

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 16th December at 7.31pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor R André
Councillor E Goody
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor M Martin
Councillor D Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P Firman
Councillor G Stroud
Councillor J Stroud

Absent: Councillor L Carr
Councillor P French
Councillor D Russo
Councillor A Samuels

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

7 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor R André welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded and filmed.

MINUTES

C14 **Apologies for Absence**

/110 The above apologies were noted. Councillor Brown and Inspector Ferrie had also sent their apologies.

C14 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**

/111 None.

C14 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 25th November 2014**

/112 The meeting agreed these were a true record.

ACTION

C14 **Matters arising not on the agenda**

/113 **a) C14/030a Listing assets of community value**

The Clerk was still awaiting a response from St Edmundsbury to the question of whether they would list a right of way as a community asset. However, following a recent meeting with the developers for NW Haverhill, the country park proposal which the listing was intended to help secure is now part of the main plans.

b) C14/030b Haverhill Clock

The clock Angels have been completed and the clock faces are being designed. The Clerk will arrange for the Mayor to see the work completed so far.

d) C14/049 Town Twinning Signs

The Clerk advised that the Haverhill Area Working Party have been told these should be in place very shortly.

e) C14/063 Parish Boundary

The draft minutes of the SEBC Democratic Renewal Working Party meeting are not yet on the West Suffolk website.

CLERK

C14 **Adjournment**

/114 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 **West Suffolk Shop Front Design Guide**

/115 The Council considered the draft guide which was out for consultation, closing date 9th January. The purpose of the design guide is to provide guidance to improve the general standard of shop-front design and advertisements throughout West Suffolk and an understanding of the design of shop fronts and advertisements that the local planning authorities in West Suffolk will support when reaching a decision on any planning application or application for advertisement consent.

Whilst the Council was against regulations which stifled the vitality of Haverhill High Street, which is already vary varied, it was agreed that the principles of the document were worthy of support.

The Clerk was asked to draw up a draft response for consideration at the Planning Committee on 6th January 2015.

CLERK

C14 **2015/16 Annual Budget**

/116 The Clerk presented the details of the 2015/16 draft budget, which had been before the Finance Committee and Personnel Committee. It was noted that the Council Tax Base had been amended by SEBC directly before the meeting, too late for the additional revenue to be taken into account.

Subject to the above amendment, it was further noted that the 3-year budget prediction identified that whilst it was looking possible to keep the band D rate of £111.75 frozen for 2015/16, the prediction was that a significant increase (4.8%) would be needed in 2016/17 to cover the removal of the Council Tax Support Grant. In 2017/18 a 2% uplift would be required. However, the Clerk advised caution about putting too much

store in those predictions, given the changes in tax base that could occur as Haverhill expands.

The Budget was noted. The Council will make the final decision on the budget and precept at the next meeting.

C14 **Policy Update**

/117 a) Health and Safety Policy – Subject to minor amendments to sections 2.7 and 2.13, it was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the policy be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Equality and Diversity Policy – It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor D Roach that the policy be adopted.

RESOLVED

C14 **One Haverhill**

/018 a) The Mayor reported that the Town Centre Masterplan tenders have been received and a provider selected, subject to the normal post-selection procedures. All the tenderers were subject to pre-qualification assessment so all are very capable of delivering what is a complex and extensive piece of work. The cost is £60k, of which the Town Council is asked to contribute £20k. Other parties, including both principal councils, are also contributing.

b) The Clerk reported that a meeting with Suffolk County Council had been arranged for early January regarding the Old Magistrates Court. Securing their co-operation on the Town Council's acquisition of the building on terms that keep the project viable is key.

It was agreed that this matter will be an agenda item for the January meeting

C14 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/119

a) Appeals Committee

The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had met directly before this Full Council meeting but due to absences was again inquorate.

b) Finance Committee

It was noted that the next Finance Committee is to be held 13th January 2015.

c) Leisure and Community Committee

It was noted that the next Leisure and Community Committee is to be held 20th January 2015.

d) Personnel Committee

it was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor E Goody that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December be adopted.

AGREED

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December be adopted.

AGREED

It was noted there were no matters to consider arising from the meeting

held 16th December.

C14 Dates for 2015/16

/120 It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the proposed dates for meetings in 205/16 be agreed
RESOLVED

C14 Authorisation of payments

/121 It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that payments for cheques 10161 - 10217 totalling £98,235.61 be authorised.
RESOLVED

Councillor C Turner left the meeting at this point

C14 Urgent Correspondence

/122 None.

C14 To Exclude the Press and Public

/123 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.
Proposed Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor D Roach.
RESOLVED

C14 Staffing Matters

/124 The Council considered what might be an appropriate show of appreciation to staff at Christmas time. Because the Council operates a public venue, it is difficult to find a time when all staff can come together for traditional activities such as a Christmas meal, particularly as Christmas is so busy with the panto.

Councillors echoed the need to show appreciation in a tangible way and asked the Clerk to gather ideas from the staff themselves.

CLERK

C14 Date of next Meeting:

/125 27th January 2015.

C14 Closure

/126 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:38pm.

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:

1 – The damaged railings outside Aldi have been replaced.

2 – Councillor Brown can provide from his Highways budget a Vehicle Activated Sign system for Haverhill Police SNT to use at various speeding hotspots around the town. Two PCSOs have offered to do the training associated to operate it.

5 – Councillor Brown has been chasing for the date of the installation of the new signage for the High Street, having originally been told 8 weeks from when the survey was carried out, which was about 8 weeks ago. Since then he has been asking for a firm date which has not been forthcoming. He has tabled the question to be asked at the SCC full Council on Thursday. He hopes to have an answer then.

Cllr Robbins advised the meeting that the new signs were being erected today.

County Councillor Julian Flood:

1 – Cllr Flood met with the CEO of the County Council in an attempt to persuade her that SCC should invest in social housing.

2 – He has put a question to Councillor Newman regarding why School Lane is not yet resurfaced.

PCSO Sophie Mitchell:

Firstly apologies for the absence of Inspector Ferrie, he has asked myself and my colleague Mark Isaac to attend this evening to provide a short Police report to the Town Council. Unfortunately we do not have the comparative year on year percentages however we have a list of crime figures for the Town since the last meeting.

Since the last Police Report provided to the Town Council on Tuesday 25th November, there has been 86 crimes of note in the Town, broken down these were:

- 19 Incidents of Criminal Damage
- 3 Arsons which are part of a series of 5 we have seen across the town, which are currently being investigated and we are working closely with the Fire service to tackle these incidents.
- 16 Burglary other buildings – There was an overnight series of shed breaks which occurred on one single road in Haverhill and make up the majority of these offences.
- 8 Burglary Dwellings
- 13 Theft from shops – a large number of these were committed by the same offender who has since been arrested and dealt with.
- 6 Theft from motor vehicles
- 5 Theft of pedal cycles – This is a current trending spate in which case all cycles were left insecure in front gardens to properties, we would like to stress the importance of leaving pedal cycles locked and secure at all times when unattended.

- 14 incidents of Assault
- 2 Drug Offences

You can keep up to date with the latest goings on from the Haverhill Police Team by following us on Twitter @PoliceHaverhill and by also following the weekly video news updates on the YouTube channel.

Mr John Burns:

Mr John Burns drew the meeting's attention to the work of PCSO Kayla Packman, who has worked hard to prevent the thoughtless and inconsiderate parking in the High Street. She has issued 500+ tickets since she started, but has been subjected to abuse and physical violence.

The Council voiced their support for the work she did.

Mr Gordon Savory:

Asked that the Council make a stand that the High Street is a restricted area and to stop traffic entering it, as is achieved in Queen Street.

The Mayor responded that the matter of pedestrianisation was part of the masterplan consultation. Some businesses object to the idea of pedestrianizing the high Street so the Town Council will press for a sensible solution.