

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 20th February 2017 at 7.30pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR

Present: Mayor Councillor D Roach
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor C Turner
Councillor A Williams

Apologies: Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor M Byrne
Deputy Mayor Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor W Yang

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

Two 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. Rev Canon Graham Owen led prayers.

MINUTES

C17 /018 **Apologies for Absence**
The above apologies were noted.

C17 /019 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
None.

C17 /020 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 24th January 2017**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor I McLatchy that the minutes of the meeting held 24th January 2017 be adopted as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

C17 **Matters arising not on the agenda****/021**

- a) C17/001 Apologies for Absence: The Mayor advised the meeting that Councillor Tom Chivers has stepped down as a Councillor and a casual vacancy exists. It was noted that this vacancy was on the Town Council website and noticeboard, but not on West Suffolk's website. The Clerk was asked to enquire about this.
- b) C17/011 Precept and Budget: The meeting noted that the precept demand had been submitted to St Edmundsbury Borough Council and receipt of the demand confirmed 25th January 2017.

C17 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM****/022**

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 **Mayor's Report****/023**

- 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****/024**

The Partnership Board next meets on 3rd March. The Clerk advised that the ONE Haverhill Partnership Draft Business Plan was due to be distributed to Board members on 22nd Feb. If approved as a formal draft, it would go out for consultation with the public before being signed off as the adopted business plan. The Action Plan strands would not all be polished on publication. Some strands were already starting because the window of opportunity to fund them happened to have come along now.

Councillor J Burns advised that in pursuance of the Town Centre Masterplan Action Plan he was asking the Borough for a full car parking review and SCC Highways for a full ANPR traffic survey.

C17 **Adoption of Committee Reports****/009****a) Appeals Committee**

The Appeals Committee had not met since the last meeting.

b) Finance Committee

The Finance Committee had not met since the last meeting.

c) Leisure and Community Committee

The Leisure and Community Committee had not met since the last meeting.

d) Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee had not met since the last meeting.

The meeting noted the above Committees had not met since the last Full Council meeting.

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that the minutes of the meetings held 31st January and 7th February 2017 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C17 **Authorisation of payments**

/010 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the listed payments totalling £52,923.73 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C17 **Review of Internal Controls**

/011 a) Review of Internal Controls for the Council: It was proposed that the Internal Controls remain adequate for the Council's needs.

b) Review of the Internal Audit: It was proposed that the Internal Audit remains adequate for the Council's needs.

c) Internal Financial Controls: It was proposed that the Internal Controls remain adequate for the Council's needs.

d) Risk Register: It was proposed that the Risk Register was up to date and accurate.

It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that, subject to minor amendments to the documents, the above motions be accepted.

RESOLVED

The documents are held on file and on the Town Council website.

C17 **Urgent Correspondence**

/012 None.

C17 **Dates of Next Meetings for 2018**

/025 It was agreed to bring these dates to the next meeting as there were a number of clashes with Borough meetings.

C17 **Exclusion of press and Public**

/026 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Williams, 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 **Report from Corn Exchange Working Party**

/027 a) The Clerk updated Councillors on the current state of progress. A meeting between Haverhill's Borough Councillors and Borough officers regarding safeguarding the building from further deterioration until such time as a potential sale to the Town Council completes.

b) A press release will be drafted following the meeting

c) It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Williams that the council continue to progress this matter.

Clerk

C17 **Staffing Matters**

/028 None.

C17 **Closure**
/029 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.53pm.



Signed
Chairman

Date.....

DRAFT

Appendix 1

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

C17/022a) Police Report – The SNT Newsletter had been circulated.

C17/022b) County Councillors reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- a. The Cangle complex is apparently having its contract renewed by a consortium led by the current providers, Riverside Housing, however there will be a cut to services in that anyone aged over 21 will no longer be allowed there. I have sent 13 questions to the Cabinet member for young persons' asking why the process was allowed to get out of hand causing much angst and concerns for both residents and staff including an apparent preference to brief the press first instead of local members. I am still awaiting a response.
- b. We have been advised that some of the funding for young people support services in West Suffolk is moving to East Suffolk following a perceived increase in demand over there. There has been no proof that there has been a corresponding decrease in the West and no obvious consultation.
- c. SCC Councillors (finally) had a short meeting with SCC Highways officers over the Great Wilsey development last Friday. There was not nearly enough time to discuss all concerns but several subjects were raised which they have taken away over the forthcoming "Means Of Access" outline application which comes before Borough Development Committee on 2nd March. Health provision, Chalkstone Way exit, public transport, NW Relief Road, Broadband, and others were discussed with no definite answers.
- d. I have requested a complete dataset of traffic data for Haverhill in the absence of ANPR data. They have confirmed they are working on it but (apparently) they have no one central database they can refer to.
- e. Car Parking Enforcement (CPE) comes before SCC Cabinet tomorrow (21st) & SEBC Council tomorrow night for approval. It would appear the full business plan has not been made available to Councillors.
- f. I recently attended, as a member of the SCC Scrutiny committee, discussions over the blue light collaboration improvement processes and Barley Homes (Group) Limited. Both were scrutinised thoroughly and recommendations made which will be considered by Cabinet tomorrow. I raised the subject of Haverhill and was told that the fire station has a 25 year PFI contract on it meaning it is unlikely to be a candidate for collaboration in the short term without a major funding pay-out. All three services are conducive to shared accommodation if needs can be met.
- g. As a member of the Police and Crime Panel, I recently scrutinised the PCC and Chief Constable over the proposed 1.972% increase in the police precept and several other items including the annual report. The precept rise was approved unanimously as, without it, services would have to be cut even more.
- h. As predicted, the SCC Budget was passed by majority vote last week resulting in a 3% increase in council tax and a £31m cut to the budget.
- i. Withersfield Road street lighting – this has now been identified as a major project due to the way the lights are powered from either overhead power lines or through the houses. UK Power Networks are working on a plan to install lamps on the south side of the road but requires some detailed planning due lack of electricity supply on that side of the road.
- j. I have now been told, after persistence, that work is ongoing to grant access for Councillors to the SCC Highways maintenance tools which will give us the ability to look at all reports, what has happened to them and any that have been passed over as not meeting criteria. I've been asked to beta test any such access.

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

- k. Some of you will have heard about the Ofsted Special Needs report for Suffolk (available on their website) and their statement of “significant weaknesses in the local area’s practices”. It is a very damning report against SCC and the CCG. It is well worth a read.
- l. I am attending the police accountability panel on Friday at which the PCC questions the Chief Constable and team about operational/financial performance and other areas of operation. If anyone has any questions, please let me know before then and I will try to have them answered.

Councillor A Brown gave the following report:

- a) Highways are looking at the 7pm-7am closure of the layby on the A1307.
- b) Havebury have asked for better communication from National Grid following an incident at Chalkstone Way where the grass was dug up.
- c) The lights on the cycle way on Railway walk is planned to start week beginning 27/2.
- d) Air quality measurements taken by Environmental Health show that the situation is broadly unchanged.
- e) He is campaigning to get something done about the potholes in Chalkstone Way.

5c) Borough Councillors reports:

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) A stand-off between the Borough Council and the developers of the Haverhill Retail Park over easement costs on a parcel of land requiring access to an existing power line has now been resolved at a substantially reduced cost to the developer, following my intervention, and hopefully removing the potential for a long delay whilst a different route was sought.
- b) I have escalated a request to the Borough Council for a full parking consultation for Haverhill, which was not done thoroughly in 2015, as part of the developments that will be coming to the town over the next few years. This is particularly around loss of car parking spaces potentially resulting in an under-capacity situation.
- c) I have formally requested the Borough and SCC officers get together to consider why the NW Relief Road cannot be built first through funding sourced by them and not relying on the developer. Within 24 hours of the first sod being dug the land for the road transfers ownership to the County Council. Confirmation has been received from SEBC senior management that it will now be considered.
- d) Two electric charging bays will be installed, soon, by the entrance inside the Ehringshausen Way (Jubilee Walk) car park off Brook Service Road.
- e) We had a meeting with officers and the police regarding HMO’s on the Chalkstone Estate. It would appear the company dominating this service has recently decided to move its portfolio into the hands of an estate agent in Bury and over the next few months will be upgraded/placed under their care. We also were advised that the clear majority of the premises cause no concern however the few that do obviously have a major effect on neighbours and the tenants themselves.
- f) The High Street from Swan Lane to Quakers Lane will be closed on Sunday 26th March for resurfacing during the day. The cobbled area will not be resurfaced however it is hoped to be grouted to remove the large gaps between the stones. Castle Lane also closed from 23rd-28th March (daytime) for same reason.
- g) PRL Express in the High Street recently has had enforcement placed on it and I understand further action against individuals is being considered.

Councillor D Roach gave the following report:

- a) Borough Council is still working on the ONE Haverhill Masterplan.

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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.

The Sue Ryder Synergy Café will not be supported by them from April as the organisation focusses resources on a new service called Dementia Together.

Appendix 2

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

Mayoral engagements for the last period have been fairly quiet.

I have had afternoon tea at Coupals School which was fun. The children run a café and raise funds. They have a maître De to show you to your tables and then the children act as waiting staff taking your orders from a menu. I can report back that the cakes are delicious!

I, along with the Mayoress, attended the annual Holocaust Memorial event which is held in Abbey Gardens Bury St Edmunds. This is a very moving service, which always makes you think.

We have attended the welcome service for the new Methodist minister for Haverhill.

On Thursday I will be attending the opening event for the new funeral directors in the High Street.