

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR

Present: Mayor Councillor D Roach
Deputy Mayor Councillor P Fox
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor A Williams
Councillor W Yang

Apologies: Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor T Chivers
Councillor C Turner

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

3 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| C17
/001 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. County Councillor J Flood also sent his apologies. |
| C17
/002 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
None. |
| C17
/003 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 22nd November 2016</u>
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins that the minutes of the meeting held 13 th December 2016 be adopted as a true record. |
- RESOLVED**

ACTION

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

C17 **Matters arising not on the agenda**
/004 There were no urgent matters arising.

C17 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the**
/005 **PUBLIC FORUM**

The Clerk tabled the SNT report.

- a) The Police SNT report for January had been circulated.
- b) The meeting received reports from County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill. See Appendix 1 for details.
- c) The meeting received reports from Borough Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill. See Appendix 1 for details.
- d) Public Forum – See Appendix 1 for details.

C17 **Responses to Consultations**

/006

- a) Banning order Offences: It was proposed by Councillor I McLatchy, seconded by Councillor A Williams that the Clerk responds to the consultation in support of all the proposals.

RESOLVED

- b) Fair Funding for Suffolk Police: Following on from the submission of a response to the Policing Review, raising concerns about cuts, the Clerk confirmed he had also responded to the request of the Police and Crime Commissioner for support in his quest for a fair funding settlement to enable him to maintain the services Haverhill wanted.

APPROVED

CLERK

C17 **Mayor's Report**

/007

- a) Mayor Roach read his report to the Council, on his work as Mayor during the last month. (see appendix 2)

C17 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/008

The Partnership Board has not met since the last meeting of the Town Council.

- a) The Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan Working Group is working to identify early 'wins' in delivering the Masterplan.
- b) Councillor A Williams advised that he had been in contact with the CCG rep on ONE Haverhill partnership regarding online booking for GPs; this is work in progress.

C17 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/009

a) Appeals Committee

The Appeals Committee had not met since the last meeting.

b) Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor I McLatchy, that the minutes of the meeting held 10th January 2017 be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) Leisure and Community Committee

It was proposed by Councillor A Williams, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held 17th January 2017 be adopted.

RESOLVED

d) Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee had not met since the last meeting.

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor B Robbins, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the minutes of the meeting held 10th January 2017 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C17 **Authorisation of payments**

/010 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, that the listed payments totalling £81,327.43 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C17 **Budget 2017/18**

/011 The Clerk presented the recommendation of the Finance Committee on 10th January, setting out the reasons for the proposed increase in precept. (See appendix 3).

- a) The meeting noted that Suffolk County Council Cabinet had approved recommending to the Full County Council £31m of cuts plus a 3% rise in council tax.
- b) Councillors expressed regret that an increase was necessary, but were proud of the services provided for Haverhill by the Town Council. All the funds raised were spent on the town, whilst other authorities spent council tax raised in Haverhill elsewhere, for facilities beyond the reach of Haverhill residents given the current public transport situation. The Town Council is doing works that used to be delivered by other councils but has been cut.
- c) In response to a question regarding the difference between the prediction made in January 2016 that 2017/18 would need a 3.9% uplift and the actual increase proposed of 10%, the Clerk advised that after the predictions were made there were increases announced for national insurance costs, pension contributions, Brexit had hit the value of investment income and future inflation predictions had been revised steeply upwards. The proposed figure for this year also future-proofed against capping. The clerk further observed that budget forecasts were predictions, not promises.
- d) Councillor J Crooks advised that if rises in council tax presented financial difficulties for families who did not already qualify for exemptions or discounts, they should contact Anglia Revenues for help such as spreading council tax over 12 months rather than 10.

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the precept for 2017/18 be set at £901,900, so that band D properties were charged £124.41, representing an increase of 10%.

RESOLVED

2017/18 Budget Summary	
Expenditure	1,171,860
Income	258,813
From Reserves	22,000
Balance	891,047
LCTSG	0
Precept	901,900
To Reserves	10,853
Band D property = £124.41	

C17 **Urgent Correspondence**

/012 None.

**C17
/013**

Exclusion of press and Public

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – Commercial and HR Matters.

RESOLVED

**C17
/014**

Report from Corn Exchange Working Party

- a) The Clerk updated Councillors on the current state of progress. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with St Edmundsbury Council officers and the portfolio holder regarding what steps can be taken to prevent further deterioration of the building.
- b) The Clerk was asked to draft a press release to update the public on progress.
- c) It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that the council continue to progress this matter.

CLERK

**C17
/015**

Staffing Matters

None.

**C17
/016**

Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **MONDAY** 20th February 2017 at 7:30pm.

**C17
/017**

Closure

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:29pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

5b) County Councillors reports:

Councillor J Flood gave the following report:

- a) I have had one return of the dropped kerbs forms. Please could I urge all councillors to check with those who might need work to improve access. It will take twenty weeks or more to get the work done, so the quicker we start the better. It would be helpful to have a batch to be done all together to make life easier for Highways.
- b) Today there is a pollution alert for southern England, aerosol and NOX. It is likely that Withersfield road will be close to legal limits. We need to look out for any backsliding on the NW relief road to ensure that it not put on the backburner. It will only need a small growth in traffic to trigger a crisis.
- c) I am attending a road meeting in Feb (Conference on the road network - policy priorities and the Road Investment Strategy - keynotes: DfT and Highways England - Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum - Morning, Tuesday, 21st February 2017). I do not expect to make much impact, but I'm hoping that I might bend a few ears to bring the primitive state of Haverhill's connections to those in a position to do something about it.
- d) I would like to put on record how appalled I am to hear that support for the library service is about to be cut yet again. The work that Sanphra and her team do deserves better recognition than this.

Councillor Burns gave the following report:

- a) The layby on the bypass alongside Aragon Road is being proposed to be reopened but with a 1900-0700 closure every day. It is hoped multilingual signs will be put up to this effect.
- b) Street lighting around Cemetery in Withersfield Road is being investigated for total replacement as the existing lighting contravenes modern regulations in that it is fed from overhead power lines, and in one case, through a house.
- c) I am on the Police & Crime Panel which next meets on 31st January. If anyone has anything they want brought up, please email me.
- d) Cllrs Flood, Brown and myself have contributed locality funding to the HCT for digital signage and to HTC for event support.
- e) There is an annual consultation underway for post 16 home to school travel policy which runs until 10th February. Check out the SCC website if you want to comment.
- f) SCC cabinet (and must go to full council) approved today some £31m of cuts, a 3% rise in Adult Social Care precept but no general rate rise due to commitments made in pre-election 2013. This appears to be at odds with current government policy, and certainly what SEBC believe to be the case, in that they are recommending maximum precept rises to the "no referendum" 2% limit.
- g) Burton Centre – Still waiting to hear if their application to convert downstairs room to retail has been successful.
- h) HWRC – Approval was given for extension to collect trade waste and to formalisation of hours.

Councillor A Brown gave the following report:

- a) The SCC Highways policy on skirting of overhanging vegetation that forces pedestrians into the road has been revised. There will now be a 5-day response target.
- b) He is campaigning to get something done about the potholes in Chalkstone Way

5c) Borough Councillors reports:

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Councillor A Brown gave the following report:

He reported that litter bins were set alight along Railway Walk. These will be replaced.

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- a) Still receiving from neighbours of HMOs about dumped furniture, dog mess, etc. Environmental Health reacting. Understand known landlord has passed over their estate to a BSE estate agent with a plan to upgrade the properties and “remove any problem tenants”.
- b) Westbourne Court – Public consultation on new development is on 7th February from 1600-1900 at the site.
- c) “Haverhill At Work” exhibition opens to the public on 3rd March in the Arts Centre.
- d) PRL Express (in High Street” has a Summary Review of Premises License consultation which ends on 1st February for alleged breaches regarding alcohol and tobacco sales.
- e) The Borough is promoting the “Market Trials” (4 weeks @ £10/week stalls) and “Pocket Money” markets (free to young persons).
- f) East Town Park new play area design finalised and should hopefully be installed by Easter.
- g) Empire Yard development (4 flats and 3 x starter shops) has finally received planning approval some 14 years after first muted and 3 years since application went in.
- h) The application to convert “AXA” premises to flats has been removed due to car parking concerns.

Councillor D Roach gave the following report:

- a) He has joined the Suffolk Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Framework Group (SPIF)
- b) He is attending a Q&A session with New Anglia LEP in early February.

5d) Public Forum:

Mr Wendell reported further on the reductions in service that Age UK (Suffolk) are experiencing following cuts in funding

- a) The “Fit as a Fiddle” group are still meeting socially, a year after the funding for support was cut.
- b) The “Men’s Group” is still running, but support for this will end in March.

He also advised that the Alzheimer Society had lost funding for supporting local groups so the local social group will close at the end of March.

Appendix 2

8a) Mayors report from December 2016 to January 2017.

The Mayor attended the St Edmundsbury New Year Ball and other civic events over the Christmas period. He has also taken part in mock job interviews for school children. The Mayor highlighted the Mayor’s Ball on 1st April 2017 and requested support from his fellow Councillors in making this charity fundraising event a success. Good causes being supported include the Synergy Café and Haverwell. Tickets can be obtained from Vicky Phillips.