

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 24th June at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor R André
Deputy Mayor Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P French
Councillor E Goody
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor M Martin
Councillor D Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor G Stroud

Apologies: Councillor L Carr
Councillor P Firman
Councillor J Stroud

Absent: Councillor A Samuels
Councillor D Russo
Councillor C Turner

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

13 members of the public were present. County Councillor T Brown sent his apologies.

Welcome:

Mayor R André welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C14 /025 **Apologies for Absence**
The Above Apologies were noted.

C14 /026 **Declaration of Interests**
No Councillor declared an interest in items on the agenda.

C14 /027 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 27th May 2014**
The meeting agreed these were a true record with no matters arising.

Action

C14 /028 **The minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held 11th June 2014**

The meeting agreed these were a true record with no matters arising.

C14 /029 **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned for reports from the Police, District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill and the Public Forum. See Appendix 1 for Details.
The meeting was reconvened

C14 /030 **Matters arising from the Annual Town Meeting held 27th May 2014**

- a) Proposal to support the creation of a 30 hectare extension to East Town Park by seeking listing a green lane and footpath as Assets of Community Value:
Councillor M Byrne proposed, seconded by Councillor R André, that the Council submit an application for listing Assets of Community Value. **RESOLVED**
- b) The proposed new Town Clock:
The progress on installing a new clock was reviewed. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should now seek to progress the scheme to completion. It was further agreed that the clock should be positioned as shown in the photograph presented to Councillors (Appendix 2) and confirmed that a £10k budget had been previously approved for the project. The Town Clerk was asked to publish the photograph and any further updates on the website.
- c) A request to change the name of Ehringshausen Way to Jubilee Way:
Councillors expressed dismay at this suggestion and agreed to dismiss the suggestion.
- d) A request for a total ban, excluding assistance dogs, of dogs in the High Street/Queens Street:
Councillors agreed this was not a policy they wished to pursue.
- e) A suggestion to purchase and renovate the Corn Exchange:
It was agreed to defer this matter as the group working on the idea were not yet ready to present a proposal.

Town Clerk

Town Clerk

C14 /031 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

Appeals Committee 11th June 2014

The meeting noted that this did not go ahead as it was inquorate.

Finance Committee 17th June 2014

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor G Stroud that the minutes be adopted. **AGREED**

Personnel Committee 11th June 2014

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor B

McLatchy that the minutes be adopted. **AGREED**

Planning Committee 3rd June 2014

It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor G Stroud that the minutes be adopted. **AGREED**

C14 Authorisation of payments

/032 It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that payments for cheques 9637-9747 totalling £162,563.91 be authorised. **RESOLVED**

C14 Urgent Correspondence

- /033**
- a) Councillors agreed that the Town Council had no objection to the granting of a street trading licence to St Edmundsbury Borough Council in order to facilitate charity and community use of the Market Square. It was noted that the Clerk would enquire as to the need for such a permit for late-night events such as arranged from time to time by the Town Council.
 - b) The Clerk asked that the confirmation of change/no change of Members' interests form was completed and returned to him at Members' earliest convenience.

Town Clerk

C14 To Exclude the Press and Public

/034 It was resolved under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of business to be transacted, namely staffing issues.

C14 Staffing Matters

- /035**
- a) It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that a budget of £1100 for additional staff hours to assist the Clerk in system improvement over the next three months. **RESOLVED**
 - b) It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that the contract for the Young People's Skills Manager be extended to December 2014. **RESOLVED**

C14 Closure

/036 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:00pm

C14 Date of next Meeting:

/037 The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Tuesday 29th July 2014

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

Appendix 1

Reports from the Police, District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill and the Public Forum.

Mr John Burns advised the Council that he had a report given to him by Suffolk Councillor Tony Brown, for him to read to the Council:

Health Issues

Councillors Flood, Gower and I attended a meeting on June 6th with Ed Garrett of the CCG as a follow up to one we attended in January. Also in attendance was Matthew Hancock MP. The main points that arose from the meeting were:

1. An updated Haverhill health booklet will be distributed to all addresses in the town later this year.
2. To explore the possibility of providing a 24/7 out of hours health base in Haverhill.
3. We asked for Haverhill to become a pilot for a 'health watch hub' and ongoing discussions are being held with Jo Finn.
4. The CCG has given £500K to the ambulance trust to help improve the ambulance service in West Suffolk. Six new ambulances are being provided with a further six more on the way. Twenty new paramedics will also be coming to the West Suffolk area but are not fully trained at the moment.
5. Looking at transport problems between Haverhill and West Suffolk hospital.
6. To investigate the positions of defibrillation equipment around Haverhill and ensure training etc. is up to date.
7. To have a further meeting in the autumn to continue the dialogue and receive updates.

Highways issues

Mill Road will be resurfaced in late August. It was due to start on 4th August but UK Power Networks have applied to dig the road up that week for new connections so it has now had to be rescheduled.

I am currently having SCC carry out a HGV survey to investigate possible solutions to the negative effects on the residents of Bumpstead Road of the increasing amount of trucks using that road at all hours to access the industrial estate

I have managed to obtain funding to have the path completed that runs alongside Sturmer Road between Boundary road and the Rowley hill roundabout. This work will commence shortly and will stop the need for pedestrians to walk in the main road.

I am working with the other County Councillors to facilitate the construction of a safer and newly positioned bus stop next to the Sainsbury's store. We have a site meeting in the next few days with highways to look at all the options.

We will also be meeting with SCC shortly to discuss the final details for the implementation of the High Street dedicated PCSO.

Councillor J Flood advised the Council of the following matters he was working on:

School lane double-yellow lines, the approximate cost of £5,500 would be met from his locality budget.

Coupals Road – Anti-social behaviour problems might be addressed through the use of a portable CCTV camera.

Damage to the highway – Members of the public were asked to visit

<https://secure.suffolkcc.gov.uk/customerservice/CSD/SCC/product.aspx?ProductID=PRHM01> rather than <http://www.fixmystreet.com/>

Councillor Flood estimated there was only about 3 years supply of brownfield sites for building affordable housing.

He is exploring if there is a right of way across the Havebury development site in Withersfield Road, between it and Broad Street.

The replacement for the broken sign in Queens Street

Homefield Road was deformed – a site meeting with Councillor Anne Gower was coming up.

Crossing near Sainsburys – a site meeting was coming up to discuss how this could be safer.

Councillor G Cox advised the Council of the following matters he was working on:

East Town Park/Coupals Road – 5 or 6 vehicles damaged during the evening of 20/21 June – the Police are aware.

Mr Ian Johnson asked the Council to support the creation of a 30 hectare Country Park. He said that by 2031 the population of Haverhill will be 35,000 but the town will have 60 hectares less country park that Bury St Edmunds does for the same population, which pays the same council tax. Haverhill will be 22 hectares short of nature reserve. The current 20 hectare 'buffer zone' identified by Vision 2031 could be a country park if an additional 10 hectares can be joined to it.

The Mayor advised that this was an agenda item.

Ms Mary Dunning expressed her concern about the reported closure of Stourview Medical Centre and merger with Christmas Maltings practice. Together these serve half the population of Haverhill and surrounding areas. She asked what the Council would do to protect the public. Would there be a public inquiry before any closure?

Councillor B McLatchy advised that NHS England were behind the proposals as there was only one doctor now working at Stourview. The proposal was not to close the medical centre but for it to become an outreach centre. It was her understanding that the local Clinical Commissioning Group were against the proposals. However, Councillor McLatchy stressed these were only proposals at this time.

Councillor P Hanlon observed that there were 4.5 doctors less serving Haverhill than when the Crown walk-in medical centre was open. Waiting time for appointments was now regularly 4 weeks. – **Councillor M Martin** confirmed this was her experience too.

The Mayor advised that a group of Councillors are engaging with the CCG and would demand that the CCG view prevailed. The Mayor reminded Members and the public that the issue is a matter of management of healthcare provision – the Town Council supports and values our hard pressed GPs and their practice staff.

Ms Sue Longley expressed concern that thousands more houses were being built when Haverhill was short of GP doctors and asked for a campaign to be started.

Councillor B Robbins asked that a petition be started.

Mr Edel Pinnock expressed support for previous speakers and asked that the Council and people act about this issue.

Councillor M Byrne advised that the doctors were not to blame, it was NHS England; many doctors were ‘at the end of their tether’ and needed support.

Appendix 2

Proposed Town Clock

