

## HAVERHILL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 at 7.01pm in The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill, CB9 8AR**



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Also present:**      13 members of the public

## **MINUTES**

### **ACTION**

1.    **Apologies for Absence**  
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Ager, Carr, Russo and J Stroud.
2.    **Declaration of Interests**  
No councillor declared an interest in items on the agenda.
3.    **To Confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were agreed.
4.    **To deal with any urgent matters arising from the minutes not covered by this agenda**  
The Town Clerk advised councillors that a proposal had been submitted to Suffolk County Council to take over the former Police Station and Magistrates Court site, and that its Corporate Property Programme Board was due to meet to consider the proposal on 30<sup>th</sup> July.  
  
Cllr Byrne said that the Council should continue to press for the site to be gifted by the County Council.  
  
Cllr Hawes said that he agreed with Cllr Byrne, especially in light of the £0.5m being invested by the County Council in The Mix, a similar facility in Stowmarket.  
  
Cllr McLatchy suggested that the County Council should be asked to offset any future purchase price by the amount paid in rent up to that time.
5.    **Inspector Peter Ferrie**  
No representative of Suffolk Constabulary attended to give a report.

The Mayor, with the agreement of the Council, adjourned the meeting at

7.13pm for the public forum.

Mr Bill Austin asked for clarification over the proposed relief road in North West Haverhill. He said he had been advised at the recent open air meetings that this would not go ahead, but that the draft Vision 2031 document said that it would.

The Town Clerk explained that there some many who felt that the road might not be built because developers might seek to avoid this, but that the plan remained in place.

Mr Ian Johnson reminded councillors of his campaign in respect of the proposed tertiary road access and loss of open space within the North East Haverhill development. The Town Clerk referred to the draft response of the Town Council that was to be considered later on the agenda.

County Councillor Tony Brown said that the Summer Bash 2013 event had been excellent, and congratulated the Town Council and David Doughty. He also expressed concern about the lack of a timetable in the draft Vision 2031 document for the construction of a by-pass in North West Haverhill. A timetable was needed in order to avoid traffic chaos. He also said that the tertiary access road to the North East Haverhill development should not be built, and that East Town Park should be extended.

A member of the public asked whether there were plans to extend allotments in Haverhill. The Town Clerk explained that there were some provisions in the draft Vision 2031 document, subject to demand, and that this was a Borough Council responsibility. Cllr French said that the former Clements School site was supposed to be for allotments. Cllr Hawes said that allotment land should be gifted, with no rent payable by organisations running them. Cllr Byrne said that some allotments were on private land. Cllr Hawes said he felt that they should be rent-free if owned by the Borough Council.

Borough Councillor Gordon Cox asked whether the Town Council would support a suggestion to the County Council that they should negotiate to build roads identified for development, and then to be repaid by the developer. He also referred to the proposals for the former Magistrates Court site; that the County Council had gifted the Chalkstone Middle School site to Care UK, and that there was a strong argument that the same approach should apply to the transfer of the Magistrates Court site to the Town Council.

Councillor Byrne remarked that she would like to see the County Council filling existing holes in Haverhill's roads, as well as building new ones.

The Mayor reminded the public that consultation on the Vision 2031 documents remained open for their comments.

A member of the public asked whether the Vision 2031 documents could be uploaded onto the Town Council website, as the Borough Council website was slow and difficult to navigate.

There being no further matters raised by the public, the Mayor resumed the meeting with the agreement of the Council at 7.34pm.

6. **Adoption of Committee Reports**

**Planning Committee**

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

**Leisure & Community Committee**

The Council moved the adoption of the minutes of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.

7. **Road Safety between Withersfield and West Wrattling**

The Town Clerk reported that Cambridgeshire County Council had stated the following in response to concerns raised by the Town Council about safety at the junction:

“Large white bollards have been installed at the junction to highlight its presence and rumble strips/slow markings have been installed on the side road approaches to alert drivers to their proximity to the give way. However, I believe that whilst minor measures could have a positive impact at the Skipper's Lane junction they will not resolve the issues. What funds we have for this financial year have already been committed and so I am looking for ways to fund a more significant scheme from other sources. Unfortunately I cannot guarantee success in obtaining funding as any project put forward from our team would have to be competitively assessed against any other prospective schemes put forward, but I do believe that a major scheme at this junction would compare very favourably with any other scheme put forward.

“The police have carried out speed surveys. Data recorders were set up on each of the advance give way signs 100m from the junction, recording speed data over a period of 7 days. These showed that less than 3% of vehicles were approaching the junctions at speeds of 50mph or above. The rumble strips were laid during the week in which the speed surveys were carried out and there is a noticeable drop in speeds that coincides with installation. Further surveys will be completed in approximately 6 months to confirm whether the reduction remains.”

The Town Clerk said that Town Councillors may want to consider how to help ensure that this matter achieved high priority and how resources could be found to fund what he had subsequently been told could be a £400,000 safety scheme.

Cllr Byrne expressed concern that Cambridgeshire County Council seemed to be placing a price of £200,000 on each of the two lives lost at the junction. She expressed concern at the estimated cost of improvements, suggesting that more could be done for less money. She said that the County Council should look into its reserves for funding and prevent further fatalities.

Cllr Hawes said that a roundabout was needed, that Suffolk County Council should also be involved in resolving problems on this dangerous road. He advised that the brother of one of the victims had been unable to return to work after the incident.

Cllr Turner expressed concern that the level of traffic on that road was

likely to increase, and that plans by Cambridgeshire councils should be looked into to ensure action.

Cllr Byrne proposed a motion that the Town Council applied considerable pressure on Cambridgeshire County Council to improve the junction, and that there should be a media campaign to support these efforts. Care should be taken not to distress the victims' families, and the Town Council would consider a token contribution if approached.

Cllr French said that one death on this road was too many, and asked what the estimated cost would provide. The Town Clerk advised that he had not been made aware of the detail of any improvement project.

Cllr Turner proposed an amendment to Cllr Byrne's motion, to add a link with other routes into Haverhill so that all were considered together. Councillors rejected this amendment.

Town Councillors agreed the substantive motion as proposed by Cllr Byrne.

#### **8. Leiston Community Centre**

The Town Clerk advised councillors that the Borough Council had not yet issued a draft lease agreement to transfer responsibility for the Centre to the Town Council, but that he was working to ensure that the Centre remained open, even if that meant taking it over informally from 1 August.

Cllr Turner asked how long any temporary arrangement might be in place. The Clerk advised that he anticipated bringing a draft agreement to councillors in September.

Cllr Byrne said that there should be no additional cost to the Town Council.

Cllr Turner proposed a motion that any informal arrangement should be approved up to the date of the next Full Council meeting, when it should be reviewed.

Cllr McLatchy said that users of the Centre needed reassurance. The Clerk advised that all regular users would be contacted.

Cllrs Byrne, Hanlon and G Stroud said that Cllr Turner's motion was too prescriptive. Cllr Turner said that there was a need to be clear with the Borough, and that a deadline would help this.

Cllr French declared an interest as a Borough Councillor.

Cllr Turner's motion was carried on the casting vote of the Town Mayor.

#### **9. Vision 2031**

The Town Clerk referred to a draft response that had been circulated to councillors, and provided a presentation to put the comments into context.

Cllr Stroud suggested the following amendments to the draft:

- That the response to policy HV7 should stress that the use should be retail-focused
- That the vision in policy HV9 should be to include Haverhill Research Park within the Haverhill boundary
- That there should be a thorough evidential review of the statement at paragraph 10.4 as residents contested its veracity
- That paragraph 11.9 should include a an action to review play provision in existing developments
- That paragraph 12.5 should propose a commitment to the provision of a hospital in Haverhill by 2031

Cllr Roach asked where car parking provision would be if the areas identified in policy HV7 were redeveloped for alternative use.

Cllr Hawes said that Haverhill should have a hospital by 2031.

Cllr McLatchy said there should be the widest possible consultation on Vision 2031.

Cllr Turner suggested that the response to paragraph 6.35 of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan should be prefaced with the phrase “Notwithstanding that the figures are incorrect, “.

Cllr Hanlon said that the term “town centre retailers” was missing from the response to paragraph 2.9. He also suggested the following amendments:

- At paragraph 2.27/2.30, that GP provision must expand with the increasing population
- That the tertiary access road to the North East Haverhill development could be to/from the A143, further up from that proposed in the draft
- That boundary changes should be made to ensure that both the North West and North East Haverhill developments were in Haverhill

Cllr Byrne said that the aspiration in the draft response for more than one country park should be rephrased to read “Should include a commitment to the creation o more than one country park”.

Cllr Hawes suggested that the comment on the impact of housing along the A143 should be removed, and that at paragraph 14.11 there should be a commitment to a museum in Haverhill.

Cllr Turner said that the open space commitments should be high priority, and that he was concerned that there was no mention of the emergency services.

Town Councillors agreed that these comments should be incorporated into a further final draft response for consideration by the Planning Committee at its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2013.

**10. Open Air Meetings**

The Town Clerk reported on the Open Air meetings held in July 2013. Over 250 issues had been raised by members of the public attending, and these would be followed up by the Clerk.

The meetings had in the main been very successful, with the exception of that held at Tesco. Although many people passed the stall, very few took the time to interact with councillors, as they were mainly concerned with returning home after shopping.

Town Councillors approved a vote of thanks to Miss Mattea Austin for her help in organising the meetings as part of her work experience week at the Town Council.

At 8.59pm Councillors agreed that standing orders be suspended to allow time for the remainder of the scheduled agenda to be considered.

**11. Grant application**

The Town Clerk presented an urgent application to the Council's Small Grants Scheme from the Cambridge to Colchester Rail Project, such funding being required before the next meeting of the Leisure & Community Committee. The Rail Project had asked for £500 for a website that they claimed needed to be available before the next Leisure & Community Committee (which would normally consider grant applications).

Councillors agreed a grant of £500.

**12. To authorise payments**

Town Councillors authorised the following cheque lists:-

Date	Cheque Numbers	Value
11.06.13	008830 – 008832	£7,449.90
25.06.13	008833 – 008848	£52,055.51
02.07.13	008849 – 008882	£20,781.74
09.07.13	008883 – 008903	£10,906.41
16.07.13	008904 – 008930	£72,822.44

**13. To receive urgent correspondence**

The Town Clerk reported that revised national pay scales had been received from the National Association of Local Councils, applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. These would be paid from August and backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April.

Cllr André suggested that the Clerk investigate the implications of a commitment to the living wage, and report to the Personnel Committee.

**15. Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.10pm.