

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 26th March 2018 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor D Roach
Deputy Mayor Councillor A Brown
Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor J Burns
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor L Smith
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor A Williams
Councillor W Yang

Absent: None

In Attendance: Councillor M Marks, St Edmundsbury Borough Council
Colin Poole, (Town Clerk)

12 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

- | | | ACTION |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|
| C18
/033 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. | |
| C18
/034 | <u>Resignations</u>
The meeting noted that Councillor B McLatchy and Councillor I McLatchy had resigned. Casual Vacancies have been declared and a valid petition for an election received. The election, if contested, will take place on May 3 rd 2018. | |
| C18
/035 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
None. | |
| C18
/036 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings held 19th February 2018</u>
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins that the minutes of the meetings held 19 th February 2018 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED | |

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C18 /037	<u>Matters arising not on the agenda</u> There were no matters arising not on the agenda.	CLERK
C18 /038	<u>Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM</u> a) The Council noted the March SNT Newsletter had been circulated prior to the meeting. b) The meeting received reports from County Councillors on issues pertinent to Haverhill. See Appendix 1 for details. It was agreed during the discussion on road repairs that the Clerk should write to the portfolio holder for Highways inviting them to visit to examine the quality of repairs being carried out locally. 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. The Clerk was asked to raise concerns with SCC Highways over a large pothole on the access road to the Household Waste Recycling Centre.	CLERK CLERK
C18 /039	<u>Consultation: Warding Review – St Edmundsbury Borough Council</u> The meeting agreed to respond to the consultation making observations on the options presented, rather than endorse one over the other.	CLERK
C18 /040	<u>Consultation: Parking Management Strategy – Suffolk County Council</u> The meeting agreed consultation responses and instructed the Clerk to submit a response accordingly. In addition, it was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the Clerk write to Matt Hancock and the Minister responsible for the introduction of CPE to complain in the strongest terms about the proposed delay for Suffolk because of a lack of parliamentary time, given this is such a short and simple decision. RESOLVED	CLERK CLERK
C18 /041	<u>Mayor’s Report</u> See Appendix 2.	
C18 /042	<u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u> The Clerk updated the meeting on the proceedings of the ONE Haverhill Partnership Board meeting held 16 th March 2018. A report had been received from the Haverhill LifeLink project. In addition, the Chamber of Commerce has held the ONE Haverhill Partnership’s Skills Forum on 23 rd March, which gave an opportunity for local businesses to identify the skills shortages Haverhill faces and lobby education providers in town. Councillors endorsed the call for a good provision of skills and adult education and further education as well as a viable sixth-form offer, for the town as it offers growth potential and must have an educational to match.	
C18 /043	<u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u> a) Planning Committee It was proposed by Councillor J Crooks, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 13 th and 27 th February and 13 th March 2018 be adopted. RESOLVED b) Leisure and Community Committee It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the minutes of the meeting held 6 th March 2018 be adopted. RESOLVED	

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- C18 /044** **Financial Matters**
a) Authorisation of payments
It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that the listed payments totalling £106,164.43 be authorised.
RESOLVED
- b) Review of Internal Controls**
It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor M Byrne that the proposed amendment to the Finance Regulations to keep them in line with national procurement regulations be adopted.
RESOLVED
- C18 /045** ***Suspension of Standing Order***
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, Seconded by Councillor A Brown, that SO3w be suspended, the meeting now having lasted 2 hours, to enable the business at hand to be transacted.
RESOLVED
- C18 /046** **Finance Matters Continued**
c) Review of Asset and Insurance Register
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor C Turner that the updated Asset and Insurance register be adopted.
RESOLVED
It was agreed to review the older software which had been listed as assets and consider whether these items should be disposed of, given their age and it being unlikely they are in current use.
- C18 /047** **Project Update**
The Meeting considered the report of the Town Clerk on projects currently underway within the Council.
- a) Haverhill in Bloom**
It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the Council, acting as Sole Trustee of the Haverhill Community Trust, approves the setting up of a bank account in the name of Haverhill in Bloom.
RESOLVED
- b) Haverhill Bollards**
It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor A Bramwell, that the purchase of 6x Haverhill Bollards at a cost of £2352 be approved.
RESOLVED
- C18 /048** **Urgent Correspondence**
None.
- C18 /049** **Date of Next Meeting**
Monday 23rd April 2018.
- C18 /050** **Exclusion of press and Public**
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, 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 property and personnel matters.
RESOLVED

- C18** **Arts Centre Development Group**
/051 The Clerk reported on the proceedings of the Arts Centre Development Group meeting that took place on 20th March.
- C18** **Personnel Matters**
/052 The Clerk advised that the recent consultation exercise with the contracted staff who work in the Hartseats Café had been satisfactorily concluded. The Clerk and Councillor M Byrne highlighted the praiseworthy approach that the staff had taken and their engagement in the process which enabled them to be the architects of the changes.
 Whilst some core hours were reduced, the aspiration was that the new booked afternoon tea offer would generate sufficient additional work to cover that reduction. Staff had been given ownership of this project and were busy researching and planning all aspects of it.
 The Café opening hours would change as of 1st April to be 10am to 2:30pm.
- C18** **Closure**
/053 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:26pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

Appendix 1

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

C18/038b) County Councillors' reports:

Councillor D Roach gave the following report:

- a) Gritting of the roads has been the natural focus of SCC Highways over the last month, which diverts attention and resources from routine maintenance. However, the new financial year will bring an additional £21m earmarked for road repairs in the County and it is hoped that Haverhill will see its fair share.
 - a. Cllr P Hanlon highlighted the state of Millfields Way. Cllr Roach explained that he had met with a representative of SCC Highways, with Councillor Burns and the Town Clerk. The reinstatement work carried out as a result had already begun to fail. It was acknowledged that there was a problem laying asphalt on top of the old rigid concrete roadways but there was concern about the quality of workmanship.
 - b. Cllr M Byrne drew attention to the repairs in Duddery Hill which is failing after 12 months.
 - c. Cllr J Burns also raised concerns over the quality of work in the High Street. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Cllr J Storey, Portfolio Holder for Highways, inviting her to inspect the works being carried out in her name and taxpayers' expense, to judge for herself whether the standard is acceptable.
 - d. Cllr A Bramwell raised concerns over the parking of vehicles in the service road adjacent to Sainsburys, which is obscuring the visibility for vehicles emerging

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from the Sainsbury's car park resulting in accidents. This is not adopted highway. Cllr M Marks advised that this problem was forming part of the discussion regarding a current planning application for Sainsburys and the objection the Town Council lodged to that application.

C18/038c) Borough Councillors' reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- a) The cPad (defibrillator) boxes for East Town Park (ETP) and Strasbourg Square were made fully operational on 13th March. We hope to take some photos of donors & sponsors ready for a press release but now, delayed due to forthcoming elections, until after May 3rd.
- b) NW Haverhill: Archaeological work is coming to an end and we await the results with interest. Phase 1a, which is to build a 5m stretch of pavement near the A143 roundabout, has been completed. This is the trigger for the clock ticking on the NW Relief Road which has to be completed within 5 years, or when 500 houses have been occupied, whichever comes soonest. I have received confirmation from the developers that the proposal to name the Relief Road "Suffolk Regiment Way" has been met with tacit approval and I have asked they formally propose this to the relevant authorities.
- c) Sensitive commercial negotiations between the Borough Council and the prospective developers of the Atterton & Ellis site are still ongoing over the land to the front of the site that is owned by the Borough. The lease that Atterton & Ellis had on the land expired when they closed down and the right of way across the land also expired at the same time effectively making the site isolated from the road network. A recent meeting has been held by ward members with officers from the Borough Council as to how we can move this along. We will not receive an update until after Easter as to any progress. The developer has the right to demolish the buildings, if so desired, and revert to industrial use without change of use permission.
- d) Questions have been asked regarding the handling of the lease granted to Clerkins in Hollands Road. Many aspects of the planning process appear to have been ignored which is very worrying considering the landlord is the Borough Council. Investigations are ongoing.
- e) The Borough warding review consultation comes to an end this Wednesday (28th). The Boundary Commission will have their own public consultation later this year before making a final decision.
- f) We are still awaiting an update from UK Power Networks in respect of Withersfield Road lights. Work is due to start today (25th March) on lighting in way of Cangle Road (Tesco) by private contractors as the area has yet to be adopted by SCC.
- g) Reports from the VAS recently deployed on Howe Road are now available on the Town Council website. The reports have been enhanced to show more detailed analysis of speeds. Whilst it shows some excess speeds there is very little evidence of sustained infringements as suggested by residents.
- h) The March Haverhill area SNT police report was distributed to Councillors on 15th March. There has been no update to available Haverhill specific crime figures since last month's report.
- i) I recently spoke to the PCC & Chief Constable at the Police & Crime Panel about the continuing poor 101 response times. It was patently obvious they are as frustrated as we are. I have been told that they now expect the new system to go live in May 2018.
- j) The Greater Cambridge Partnership consultation over proposals for the A1307 corridor has been extended until 9th April. Two consultation events were held in Haverhill. Full details have previously been distributed to Councillors. All are strongly recommended to complete the online questionnaire.
- k) With Lizzi Cocker, I have been working on the shop front cosmetic upgrade scheme for One Haverhill including distribution & collection of consent forms to allow work to be done within budget.

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- l) The dangerous & damaged bollard outside Martins Newsagents was finally removed after 4 weeks of prompting however a poor job (once again by SCC Highways/Kier) of making the area good is very frustrating.
- m) I, and others, continue to have serious concerns over Barley Homes and its ability to deliver any new homes, of any description, for the benefit of taxpayers and residents alike. The Town Hall car park development looks like it may go to Development Control in July unchanged from what has previously been suggested and certainly with none of the Town Council aspirations over the Arts Centre expansion which is worrying.
- n) Once again, I have officially requested raw car parking data, to correctly gauge usage of the car parks in town, which the Borough Council seem reluctant to hand over. A 7.8% reduction in car parking usage for Haverhill in 2017 versus 2016 was announced at the recent O&S meeting but no real explanation other than some will be due to drivers constantly ignoring parking enforcement in the High Street. By comparison, a 2.2% drop in Bury St Edmunds was noted.
- o) Councillors have been asked for their availability for Town Council surgeries in the market after May 3rd.

Councillor A Brown gave the following report:

- a) Cllr Brown has attended meetings in regards to the surfacing of Railway Walk and improving access to it for wheelchair users from East Town Park. There have also been meetings to discuss strategies for improving issues around HMOs in town.

Councillor B Robbins gave the following report:

- a) He expressed concern about the increasing number of vehicles speeding in the High Street, without any regard to the safety of pedestrians. Enforcement is needed to catch and prosecute these drivers.

Councillor M Marks gave the following report:

- a) Councillor Marks had asked Mark Walsh (St Edmundsbury Borough) to take action regarding the problem of litter around the newt pond and rugby club.

C18/038d) Public Forum:

Resident: Raised concern about the potholes in the access road to the Household Waste Recycling Centre. The problem is exacerbated by parked cars from the adjacent flats and the overgrown hedge. The resident had not reported this matter online. The Clerk was asked to take this matter up with SCC Highways.

Chair of Haverhill South People's Forum: Thank you to the Councillors and Clerk for attending the exhibition on 17th March regarding the proposed Haverhill Pump Track.

Resident: Raised concerns regarding the Atterton and Ellis site, which is now derelict following a fire. Particularly there is concern regarding the security of the site, which presents a potential danger to children and could encourage further anti-social behaviour.

Councillor J Burns: The developer has bought an option on the site. However, this requires access over land owned by the Borough. There is a significant difference between the valuation of the land and the figure the developer is willing to pay.

Resident: Concern that the Borough Council is not acting as strongly as it could. We want the site developed.

The Council would like to see the matter of redevelopment of the site resolved. If there is no progress by the time enforcement action is concluded, the developer should be invited to attend a Council meeting to hear concerns and explain the delay.

Appendix 2

C18/041 Mayors report for March 2018.

Mayor David Roach reported he had a fairly quiet month largely due to a touch of flu. He attended the Haverhill Town Twinning Association quiz night which was well attended with over 100 participants. The Mayor also attended Centre Stage's production of *One Man Two Guvvners* which was an excellent play very funny.

The Mayor and Mayoress also visited Ehringshausen on behalf of the Council to present their Association's previous Chairman, Martin Neuhof, with the Haverhill Freedom scroll and a glass gift engraved with our town emblem.

H. Neuhof had written a letter of thanks to Haverhill Town Council for the presentation.

The Mayor is attending the U3A tomorrow and judging an Easter Egg competition on Thursday.