

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18th June 2018 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR



Present: Mayor Councillor A Brown
Deputy Mayor Councillor J Burns
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Roach
Councillor S Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Williams
Councillor W Yang

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

5 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor A Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded. He particularly welcomed Mr Henry Wilson MBE and congratulated him on his appointment in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Mayor Brown invited Councillor D Roach to present cheques to his chosen charities for his Mayoral year. Councillor Roach presented cheques to Mr H Wilson MBE for Reach and to Mr D Wendell for Terrific Tuesdays.

MINUTES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| C18
/101 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. |
| C18
/102 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
None. |
| C18
/103 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings held 15th May 2018</u>
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins that the minutes of the meetings held 15 th May 2018 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.

C18 **Matters arising not on the agenda**
/104 It was resolved by a show of hands that the Town Council representatives to the ONE Haverhill Partnership will be the Mayor, Town Clerk and Councillors Hanlon, Burns and Councillor Q Fox.
RESOLVED

C18 **Haverhill Breastfeeding Friends**
/105 Virginia Sullivan explained to the meeting the aim of their peer support organisation in supporting new mums in breastfeeding. It meets on Wednesdays 10-12pm with between 15-20 mums attending. 181 Facebook members locally. The UK has one of the worst breastfeeding rates in the world and this has been linked to health issues. The group are seeking financial support for breastfeeding Counsellors to attend each weekly session. They have a rota of three fully qualified counsellors, NCT, La Leche and ABM. The cost is £30 an hour for each two-hour session.
It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that £3120 be granted towards the payment of qualified breastfeeding counsellors.
RESOLVED

C18 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the**
/106 **PUBLIC FORUM**
a) The Council noted the June SNT Newsletter had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors expressed concern at the lack of exactitude in the language. The announcement of community engagement officers was welcomed.
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.

C18 **West Town Park**
/107 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Clerk sends a letter of support for Withersfield Parish Council's request to the Borough and County Councils in respect of improvements to visitor infrastructure at the park.
RESOLVED

C18 **Provision of bus stops adjacent to Haverhill Retail Park**
/108 It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that £5,000, subject to a satisfactory feasibility study for suitable sites and confirmation of service by bus companies. Councillor D Roach indicated that he would be pleased to consider a request for funding from his Locality budget towards this provision.
RESOLVED

C18 **Mayor's Report**
/109 See Appendix 2.

C18 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**
/110 The High Sheriff had hosted a very successful ONE Haverhill Partnership (OHP) branded evening reception for Haverhill volunteers. Nearly 200 people attended and the event was front page news in the Haverhill Echo. We took the opportunity to ask attendees for their views on what could make volunteering easier in Haverhill. Several people mentioned the loss of a

CLERK

CLERK

volunteer centre and others highlighted services that it used to offer. OHP has also been exploring the level of support for a Business Improvement District. The two meetings held at the Arts Centre were very positive.

OHP is also facilitating a launch of Haverhill4Jobs by DWP, encouraging businesses to engage in helping getting unemployed people back into work. The OHP Board is on Thursday. Concern was expressed that the Councillors who are Board members do not feel they are up to speed with activities. The Clerk advised that Board members receive minutes of meetings to enable them to stay informed.

C18 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/111 **a) Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meetings held 29th May and 11th June 2018 be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Personnel Committee

It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor M Byrne that the minutes of the meeting held 5th June 2018 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C18 **Financial Matters**

/112 **a) Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the listed payments totalling 120,848.81 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C18 **Projects Update**

/113

The meeting noted the report of the Clerk. News was welcomed that the Leiston Centre Social Room kitchen was in line for a makeover. It was suggested the Clerk contact Ben Pumfrey of Haverhill In Bloom in respect of landscape design for the Chalkstone Community Open Space.

CLERK

C18 **Haverhill promotional Merchandise**

/114

The meeting considered development of a promotional merchandising strategy. It was agreed that the Marketing Manager work with Councillors J Mason and C Turner to investigate what brand identity the people of Haverhill most value and associate with, and what merchandise they would be interested in having.

**Marketing
Manager**

C18 ***Suspension of Standing Order***

/115

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, Seconded by Councillor D Roach, that SO3w be suspended, the meeting now having lasted 2 hours, to enable the business at hand to be transacted.

RESOLVED

C18 **Adoption of Privacy Statement**

/116

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that the privacy statement presented to the meeting by the Clerk be approved, subject to minor amendment, for publication on the Council website.

RESOLVED

It was noted that privacy policies were required in relation to staff and Councillor Data. In addition, it was agreed that the next meeting should consider costs for providing all Councillors with HTC email addresses and register with the ICO any Councillors who do not have a registration via the Borough or County Council.

CLERK

C18 **Urgent Correspondence**

/117 None.

C18 **Date of Next Meeting**

/119 Monday 23rd July 2018.

C18 **Exclusion of press and Public**

/120 It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, 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 property and personnel matters.

RESOLVED

C18 **Arts Centre Development Group**

/121 The Clerk updated the meeting on the latest meeting of the Development Group.

C18 **Personnel Matters**

/121 None.

C18 **Closure**

/122 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 10:00pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

C18/106b) County Councillors' reports:

Councillor D Roach gave the following report:

1. Changes to traffic regulations in respect on decriminalisation remain in abeyance
2. Cllr Roach has been appointed as Chairman of SCC Planning – which deals with major policies such as the Mineral Plan and Rights of Way.
3. He attended a conference on the Oxford to Cambridge rail link. He reported that it was unlikely that this project would result in any extension beyond Cambridge.

C18/106c) Borough Councillors' reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- NW Haverhill: Borough planners have asked Persimmon Homes to cease above-ground work until concerns resolved. Work also continues to resolve the loss of the historical hedgerow. A recent development control committee resolved to defer the application for additional garages because of concerns over internal sizing and massing/security.
- The Borough Council met with owners of the Atterton & Ellis site recently. The Council has since written to the owners explaining what their position is and we are awaiting a response.
- Sturmer Arches. Discussed with CEO of the Borough the ongoing ownership problem. We agreed that I would investigate further.
- The Puffin Crossing on Ehringshausen Way is now mainly complete other than connecting to electrical supply & switching on.
- I am still chasing what has happened to the Clerkins site in Hollands Road.
- Work has taken place to re-secure the old Woodlands Hotel site following theft of tiles from the roof.
- The Withersfield Road lighting scheme was completed on time safely. There is still one light out.
- It is understood the Borough Council have started an investigation into Argos moving into the Sainsbury building which has a historical condition restricting what can be sold from the building to protect the Town Centre businesses.
- A new Community Engagement Officer has been assigned to Haverhill SNT area, probably based in Sudbury. The post will provide community engagement and the police include more use of social media, attending meetings, etc. They will work days/evenings on shifts.
- The Chief Constable and the Police & Crime Commissioner will be on Haverhill Market on Friday 17th August between 11.30am and 1.30pm as part of their "On Tour" agenda across the whole county. This is separate to the PCC meeting for each district which this year will be in BSE on Thursday 12th July. See <https://bit.ly/2HIEtQK>
- I attended Greater Cambridge Partnership (A1307) meeting recently to discuss the recent consultation. Due to concerns raised by Mayor James Palmer of the Combined Authority, work will only proceed now on the elements common to all the 3 proposed schemes.
- I am struggling to come up with a schedule for Town Council hosted market surgeries because of conflicts with other events. If we do hold any, we may need to initiate something at relatively short notice and hope we get support.
- The Mayor and I, plus various agencies such as REACH & Police, held a further meeting about HMO complaints specifically in Haverhill East. We did not get very far in obtaining council support and next action is to distribute an ASB form, on behalf of Suffolk Police, to neighbours of affected properties to gain direct feedback.
- Following concerns raised by users of the Leisure Centre further changes have been made to the plans with work now underway.
- I had a walk around with the new Borough Parking Manager last week and explained where problems exist particularly concentrating on parking south of the High Street and especially the Arts Centre. It is hoped that some work will result from this especially giving me access to data from all machines (and RingGo) to analyse parking behaviours after chasing for 2+ years. I have been advised that the £33K+ annual subsidy by the Borough Council to Abbeycroft, in the form of car park charges being refunded to users, is being reviewed as to its management but not to resolve the parking strategy for the Centre. It is still my intention to carry out a full car parking study separate from anything the Borough is proposing for 2019.

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

- York Road play area opened last Friday, and Strasbourg Square is opening this week, following renovation and replacement of equipment. We now hope that Strasbourg Square itself will be revisited to “tidy up” the planting and pathways.
- I have asked that the planning application for Haverhill Service Station in Sturmer Road be “called in” because of concerns raised by residents and HTC planning committee.
- As has been distributed to Councillors, the eastern end of the Town Hall car park will be closed from 2nd July to 5th July for test drilling. We have been assured that the disabled ramp & steps will remain accessible at all times.
- I have reported a damaged road sign at entrance to Alde Road.
- I have had another strange response to the drainage problem in Hollands Road. It would seem that SCC Highways cannot get it into their head that the camber of the road is towards the centre and that gully cleaning will not resolve it.
- I am investigating the lack of work on the old Vixen PH site in Millfields Way.
- I went last Thursday, with other Borough Councillors and Officers, to Graven Hill outside Bicester to see a site that is planned to have 1900 self-build houses. The general area has a plan to increase the size of Bicester by 30K houses over the next 15 years. It was a very interesting meeting with the houses so far completed/under construction varied in size and shape including one plot that the week before was just a concrete base and now has a completed, kit-built unit from Poland, on it. Some properties will be appearing in an episode of Grand Designs in January 2019. This idea is something I personally feel would fit in on the sites in Haverhill as the ultimate building cost is way below buying a house from a conventional builder – examples I saw were about 40% cheaper. The site is policy compliant (30% affordable) with minimum space standards and eco-friendly systems such as solar panels & charging points. See <http://gravenhill.co.uk/>

C18/106d The Public

Mr W gave an update on the current situation with Dementia. A pilot project has recently finished – awaiting outcomes Cambridge Care have an interest in dementia. Mr W would like to see all interested parties come around a table to set out what is on offer. He is endeavouring to make that meeting happen.

Appendix 2

C18/109 Mayors report for May and June 2018.

Mayor A Brown referred the meeting to a list of attendances to be provided in the minutes. He particularly wanted to highlight the visit to the Dunkirk Little Ships Event in Ipswich, ‘Spamalot’ at West Suffolk College and the Centre Stage production of ‘Made in Dagenham’. He also reminded the meeting of the Suffolk Day event on the market square. He had managed to arrange for a Suffolk Punch horse to be there, along with flying flags for Suffolk. He hoped as many councillors as possible would attend.