

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 28th October 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 Firman
Councillor E Goody
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor M Martin
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor G Stroud
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Councillor L Carr
Councillor D Roach
Councillor A Samuels
Councillor J Stroud

Absent: Councillor P French
Councillor D Russo

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

13 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor R André welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

- C14 /076** **Apologies for Absence**
The above apologies were noted. In addition, Inspector Ferrie had sent his apologies.
- C14 /077** **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
None.
- C14 /078** **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 23rd September 2014**
The meeting agreed these were a true record.

ACTION

Councillor Robbins arrived at 19:04pm

C14 Matters arising not on the agenda

/079 a) C14/065a Standing Orders

The Clerk advised that the quorum for the Full Council was 6, being one-third rounded up. If a meeting continues beyond 2 hours, the Chairman may ask the meeting to vote on suspending Standing Order 3w in order to continue to transact business for a further period of time. The 2 hour rule is per meeting and not per evening.

b) C14/030a Listing assets of community value

The Clerk had chased up St Edmundsbury Borough Council and was still awaiting a response.

c) C14/030b Haverhill Clock

the Clerk reported that he had held a meeting the previous week with the surveyor, metal fabricator, designer and Arts manager. The meeting confirmed matters regarding foundations, clock power, and design and some technical issues that needed to be resolved.

The top "Angel" section would be constructed before the end of October. The clock size would then be finalised and the clock mechanism ordered.

Council discussed the provision of a plaque dedicated to the late Councillor Cox, who had been instrumental in getting the clock project underway and had maintained a watch over it. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that a memorial plaque be provided.

RESOLVED

The meeting noted that there remained some months ahead before the structure would be in place and dedicated, so actual wording would be agreed nearer the time.

d) C14/049 Town Twinning Signs

The Clerk was meeting with the Borough Council to discuss the Borough providing new "Welcome to Haverhill" signage at the Sainsbury's Roundabout and Homefield Road boundaries and the Town Council providing 5 Town Twinning signs to be affixed to all the Welcome signs.

e) C14/063 Parish Boundary

The Chief Executive of SEBC had written in acknowledgement of the request to review the boundaries. This would now be considered by the SEBC Democratic Renewal Working Party in Mid-November.

C14 Adjournment

/080 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 Public Forums at other Town Council meetings

/081 The meeting discussed allowing a Public Forum at the Finance Meeting, as provided for under Standing Order 3. Some Councillors expressed support for this; others felt there was already ample opportunity for the

Clerk

Clerk

public to speak at other meetings.

Councillor M Byrne proposed, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, not to allow public speaking at the Finance Committee.

The meeting voted by a majority in favour of this proposal.

RESOLVED not to include a public forum at the Finance Committee

C14 **All-Weather Playing Area, Burton Centre**

/082

The Clerk explained that he had attended a meeting with the owners of the playing area, Suffolk County Council, along with St Nicholas Hospice which is adjacent to the play area. The County Council had closed the area as it was in an unsafe condition. There were also problems with vandalism and drug activity around and inside the area where it provided shadow from the CCTV. The County Council were not in a position to refurbish the play area and were testing the water for an alternative party to maintain it, or failing that put the area to some other use, e.g. car parking.

The Clerk had been advised by the County Council that the playing surface was beyond repair, so costs for a new surface and reconstruction of a wall could be £30k, which would provide a 10-year life span on the playing surface. The Clerk advised the meeting that when considering such a project, Councillors may want to think about whether this was still a suitable site given the problems with the location.

Councillors noted that the Town Council were already committed to a major investment in the Youth Hub and had no mechanism for supervising the play area where it stood.

It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the Council should not take on this site. Councillors voted unanimously in support of this proposal.

RESOLVED – The town Council would not take on the Burton Centre Playing Area.

C14 **Winter Arrangments for Haverhill**

/083

a) Provision of Grit Bins

The Council agreed that the Clerk should review the current list of grit bin locations to confirm that all requests are up to date.

Clerk

b) Snow Warden Scheme

it was agreed that the Council should promote the Snow Warden scheme on the back of how this winter progresses, in order that there are volunteers who can undertake any required training and be provided with equipment in good time for winter 2015.

Clerk

C14/ **Arrangements for meetings in May 2015**

084

It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that the Council agree the changes in dates of meetings proposed by the Clerk to meet deadlines created by the election to be held on 7th May and that the Annual Town Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Town Council should be held at the Town Hall on Monday 18th May.

RESOLVED

C14 **Report on Defibrillators**

/085

The Town Clerk tabled a report on defibrillators, copies of which are available from the Clerk. The report recommended

- To make an application to the British heart Foundation for financial assistance
- To provide a cabinet within the Arts Centre reception
- To Support Councillor McLatchy's proposal to involve other businesses
- To create an earmarked reserve to act as a sinking fund for costs relating to the ongoing provision of an AED.

C14 **One Haverhill**

/086

The Clerk Reported back to the meeting on the Public Forum. The ONE Haverhill Board presented its annual report to the members of the public. The report is available from the Town Hall. Mr John Burns had kindly video'd the meeting and it was available online to watch.

C14 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/087

a) Appeals Committee

The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had not met since the previous meeting of the full Town Council. Councillor McLatchy requested that an additional Member be appointed to the committee to ensure that it was quorate.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor G Stroud that Councillor E Goody be appointed.

RESOLVED that Councillor E Goody be appointed to the Appeals Committee

CLERK

The chairman took items b, c, d & e en-bloc.

b) Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor E Goody that the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 30th September be adopted. **AGREED**

c) Leisure and Community Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor E Goody that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee held on 16th September be adopted. **AGREED**

The meeting noted that the next meeting was on 18th November 2014.

d) Personnel Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor E Goody that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st October be adopted. **AGREED**

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor E Goody that the minutes of the meetings held on 30th September and 21st October be adopted. **AGREED**

C14 **Serving of Summons**

/088

Individual Councillors indicated how they wished to receive summonses to meetings. Hardcopies would be available at the meeting.

Hardcopy Summonses

Cllr P Hanlon
Cllr M Martin
Cllr C Turner

Electronic Summonses

Mayor R André
Cllr M Byrne
Cllr P Firman
Cllr E Goody
Cllr B McLatchy
Cllr B Robbins
Cllr G Stroud
Cllr J Stroud

C14 Authorisation of payments

/089 It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor E Goody, that payments for cheques 9961 - 10061 totalling £57,584.21 be authorised. **RESOLVED**

C14 Urgent Correspondence

/090 Councillor E Goody reported that the work on the car park pods at Tesco appear to have already started, ahead of planning permission being granted.

C14 To Exclude the Press and Public

/091 It was noted that there was no business to transact in private.

C14 Staffing Matters

/092 The meeting was pleased to hear that the Mayor had presented long-service awards to four members of staff:

Vicky Ward – 18 years
Pam Jones – 17 years
Helen Barker – 12 years
Rachel Hutchinson – 11 years

C14 Date of next Meeting:

/093 25th November 2014.

C14 Closure

/094 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:11pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

County Councillor Tony Brown:

The new parking and traffic restriction signs for the High Street have been agreed with Highways and should be installed in around 4 weeks' time.

Resurfacing at Mill Road is due to be carried out in November, but may be delayed.

Highways have agreed to paint yellow lines on the walkway from Tesco to Queens Street.

The proposed new pedestrian crossing at Sainsbury's bus stop on the A1307 is still awaiting final funding from Highways. Some money has been found and all three County Councillors for Haverhill are united in pushing this forward.

I have been negotiating with Havebury and Highways about getting extra parking spaces along Millfields Way.

County Councillor Julian Flood:

I have been working on mobility scooter access, with a dropped kerb created on Old Clements Lane.

Welcome to Suffolk Signs on the County border. The town Clerk had drawn my attention to the state of the signs around Haverhill, but so far the County Council has said it doesn't know who is responsible for them.

School Lane: This will be resurfaced then lined and new signage put in.

Crossing at Burton End Road – A speed survey will need to be carried out before asking local residents whether speed bumps are appropriate.

Honeysuckle Close – The hedge has been trimmed.

Mrs Poulter:

School Lane is very dangerous as it is narrow and drivers speed along it. The Mayor advised the meeting that he was working with Parkway Residents' Association regarding finding a solution to parking issues.

Mrs Williams:

Asked that the Town Council use the Property Acquisition Fund to buy the Corn Exchange and suggested various fundraising ideas to assist with the purchase. Mr G Savary commented that the building was Grade II listed and very expensive to refurbish and maintain. The Mayor thanked Mrs Williams for her proposal and suggestions and advised that the Council had considered the building for the youth hub but rejected it on grounds of location and cost. Recent estimates of £1.5m to buy and refurbish the building suggest it would be a more expensive option than the Old Magistrates Court.

Mrs Johnson:

Expressed concern that the link on the St Edmundsbury website for Haverhill does not promote the town but links to a website with adverts and a message board. The Mayor thanked Mrs Johnson for raising this and advised the meeting that the Town Centre Masterplan includes greater positive promotion of Haverhill. Councillor Turner suggested that the Town Council marketing manager could suggest some ideas.