

# Haverhill Town Council

## Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,  
Haverhill, CB9 8AR



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:** Deputy Mayor Councillor J Burns  
Councillor M Byrne  
Councillor P Fox  
Councillor Q Fox  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor D Roach  
Councillor S Roach  
Councillor B Robbins  
Councillor L Smith  
Councillor C Turner

**Apologies:** Mayor Councillor A Brown  
Councillor A Bramwell  
Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor J Mason

**Absent:** Councillor A Williams  
Councillor W Yang

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

8 members of the public were present.

#### **Welcome:**

Deputy Mayor J Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

#### **MINUTES**

**C18**      **Apologies for Absence**  
**/142**      The above apologies were noted.

**C18**      **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**  
**/143**      C18/145 DC/18/0930/FUL Barley Homes Development, Town Hall Car Park:  
Declarations of a local non-pecuniary interest were declared by Councillors J Burns, P Fox, Q Fox, D Roach and B Robbins in that as Borough/County Councillors they are in positions of control in organisations with controlling interest in Barley Homes. None are Directors of Barley Homes. In addition, Councillors reserved their rights in respect of pre-determination, both regarding Town Council planning Committee and Borough planning committee.

**C18**      **Warding Review, West Suffolk Council**  
**/144**      Following on from the Local Government Boundary Commission England proposals for warding in Haverhill, Cllr J Burns had worked on alternative

**ACTION**

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

proposals to resolve the problem of coterminosity of parish boundaries with both County and Borough electoral boundaries. Current proposals necessitated the creation of two very small parish wards which would be unequal in representation and undesirable.

Cllr J Burn's proposal was to create 9 wards with 10 Borough Councillors. This met the criteria for equality of electorate and was in accordance with requirements in respect of boundaries.

The meeting noted that this current consultation was not a review of the number of Councillors, although the LGBCE had proposed the number of councillors remain at 16. Members expressed the wish that each ward had two town councillors, so at least 18 would be required in due course. As the warding review looked to 2023 and included homes not yet built, those wards not yet 'built out' need only one Councillor at present.

It was hoped that the Borough would support the proposals Cllr Burns had produced.

It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that the proposals made by Councillor J Burns be adopted by the Town Council and recommended to the LGBCE.

**RESOLVED**

- C18**      **DC/18/0930/FUL – Barley Homes Development, Helions Walk, Haverhill**  
**/145**      Councillor J Burns reminded the meeting that this agenda item was not to determine the consultation response, which would be formulated by the Planning Committee, but to allow views to be aired by those not on the Committee, to inform the response. Members agreed to hear the public speak on this matter. Cllr J Burns reminded the public that the Borough Council determined the planning application, the Town Council was a statutory consultee only.

Public comments are recorded in appendix 1

Cllr J Burns thanked the public and Members for their comments.

- C18**      **Date of Next Meeting**  
**/146**      Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018.

- C18**      **Closure**  
**/147**      The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:26pm.

Signed .....

Date.....

**Chairman**

## Appendix 1

### C18/145 Public discussion

Members of Public:

Why was this area chosen?

Why build 14 here when there are hundreds of homes being built in Haverhill?

Cllr J Burns: The site was identified in the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan which was consulted upon widely. However, the number of units and height of the blocks in this application are not in line with the Masterplan.

Concern over the detrimental impact on the property values in Helions Walk

Noted that the brick colour and number of storeys had been changed following informal consultation.

Concern remains at the height of a 3 storey block

Concern over the access on Duddery Hill, dangerous due to other junctions and buses

Cllr M Byrne: These issues will need to be robustly pointed out. Are traffic volume figures available for this junction?

Has the loss of income from the 71 car park spaces been factored in to the viability of this scheme?

Concern over the conflict of interest where the planning authority is the applicant

Cllr M Marks: This has been called in to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members of the public must write in with their concerns.

Cllr D Roach: Advised that the Borough is legally the local planning authority and no other vehicle for considering an application existed. However, he would support calls for the matter to be deferred until after Overview and Scrutiny had considered the matter.

Expressed resignation that no matter what people of Haverhill say, the people at the top of the Borough will do this anyway.

Cllr P Fox: She was currently minded to object and will speak at the Borough Planning Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> October.

The Town Clerk advised that those members of the public who felt strongly on this matter must write to the Borough with their views and consider attending the planning committee to look the Councillors in the eye when they determine this matter. The Town Council cannot claim widespread public objection to this application if there are no objections lodged.