reduce the utility of the leaflet by limiting the space available for healthcare information.

Cllr Samuels commented that leaflets distributed with newspapers often go immediately into the bin.

Cllr McLatchy said she was impressed at the expanded range of services at the Camps Road Clinic. The expansion had followed the Town Council's launching of a healthcare campaign.

Cllr Hanlon said that our work should focus on waiting times for GP appointments.

Cllr André said that many people were confused about their entitlements.

Cllr Goody proposed that a budget of £2,500 be allocated for the cost of production and distribution of a healthcare leaflet, and that methods of distribution be investigated. Town Councillors approved this proposal.

**9. To authorise payments**

Town Councillors authorised the following cheque lists:-

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Cheque Numbers</b> | <b>Value</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 26.03.13    | 008629 – 008644       | £1,8402.13   |
| 26.03.13    | 008645 – 004647       | £2,912.48    |
| 28.03.13    | 004648                | £1,800.00    |
| 02.04.13    | 004649 – 008658       | £2,604.27    |
| 02.04.13    | 008659 – 008661       | £4,142.00    |
| 09.04.13    | 008662 – 008671       | £5,367.94    |

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Cheque Numbers</b> | <b>Value</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 09.04.13    | 008672 – 008686       | £41,023.28   |
| 16.04.13    | 008687 – 008689       | £569.00      |
| 16.04.13    | 008690 – 008701       | £32,102.49   |
| 16.04.13    | 008702                | £1,435.20    |
| 23.04.13    | 008703 – 008705       | £2,700.00    |
| 23.04.13    | 008706 – 008719       | £8,654.94    |

**10. To receive urgent correspondence**

An email had been received from David Doughty on 25 April requesting that he be allowed to address the Town Council. This request had been accommodated in the earlier part of this meeting.

At 8.14pm Councillors agreed that, in accordance 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.

**11. Burton Centre**

Following a discussion, Town Councillors approved a proposal to withdraw from further legal action against Suffolk County Council in respect of their decision on the disposal of the Burton Centre.

The decision took account of the fact that the Town Council's case was very strong, but rather than pursue this through the court, the advice received would be used to quote specific legal information to support the County Council in adopting fairer and more consistent procedures in future.

The decision was also justified as financially prudent and part of the Town Council's support for St Nicholas Hospice Care, not wanting to cause any delay in their project, and recognised that Suffolk County Council had entered into initial discussions over an alternative property in the form of the Magistrates Court site.

**15. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.