

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 23rd June 2015 at 7.45pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present:

Mayor Councillor B McLatchy	Councillor Q Fox
Deputy Mayor Councillor D Roach	Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Bramwell	Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor A Brown	Councillor B Robbins
Councillor J Burns	Councillor C Turner
Councillor M Byrne	Councillor A Williams
Councillor T Chivers	Councillor W Yang
Councillor J Crooks	
Councillor P Fox	

Apologies: None

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

12 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor B McLatchy welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

C15 /081 Apologies for Absence

The above apologies were noted. Inspector Ferrie also gave his apologies. .

C15 /082 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation

Name	Item	Reason	Declaration
Cllr A Brown	C15/085b	Board Member One Haverhill	Local Non-Pecuniary Interest
Cllr B McLatchy	C15/085b	Board Member One Haverhill	Local Non-Pecuniary Interest
Cllr P Hanlon	C15/085b	Board Member One Haverhill	Local Non-Pecuniary Interest

ACTION

Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 18th 2015. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

The Clerk confirmed that those members named above were able to stay and take part in the discussion and any vote.

C15 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 18th May 2015**

/083 The meeting agreed these were a true record.

Councillors B Robbins and A Williams joined the meeting

C15 **Matters arising not on the agenda**

/084 **a) C14/030b Haverhill Clock**

The Clerk circulated photographs of the top section of the clock, which was now complete. Councillors expressed their congratulations to the school students, Neil Williams and Metcraft Engineering for what looked a very impressive structure. The foundations, now installed, have been designed by a Principal Engineer at Peter Brett Associates, reviewed following amendments to the structure and updated as a result. The draft wording for the interpretive panel is being considered as is a design for the panel plinth, to complement the main clock structure.

b) C15/073d Annual Return

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that Box 6 be amended to £638,763 so the rounding difference is eliminated, and Box 9 be amended to £205,025 so that the return matches the asset register.

RESOLVED

C15 **Matters Arising from the Annual Town Meeting**

/085

a) Link Road from Great Wilsey Development to Coupals Road – The meeting took the view that it was regrettable the Chamber of Commerce resurrected this idea. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Bramwell, that this Council does not support a road linking the Great Wilsey Development to Coupals Road.

RESOLVED

b) ONE Haverhill meetings held in public – It was agreed that the town Council representatives should continue to push for meetings to be held in public.

c) Viability of Haverhill High Street (2 questions raised) – The town Centre masterplan process should deliver the environment to boost trade in the High Street. It was important that the general public engage with the consultation process. There were plenty of opportunities coming up for this to happen.

d) NW Relief Road – The meeting noted that the construction of this was within 5 years of the development commencing. Members expressed the feeling that the road cannot come soon enough.

e) On-street parking of lorries – Councillor Byrne provided a statement, which can be seen at Appendix 3. It was noted that a long-term solution won't happen overnight. The meeting agreed that a co-ordinated approach to the matter by all councillors from Town, Borough and County Councils was preferable. In addition, Cambridge, Essex and Suffolk Highways should all be talking to each other on this.

f) Infrastructure on Great Wilsey development – The Council noted the concerns of the member of the public and would play its role in seeing that

promised infrastructure was delivered.

g) Corn Exchange – This is a privately owned building that has been identified as a potential home for a youth hub, but its suitability depends on the outcome of the consultation with young people. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item in September, once the outcome of the consultation is known. In the meantime, the Clerk was asked to write to the Borough Conservation Officer asking what action was being taken to protect this listed building.

C15 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the**
/086 **PUBLIC FORUM**

The meeting received reports from the Police and Borough/County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill and the Public Forum. See Appendix 1 for Details.

Councillor C Turner left the meeting

C15 **Haverhill Skatepark 2015**

/087 The meeting considered the request for supporting an additional provision for young people in Haverhill. It was suggested that we needed to understand the issues with the existing provision better. It was understood that antisocial behaviour was putting many young people off going to it. The Clerk reported that the YMCA had been commissioned to carry out a survey of young people in town as part of the business planning process for the Youth Hub. The young people putting forward this proposal, and other young people who have promoted alternative suggestions have all been asked to feed their ideas into this consultation. Councillors flagged up various potential funding streams the young people should investigate, including Community Action Suffolk for the People's Health Trust funding in South Ward.

C15 **Local Government Ombudsman consultation**

/088 The meeting considered the draft response to the consultation drawn up by the Clerk. It was proposed by Councillor, seconded by Councillor, that the draft be approved for submission.

RESOLVED

C15 **Open Air Surgeries**

/089 Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor John Burns, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that Councillors form a rota to run a stall in the market one Saturday each month, in addition to holding a surgery in each ward.

RESOLVED

Councillor T Chivers left the meeting

C15 **One Haverhill**

/090 a) The meeting noted that the second round of consultation on the Masterplan has commenced. It was agreed to meet with the consultants to put forward the Town Council views on 1st July 2015.

b) The meeting noted that the ONE Haverhill Board was meeting on 20th July to consider how it should operate in the future. Concern was expressed about the level of authority ONE Haverhill may be proposed to attain to and whether that could potentially mean there were "two Town

Councils”.

Concern was expressed that ONE Haverhill meetings were not open to the public. Councillor B McLatchy stated that she did not see any reason for the apparent secrecy as the recent meeting she attended as a new representative of the Town Council was a perfectly ordinary meeting with nothing confidential being discussed.

It was proposed by Councillor J Crooks, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that the Town Council representatives are mandated to propose that ONE Haverhill be disbanded on the completion of the Town Centre Masterplan. **Following debate, the motion was withdrawn.** It was agreed that the outcome of the constitutional reform discussions at ONE Haverhill be an agenda item at Full Council in September.

C15 **Mayor’s Report**

/091 Mayor McLatchy read her report to the Council, on her first month’s work as Mayor. (see appendix 2)

C15 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/092

a) Appeals Committee

The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had not met since the last meeting.

b) Finance Committee

The meeting noted that the Appeals Committee had not met since the last meeting.

c) Leisure and Community Committee

It was noted that the committee had not met since the last meeting of the Full Council.

d) Personnel Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor A Bramwell, that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June be adopted.

AGREED

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Q Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2015 be adopted.

AGREED

C15 **Communications Task And Finish Forum (TAFF)**

/093

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the Task and Finish Forum looking at public engagement be reconstituted.

RESOLVED

The following Members were appointed to the TAFF

Councillor A Brown

Councillor Q Fox

Councillor J Burns

Councillor D Roach

Councillor P Fox

Councillor A Williams

C15 **Authorisation of payments**

/094 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Q Fox, that payments for cheques 10485 - 10604 totalling £152,823.36 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C15 **Urgent Correspondence**

/095 Councillor J Burns reminded the Members that Havebury Housing were holding an Estate Day event at 3pm on Wednesday 24th June, to inspect the Chalkstone Estate and engage with tenants on any issues of concern. Members were welcome to join the event.

Councillor J Burns also highlighted that the increasing number of unsightly vans parked on the highway advertising a car purchase company had been noted by the Police. However, all vehicles have been checked and are road-legal.

C15 **To Exclude the Press and Public**

/096 It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items, as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential HR and commercial nature of the business to be transacted.

RESOLVED

C15 **Christmas Lights Tenders**

/097 The Clerk drew the meeting's attention to the confidential paper circulated with the agenda and briefed the meeting on the tender process. It was agreed that Blacheré Illuminations tender be accepted.

RESOLVED

The contract value will be published after final arrangements are agreed

CLERK

C15 **Staffing Matters**

/098 The meeting noted progress on modernisation of contracts and pension auto-enrolment and that a consultation with the staff would commence shortly.

C15 **Date of next Meeting:**

/099 The meeting considered the proposed Monday dates for Council meetings previously circulated. Councillor J Burns reported that as a result of the Clerk's comments to the St Edmundsbury Mayor at the Annual Meeting requesting that SEBC booked its meetings further in advance, it had agreed to do so. This would mean we could plan our meetings avoiding clashes with their meetings. It was therefore agreed to leave meeting dates and times **UNCHANGED**.

C15 **Closure**

/100 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:50pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 18th 2015. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

Appendix 1

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

Police Report:

1. Performance – In general terms we have had far more crime recorded in Haverhill this year compared to previous years. Much of this increase is down to new Government counting rules called NCRS – National Crime Recording Standards. This means that things that would never previously been recorded as crimes now are, such as children having a fight in a playground, teenagers sending nude pictures of themselves to friends via mobile phone, and crimes where third parties report an incident to the police but the alleged victim will not cooperate with the police. These new counting rules have seen a big increase in crimes around the whole Country, particularly in violent crime and sexual crime. I don't believe that Haverhill is any more violent than it was. The only real thing that has changed has been a big increase in the range of things that now count as crimes.

So far this year we have recorded 520 crimes in Haverhill Town, compared to a 3 year average of 375. Violence against the person has risen to 126, compared to the average of 67. Sexual offences have risen to 18 this year, compared to our average of 5. We have also had 41 Public Order offences this year, compared to our 3 year average of 22.

On the positive side, we have seen reductions in Robbery- 0 this year compared to an average of 3 and ASB is well down - 191 incidents this year compared to our average of 241.

Because of all the new crime that has been recorded where potentially we have very little to go on, or where victims are unwilling to help the police, our detection rate this year has fallen considerably – it is currently 24.6% for all Haverhill crime. I would generally expect it to be at least 10% above this.

2. Staffing – I'm delighted to say that Haverhill police station is still fully staffed. We have our full complement of 25 response officers and the Haverhill SNT still has a Sgt, 4 Constables and 6 PCSO's. We have now welcomed Pc Lawrence Allen back to Haverhill, and he will take Will Wrights place on the SNT as our new Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Victims Officer.
3. Police / Public engagement – A meeting is planned on Monday 6th July to discuss new methods to be used for the police and public to have a better understanding of each other. Colin Poole and Councillors Pat Hanlon, John Burns and Tony Brown from the Town Council will all be attending. We will hopefully be using students from Samuel Ward media classes to help us understand some of the newer engagement tools that are now available to us.

County Councillor Tony Brown:

Councillor Brown reported the following Highways matters:

1. He is working to get the BT green box in Swan Lane moved.

Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 18th 2015. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

2. The proposed footpath alongside the Sturmer Road is scheduled for construction in the autumn.
3. A town-wide review of Traffic Regulation Orders is planned, with an end date of autumn 2016.
4. The Chalkstone Way pedestrian underpass at Ickleton Place is planned for works to clear the flooding problem and enable it to be used.
5. Consultation on proposed cuts to the Fire and Rescue Service started on 23rd June and concludes on 24th July.

County Councillor Julian Flood:

Councillor Flood reported the following matters:

1. Councillor Flood had made a number of payments from his locality budget.

Mr E Goody:

1. The surface of the Footpath that runs from Quakers Lane to Helions Walk which runs parallel to the Cleales car park is in a poor state of repair with broken surface at the Helions Walk end. Also, there is a narrowing of the footpath caused by over growing vegetation from some rear gardens in Helions Park Avenue.

2. The former playing field of the former Chalkstone Middle School, which is clearly not needed as a playing field as it has been neglected for nearly two years. No effort has been made to keep it neat and tidy. At the very least the owner which I believe is still Suffolk County Council should keep the area tidy and cut. Following on from County Councillor Flood's efforts to get the county to use unwanted land for housing and considering there is now a fine Care Home on part of the site I would have thought the rest of the area would lend itself very nicely for adaptive housing. I note there is a severe shortage and therefore a long waiting list for this type of housing in the area. Being reasonable close to the town centre and on two bus routes should make this site a prime location for this type of accommodation especially, if a new pedestrian access to the site from the railway walk be made.

3. I would like to ask the council how people see the Arts Centre? If you look at the front of the building there is no indication as to what the building is used for or even the name of the building. I suggest that at the front of the building, possibly in the arch of the front window be engraved 'Haverhill Arts Centre'. In the spaces either side of this window I suggest 4 plaques be installed with the opening times and contact details of the Arts Centre, The Town Council, The Haverhill History Group, plus the café together with a menu.

Appendix 2

Mayor's Report for June 2015

Beginning end of May with two attendances at children's groups I have been very busy attending as many as four duties in one day.

Up until now, I have conducted twenty two duties and met with some very interesting people, these people have represented the very young, youth and the elderly residents of our area. I have met with business people, students and attended the Passing Out parade of a group of very important young cadets who have recently attended a course run by two of our local police force and I felt confident meeting these young people that our future safety and well-being is taken care of as out of twenty five cadets only two were unsure as to whether they would be taking it up as a career. This first joint Fire and Police cadet scheme is based in Haverhill and the cadets have gained valuable skills and values that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. We should feel very proud of this group of youngsters and the officers who have given time to the program.

Our very own Silver Band again did us proud at a concert in the Lavenham Church, the acoustics in the Church are terrific and the concert very successful. It is sad that the concert was to raise funds for the Women's Refuge, an organisation that is far too busy than is good for our society and they need our support. Ivor and I have added them to our charity list.

At the Thetford Civic Reception a lot of interest was shown to the Haverhill Mayoral chain, I was asked about its history and felt ashamed that I could not answer this properly. I will endeavour to find out more about it as it is a very special one. I also attended the Felixstowe Civic Service and met many Mayors and Councillors there. Several mentioned our Mayor Making ceremony and were impressed by the number of people who attended. They also liked the idea of the display of past Mayors shown as a background and thanks for this go to Colin and the team here at the Arts Centre.

O Monday I attended the AGM of the Suffolk NSPCC in Norton and was surprised that we have not branch of this in Haverhill, despite them having clients here. They are keen to be represented in Haverhill and it would be good to see someone interested in helping to start a branch, I have all contact details if there is some good person who would like them. Also it would be good to do some fund-raising for them as they are running help-lines for vulnerable children and also running programmes in schools giving guidance to children at risk.

On a very interesting visiting to Sanofi I learned a lot about the efficient use of space and equipment, also just how involved with the community the firm is. They are running an Apprentice scheme, also work experience and are a valuable employer in Haverhill. Hopefully, they will expand and bring in even more business as they supply such a valuable service to people in need of kidney treatments.

We all hear bad things about elderly care, but I was invited to the opening of the sensory garden at our local Eastcotts Home last week and am delighted to be able to tell you that it is one of the best I have seen. The atmosphere is great, it is first and foremost a Home not an institution and

the staff are warm and friendly and obviously very caring. Why do we not hear more of the good homes as they outnumber the bad ones and make people nervous about elderly care.

There are more duties to perform before the end of June and I have only touched on some of the ones I have done, there is not enough space or time to tell you about the good things of Haverhill, of which there are many.

DRAFT

Appendix 3

On Street Lorry Parking

A second meeting has been held with the General Manager at Culina.

I understand that he has also met with Borough Councillors to provide them with information on issues arising.

Enquiries have established the ownership of the various plots of land and details of previous proposals for a lorry park have been viewed.

The General Manager has advised that action to provide sufficient bins to cope with waste on access roads has been taken. There has also been some action to enforce parking restrictions in the area.

The temporary closure of two lay-bys on the A1307 is protecting residents from noise and litter/waste nuisances. However lorries parking on roads on industrial estates are causing some inconvenience to local traffic.

Discussions are continuing with Suffolk County Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council and landowners and their managing agents, to explore the feasibility of a lorry park, with appropriate facilities, in the local area.

The General Manager has prepared a leaflet advising drivers to respect the amenities for areas where they park. That leaflet is currently being translated into appropriate languages and will be distributed to drivers at their points of departure as well as on arrival.

I am exploring solutions proposed in Stafford where Culina have worked with local agencies to resolve similar issues.

Further meetings are being arranged. It is clear that Culina are committed to working with us to resolve these issues and I am optimistic that a solution can be found that will meet the expectations of our community whilst respecting the commercial needs of a prominent local business.

Cllr Maureen Byrne