

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR

Present: Mayor Councillor D Roach
Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B McLatchy
Councillor I McLatchy
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor C Turner
Councillor A Williams
Councillor W Yang

Apologies: Deputy Mayor Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

Five 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 /034 **Apologies for Absence**
The above apologies were noted. County Councillor J Flood also sent his apologies.

C17 /035 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
None.

C17 /036 **The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 20th February 2017**
It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor I McLatchy that the minutes of the meeting held 20th February 2017 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**

/037

- a) C17/021 Casual Vacancy: The meeting noted that a valid election petition had been received by the Returning Officer in respect of the casual vacancy in North Ward. Nominations for candidates had opened and any contested election will take place on May 4th, alongside the County Council elections that day. The Period of Enhanced Sensitivity (Purdah) began on 23rd March.
In answer to a question, the Clerk advised that he estimated that the Town Council share of the election cost was likely to be around £2k, as a half-share of a single ward election..

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

/038

The Clerk tabled the SNT report.

- a) The Police SNT report for March had been circulated by Councillor J Burns the previous week. He confirmed that the changes last year to PCSO cover were being reviewed, particularly in regard to achieving more flexible working hours, training and visible presence on the street. Councillor M Byrne expressed concern about the availability of the Domestic Violence suite at Haverhill. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the PCC to ask him to tell us what is happening with the suite and reassurance that the facility remains in active use, should it be needed. If this is not the case, what alternative facility is available?
- 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.

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that a working group be established to review the plight of voluntary organisations in Haverhill. Councillors Byrne, Hanlon, B McLatchy and Robbins put their names forward as members. This will be set as an agenda item on 24th April.

CLERK

C17 **Mayor's Report**

/039

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

C17 **Market Stall for Events**

/040

It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that a new liveried white gazebo with black lettering be purchased at a price not exceeding £1,100, for use at community events in the town.

C17 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/041

The Partnership Board met on 3rd March, particularly focussing on the business plan. The individual task groups had develop action plans for each of the five main topics covered by the business plan; Health and Wellbeing, Crime and ASB, Education, Training and Employment, Town Centre Masterplan and Culture. The next step was to re-attach the underlying data originally used in identifying the topics to focus upon, to the specific action

plans that resulted. A public consultation version, stripped of jargon, will be provided for the public to comment upon. The target for that is May. Councillor T Brown commended the column written by the ONE Haverhill partnership Chairman, John Mayhew, in the local press.

C17
/042 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

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 adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 7th March 2017 will be considered at the next meeting.

d) Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee had not met since the last meeting.

e) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J Crooks, seconded by Councillor A Williams, that the minutes of the meeting 20th February 2017 be adopted. The minutes of the meeting held 14th March 2017 will be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

C17
/043 **Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the listed payments totalling £113,523.01 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C17
/044 **Attendance of the Clerk at Borough Portfolio Holder meetings**

It was proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that the Clerk should attend Portfolio Holder meetings with Borough Councillors for Haverhill, if invited to do so.

RESOLVED

C17
/045 **Urgent Correspondence**

None.

C17
/046 **Dates of Next Meetings for 2018**

Discussion took place on the competing merits of planning meetings taking place on the Tuesday following a Monday Full Council or holding both on the Monday. Given that only the November and December dates created the need for some Councillors to meet two days running, it was agreed to go with that option rather than stack planning and Full Council meetings on the same night. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that the proposed meeting dates be adopted.

RESOLVED

C17 /047 **Staffing Matters (Part A)**
It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that

- a) £1,750 be allocated from the 2016/17 Environment budget to cover the costs, including wages, for environmental improvements at the Leiston Shops and
- b) The 1% uplift agreed by the JNC for local government workers and the uplifts to both National Minimum Wage from April 1st and the National Living Wage Foundation rate for 2016 be implemented from April 1st 2017

RESOLVED

C17 /048 **Exclusion of press and Public**
It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, 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 /049 **Report from Corn Exchange Working Party**

- a) The Clerk advised that the Borough Conservation Officer is taking steps with a view to making the building secure and weather-tight.
- b) The Clerk had sent a draft press release to the Borough for them to add their own comment on the matter.
- c) The Meeting discussed the inordinately long amount of time it was taking for the vendor to be in a position to sell the building to us and concern was raised over the alternative projects that could not be progressed as a result.
- d) It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy that the council continue to progress this matter

C17 /050 **Staffing Matters**
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that

- a) The additional hours for the Parish Handyman required to enable a timely completion of the project at the Leiston Shops be approved, and
- b) That contractual uplifts to staff pay scale points be approved for implementation from 1st April 2017.

RESOLVED

C17 /051 **Closure**
The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.55pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

C17/038a) Police Report – The SNT Newsletter had been circulated.

C17/038b) County Councillors reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- a) In response to my 13 queries re the Cangle complex I was sent a reply that is just not worthwhile repeating here. It answered nothing of the reasons why it was necessary in the first place, the consultation process that nobody seems to know anything about, and the disrespect to Haverhill Councillors in telling them 24 hours after the press was briefed. Regardless of what was said, April 1st will see anyone over the age of 21 being taken out of the system and the Borough Council housing people left to pick up the pieces.
- b) I am still awaiting the traffic data for Haverhill from Suffolk Highways which was promised to me 4 weeks ago.
- c) Car Parking Enforcement (CPE) has been formally approved by all councils across Suffolk.
- d) Attended Police & Crime Panel on 17th March. Subjects included partnership working, new policing model review (due to be published mid-April) & exploitation/protecting vulnerable people. I asked about the domestic abuse suite at Haverhill Police Station and was advised that they no longer considered this sort of concept a priority.
- e) The street lighting in/around the Cangle Road area is due to be repaired starting from mid-April for about 2 weeks and is expected to fix all lights including those not formally owned by the council. The adoption of the area is taking some time due to the lack of apparent response by Tesco however the repair is being financed by an insurance bond setup by Tesco when the area was developed.
- f) Several roads have had their parking restriction lines repainted in the last month. All we need now is for road users to respect them. Potholes remain the #1 complaint but residents need to understand that there is no easy solution in the lights of financial cutbacks.
- g) The work on the Recreation Ground cycle path continues and I am trying to find out why it is now some 2 weeks' overdue completion.
- h) I had a very good meeting with Suffolk Trading Standards on my way back from Ipswich last month. They explained to me their working over both illicit tobacco and alcohol sales especially geared around premises in Haverhill. One thing I did suggest was to ensure the Borough Licensing officer was made aware of any seizures from licensed premises as soon as they found and not to expect the police to pass on the information. Like most public sector agencies, the effect of financial cutbacks has apparently been quite devastating to the organisation. The good news is that the Illicit Tobacco Unit, complete with cute dogs, is expected back in town later this year.
- i) Withersfield Road lights. Work has now been sorted out and just awaiting a scheduled start date.

Councillor J Flood gave the following report:

- a) He is yet to hear back from the head of English Highways regarding the A1307 and other Haverhill Roads.
- b) He has raised concerns regarding the Greater Cambridge/Greater Peterborough and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnerships as he would like to see these organisations persuaded to carry out their functions with respect to Haverhill – Jobs, infrastructure etc to facilitate growth. Perhaps it is time to woo them a little?

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Councillor A Brown gave the following report:

- a) He has been in discussion with officers at County and Borough in respect of the old Chalkstone Middle School playing fields adjacent to Tesco. He would like to see that pass to the Borough as additional public recreation ground and/or space for allotments.
- b) The lighting project for the cycle way at Howe Road is all done bar one lighting column.
- c) Although outside of Haverhill Parish, he has asked the Borough to take action on the state of benches and lack of dog bins and signage on West Town Park, which is the Environment Agency's Flood Park opposite Sainsbury's.

C17/038c) Borough Councillors reports:

Councillor D Roach gave the following report:

- a) Councillor Roach has attended the Strategic Growth and Planning meeting at St Edmundsbury. They considered the government white paper on housing and the green paper on industry, in respect of how best to secure a share of the funding for West Suffolk. There was also discussion about how to get the most out of the local LEPs for Haverhill.
- b) CIL is proposed to be scrapped in favour of a replacement, LIT.

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- a) The Great Wilsey outline application for 2500 houses was approved at the beginning of March. Unfortunately, little respect was paid by out of town Councillors to the traffic problems the town will endure without the NW Relief Road being built first.
- b) Since the decision, much effort has been made by Cllr Brown and myself talking to Borough Council officers to try to bring forward the building of the NW Relief Road with a promise from them, at a recent meeting, to follow up some suggestions made.
- c) The NALP has previously said they will not fund road building projects unless it brings economic growth however they have just announced a £2.8m investment in Bury to "ease congestion". I have asked the Borough CEO to investigate why it is one rule for them and another for us.
- d) At the Scrutiny meeting post the planning decision, I identified many problems with the S106 agreement for the NW Relief Road despite being told at the planning meeting it was a "rock solid agreement". Those problems include the fact if the costs exceed the £7.8m bond in place the County Council does not have to do anything and, if they wanted, could renege on the whole deal and do nothing if they fancied. I hardly call that "rock solid". At the meeting there appeared to be no honest answer so I have asked Borough leaders to comment on this. No response so far has been forthcoming.
- e) The two electric charging bays in the Jubilee Walk car park off Brook Service Road are now installed and I believe are just awaiting commissioning.
- f) Corn Exchange – UKPN engineers have been carrying out cable shrouding works today as part of the procedure by the Borough Council to ensure the building is made secure prior to essential remedial works being undertaken as part of their legal conservation obligations.
- g) Don't forget April 7 & 8th is World Market Day in town. Queen Street will be closed from 4pm on Thursday 06 April 2017 to 9pm on Saturday 08 April 2017.

C17/038d) Public Forum:

Mrs Williams asked Borough Councillors present if they could advise her on the plans for the shrubs on the recreation ground alongside Camps Road. Councillor J Burns offered to find out what the current plans were and report back direct to Mrs Williams.

In answer to a follow-up question, Mrs Williams was advised that the Recreation ground still 'belongs' to the people of Haverhill, but legal ownership and responsibility for its upkeep rests with the Borough Council as the successor body to Haverhill Urban District Council.

Mr Wendell reported that

- a) Monday Group: is being publicised.
- b) Men's Group: This is now meeting at the Arts Centre – thanks for support from the Town Council and Arts Centre staff.
- c) Alzheimer Social Group – the first meeting is next week at St Nicholas Hospice
- d) Diabetic Retinopathy is happening up at the Chalkstone community centre, as none of the local surgeries have room. However, they do not have the full equipment. He is going to contact Healthwatch Suffolk to see what they think about this.
- e) Mr Wendell expressed concern about the Sue Ryder Synergy Café as he had received a letter which informed him that it Sue Ryder launches a new service called Dementia Together. He feels the Haverhill café will be on its own from October. They do not know the venue even for next week. He has suggested alternatives. There is also a suggestion to change day to fit in with support elsewhere. He hopes the new Navigator post will be able to help.

Appendix 2

8a) Mayors report from January to March 2017.

Mayoral engagements for the last period have been fairly quiet.

I have attended various meetings under the ONE Haverhill Partnership banner, looking at the Town Centre Masterplan and A1307 strategy.

I attended the County Council Chairman's civic reception in Ipswich which was really well attended. I have also attended nurseries and met with lots of children all quite fascinated by the Mayor's robes – and why do I wear a pirate hat?!

My wife and I attended the opening night of the Centre Stage production of 'Allo 'Allo, here at the Arts Centre. We really enjoyed the really professional production which made us laugh. It is a real asset to the town that we have such a vibrant group to entertain us. I must also mention that the supporting team do such a good job – it is not just about the acting and being on stage – it is all the other roles as well.

We had great pleasure in attending the Haverhill Rotary Club "young person of the year" awards held last week. These awards were given for achievements other than academic. It shows how our young people are doing things outside of the 'normal' education streams, helping other youngsters, organising activities and helping to bring inclusiveness to all/ There were some justifiably proud youngsters (and even prouder parents) that evening.