

HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 28th May 2013 at 8.04pm in The Main Hall, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

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

Also present: **Twenty five members of the public**

MINUTES

ACTION

1. **Election of Town Mayor**
Cllr André was elected as Town Mayor, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and assumed the Chair.

2. **Address by Outgoing Mayor**
Cllr Hanlon advised the meeting that his report (appended to these minutes) to the Annual Town Meeting that immediately preceded the Council meeting covered all aspects of the Town Council's year, so no further report was necessary.

Cllr Hanlon offered his congratulations to the incoming Mayor, Cllr André.

3. **Vote of Thanks**
Cllr André explained the very wide role of the Town Mayor, and offered his thanks to Cllr Hanlon for his superb handling of a very special year in 2012. He further thanked Mayoress Christine Hanlon for her efforts during the Mayoral year.

Cllr André proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor, and councillors agreed this proposal.

4. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Carr and Martin.

5. **Declaration of Interests**
No councillor declared an interest in items on the agenda.

6. **Election of Deputy Mayor**
Cllr M Byrne was elected as Deputy Town Mayor, and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. **Vote of Thanks**
Cllr Hanlon proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr André.

Town Councillors agreed the vote of thanks.
8. **Mayor's Allowance**
The Council agreed the payment of the Mayor's Allowance of £2,500 in accordance with Section 15(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.
9. **Outside Representatives**
The Council appointed Councillors R Andre and Goody to represent the Town Council on the ONE Haverhill Board, and delegated authority to Committees to make appointments of representatives to other outside bodies.
10. **Town Council Committees**
The Council confirmed the allocation of Committee seats (attached).
11. **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 30th April 2013**
The minutes of the meeting held on 30th April 2013 were agreed.
12. **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**
There were no urgent matters to discuss.
13. **To confirm the Clerk's re-appointment as Responsible Financial Officer.**
The Council confirmed the appointment of the Town Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.
14. **To confirm the appointment of Heelis & Lodge as Independent Internal Auditor**
The Council confirmed the appointment of Heelis and Lodge as the Council's Independent Internal Auditor.
15. **To Resolve Not to Adjourn for a Public Forum**
In view of the fact that the meeting had been preceded by the Town Meeting the Council agreed that no Public Forum be held tonight.
16. **Adoption of Committee Reports**
Planning Committee
The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held 7th May 2013.
17. **To authorise urgent payments.**
There were no payments requiring urgent authorisation.
18. **To receive urgent correspondence**
No urgent correspondence had been received.
20. **Matters of Report**
Cllr Turner stressed the strategic importance of the Community Budget, underlining the Localism Act and decentralising control from Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. He asked the Town Clerk to outline the Community Budget, and the Town Clerk provided a brief explanation.
8. **Closure**
The meeting was closed at 8.31pm.

Mayoral Report for Annual Town & Town Council Meetings, May 2013

(Agenda Item 2)

I'd like to start by saying what an honour it has been to serve as your Town Mayor for the last twelve months. I have attended well over a hundred events as Mayor, and it has been a humbling experience to see at first hand the marvellous work that goes on in our community. I have visited our schools and nurseries and have seen how well they cater for our young people, such as the comedy project by students of Castle Manor Academy involving five other Haverhill schools, and Dizzy Ducks Nursery and Stepping Stones Nursery graduation. To see how happy the parents were as their children walk towards me to receive their scrolls in their mortar boards and robes was a great privilege. I have seen the work of some of our voluntary and community groups at first hand and can tell you that the town would struggle without their hard work and support. For example I visited Open Road Outreach Centre at Strasbourg Square, that provides support to anyone that has a substance problem, and met the Town Pastors that help people have a good evening out in our town centre. I have toured businesses in Haverhill and I am impressed with the way they are coping in such difficult economic times and helping our local economy. Take for instance Little Acorns Fostering at Rook Tree Barn, and LMK Thermosafe being awarded the Queens award for industry. And I have visited many other towns and have been so proud of what they say about Haverhill – its great community spirit, the wide range of community activities in the town, and the determination of local people to improve their town. I recall in particular the very complimentary comments from many visiting Mayors and the general public about our flag display, which of course we are going to repeat this year.

At the Council meeting that follows this one I will hand over my chains to a new Mayor, but before I do that I would like to offer some thanks to people who have helped be in the last 12 months. Firstly, my sincerest thanks to my wife Chris for her help and support during a very busy year for both of us. I would also like to thank Deputy Mayor Roger André and his wife Pauline for their work, and in particular for about 30 events that they attended when I was unable to. Thank you too to Vicky Ward for administering the Mayor's diary and activities, and for giving me guidance on what to do and not to do as Mayor!

As well as the official duties of the Mayor, I have of course been busy raising funds for my chosen charity, the National Autistic Society, Suffolk Branch. It is a cause very close to my heart and does some very important work locally. I am pleased to say that I have raised some £2,600 for the Society and will be presenting a cheque to them at a forthcoming Town Council meeting.

More generally in Haverhill we have seen some highs and lows over the last year. Perhaps among the lowest has been the loss of a number of local people to road accidents. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of loved ones who have lost their lives in the last year. Our town is a great place to live and continues to improve, but there passing should be a reminder to us all that we need to keep working to make it safer.

To remind of just some of the other less serious news of the last year, we had the wonderful Jubilee celebrations; the Castle Hill Middle School fire; the Haverhill Man Alive documentary showing how our town has risen to the challenge of expansion; the extraordinary Olympic Torch Relay; the closure of the Crown Health Centre; Adrian and Gillian Bayfield winning £148.5m on the lottery; the announcement of the new Churchill School; the visit of the Princess Royal; work beginning at Haverhill Research Park; BBC's Any Questions giving us a bad press; a public meeting about

the High Street descending into chaos when a county councillor refused to answer people's questions; far too much snow; Haverhill residents Les Ager and Muriel Healey honoured in New Year's honours list; the announcement of a new show for Haverhill; record low crime in the town and a full complement of Police officers; and councils in Cambridgeshire saying a rail link to Haverhill is possible. Let's hope that our Suffolk councils decide to take the same view by the time the next Mayor's annual report!

2012 was a special year for the whole country, and for Haverhill in particular, and this made it a wonderful year to be Mayor. I have already touched on the biggest events of the year for the town – the Jubilee and the Olympic Torch Relay. Between them they brought well over 25,000 people out to celebrate, and the Town Council was proud to be at the forefront in organising them. But these were just two of very many activities the Town Council has organised, campaigned on or supported over the last year. I won't bore you by listing them all; instead what follows is a short video to remind you of the work of the Town Council in the last 12 months. My thanks to the CB9 Media Hub, one of the Town Council's success stories, for producing it.

[A video of 3 minutes 38 seconds followed, showing images from Town Council events and activities during the Mayoral Year]

I hope you all enjoyed that reflection on the year. I know I did. I will end by thanking the town for entrusting me with the office of Mayor, it really has been a great honour.

Committee Membership as Agreed at Full Council 28th May 2012
(Agenda Item 10)

Leisure & Community

Les Ager
Maureen Byrne
Lisa Carr
Ernie Goody
Pat Hanlon
Bryan Hawes
David Russo
Gary Stroud

Finance

Les Ager
Roger André
Maureen Byrne
Lisa Carr
Pat Hanlon
Brian Hawes
Gary Stroud
Clive Turner

Personnel

Roger André
Maureen Byrne
Phillip French
Ann Samuels
Clive Turner

Planning

Roger André
Phillip French
Ernie Goody
Pat Hanlon
Mary Martin
Betty McLatchy
Gary Stroud
Clive Turner

Appeals

Lisa Carr
Brian Hawes
Betty McLatchy
David Russo
Julie Stroud