

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 10th December 2018 at 7.30pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre, Haverhill, CB9 8AR



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor A Brown
Deputy Mayor Councillor J Burns
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor J Mason
Councillor S Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor L Smith

Apologies: Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor M Byrne
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor D Roach
Councillor C Turner
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, in particular Mr Kevin Betts and Mr Justin Waite of the Kedington Air Memorial Group who provided a short presentation on the men who died in five air crashes between 1938 and 1945, for whom a memorial is being erected in the foyer of Kedington village hall. So far £8,000 has been raised towards a target of £15,000. Mayor Brown thanked Mr Betts and Mr Waite for a very interesting presentation.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| C18
/197 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. |
| C18
/198 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
No declarations were made or requests for dispensation made. |
| C18
/199 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings held 26th November 2018</u>
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins that the minutes of the meetings held 26 th November 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
/200**

Casual Vacancy – Haverhill North

- a) The meeting noted that Mr Ant Williams had resigned as Councillor for the Town and Borough. The Mayor thanked him for his service to the town over the preceding 3½ years.
- b) The meeting considered whether to seek to fill the casual vacancy created by the resignation, given that there was only just over three months until nominations opened for election to the new warding in town, particularly as the Haverhill North Ward being reduced from 5 representatives to 3 following the decision by the Local Government Boundary Commission. It was proposed by Councillor S Roach, seconded by councillor L Smith, that the casual vacancy will be left unfilled until the ordinary election in May 2019.

RESOLVED

**C18
/201**

Report of progress on actions arising from previous minutes

- a) C18/167– Ambulance service in Haverhill: The Mayor reported that they were still endeavouring to agree a date for a second meeting, in January 2019, convenient for all parties. Councillor J Mason asked for it to be put on record that he was frustrated at the length of time being taken by EEAST to provide a substantive response to the FOI request submitted by the Mayor, who advised that he had been told that ‘Informatics’ at EEAST were collating the information.

**C18/
202**

Budget 2019/20

The Responsible Financial Officer provided a budget briefing based on the working document he had compiled, setting out a possible budget for the 2019/20 financial year.

- a) It was proposed by Councillor Q Fox, seconded by Councillor J Mason, that the Council allocates from reserves £6,937.22 for the purchase of new planters.

RESOLVED

- b) Councillors raised the following issues for further consideration by the RFO:
 - i. Review the effectiveness of database weeding processes to minimise mailout waste.
 - ii. Councillors supported the principle of a single off-site storage space for equipment and review of archiving. An alternative site option would enable Councillors to better weigh up the value to tax payers of this proposal.
 - iii. Councillors asked that £1k per annum be allocated towards a sinking fund for replacement of planters, to be taken from the unallocated Environment budget and transferred to the Haverhill In Bloom budget.
 - iv. Councillors agreed that the new council from May 2019, through the Leisure and Community Committee, should consider reviewing the events programme at governance level rather than continue inflationary uplifts without a review.
 - v. The RFO was asked to confirm sufficient training costs were included within the Parish Handyman budget, reflecting that recruitment will necessitate training.
 - vi. Councillors noted that IT support was due to be reviewed in Spring 2019, ready to provide in-house email to the new council.
 - vii. Councillors asked that the Arts Centre website maintenance budget of £500 be earmarked towards future costs of website development, currently unscheduled.

- viii. Councillors requested an additional line be added for income and expenditure relating to the digital display.
- ix. Councillors asked that the contribution to technical reserves be reviewed to ensure adequacy.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillors L Smith that the working document be adopted as an official first draft budget, for consideration at the January Full Council meeting on 28th January 2019.

RESOLVED

C18 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the**
/203 **PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) Police Report – The Council noted that the December SNT newsletter was not published until 13th December.
- 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 **Mayor's Report**
/204 See Appendix 2.

C18 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

- /205**
- a) The Board met on 5th December. Councillor P Fox was elected as the second Vice-Chair, to attend the meetings of the Ops group.
 - b) The Board received a report from the new Head of Samuel Ward Academy, Mr Andy Hunter. It was very upbeat and the Board were pleased to hear that the community sixth-form was building a strong offer and sign-ups by new students was very healthy.
 - c) The Board received a presentation by Mr Ronnie Knight from the Department for Work and Pensions on the Haverhill4Jobs project.

C18 **Bus Stop, Eringshausen Way**

/206 C18/191 Bus shelter at Eringshausen Way: The Clerk apologised that he had incorrectly advised the meeting held 26th November 2018 that the quote of £3,616.51 was for provision of a bus stop and shelter. It was in fact only for a bus stop, so he had brought the matter back to Council to reconsider. The meeting thanked the Clerk for bringing the matter back and asked that he ask SCC for a quote including a bus shelter.

CLERK

C18 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/207 **a) Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor Q Fox that the minutes of the meeting held 27th November 2018 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C18 **Financial Matters**

/208 **a) Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor B Robbins, that the listed payments totalling £57,518.32 be authorised.

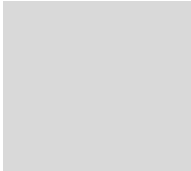
RESOLVED

C18 **Urgent Correspondence**

/209 None

C18 **Date of Next Meeting**
/210 Monday 28th January 2019.

C18 **Closure**
/211 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:10pm.



Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

C18/203b) County Councillors' reports:

Councillor Q Fox gave the following report:

- He is continuing to press for action over the range of Highways defects in town.
- Councillor Q Fox attended a scrutiny meeting in Lowestoft
- The SCC Budget was discussed at Scrutiny Committee. The proposal to reduce funding support to Citizens' Advice is to taper the funding reduction over two years..

C18/203c) Borough Councillors' reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues apace. Following a complaint from me, removal of spoil was suspended until a vehicle movement plan was implemented; despite there being a formal approved construction plan. The exit/entrance is too narrow, meaning the wheel washing process was taking place in that roadway resulting in lorries queuing up on the road and other vehicles on the A143 not being able to pass safely. Delivery vehicles were seen to be turning around on the blind bend of the A143 next to the Fox PH to try to use the southern entrance. Mud was being washed down onto the highway and into the ditch alongside. The developers were quick to respond and now have a permanent road sweeper on site plus they plan to widen the entrance to allow two-way traffic. Note that culvert building works will result in traffic signals outside the site for most of the time up until Xmas.
- **Old Westfield School Site, Manor Road:** See <https://bit.ly/2DWN7TV>
Comments from various statutory consultees have now been posted on the planning portal including the SCC s106 officer. Having made enquiries, I have been told the SEBC s106 officer has not been made aware of the development plans to date. I did speak to the Parks Manager and advised him of the desire for the railway walk upgrade to be financed via this method as he was not aware of the development either. The suggestion from the TC to use the green area for a small park has currently been discounted as appears it is the principal soakaway for the site.
- **Atterton & Ellis (Ironworks):** Discussions ongoing and I understand, scheduled for this week. I have emphasised that the area of greenery to the east of the site is sacrosanct and must not be included in the development plans. SEBC officers have confirmed this in writing to me.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still no news on this.
- **Clerkin Site, Hollands Road:** No further news.
- **Old Argos Building, 5 High Street:** The application to convert floors 1 & 2 to flats was approved last Thursday at SEBC Development Control.
- **Sturmer Road Coffee Shop:** See <https://bit.ly/2rr65cX>
A revised consultation on this has just been issued with changes to site layout and delivery management plan. You should review for yourself, but I have my own thoughts about road & pedestrian safety. This application has already been called in and I will advise the officer that nothing has changed.
- **Woodlands Hotel:** SEBC are progressing talks with prospective buyers and an announcement will be made once commercial considerations have been resolved.
- **Sainsbury's Access Road:** I spoke to the officer last week and said we expected a meeting over the traffic issues on this site and must not be delayed indefinitely.
- **Warding Review:** Still no answer from LGBCE over my FOI request for their datasets so I have made a formal complaint to the ICO. The new District Council warding maps are now available for Borough Councillors, to be publicly available soon as well as Parish maps.
- **Police:** There is no new SNT report as it is not published until after 13th of each month. The latest Crime Stats for Oct 2018 are now available and a summary has been emailed to Councillors.

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Community Engagement Officer PC Jon Gerrish & a Special Inspector (sorry forgot his name) attended our Family Night last Friday. I later spoke to Jon who said he was most impressed especially with the fireworks. Having worked all day volunteering for this event I too was pleased with the entire day and the number of people who said it was brilliant was most satisfying. One of the VAS was vandalised last week by being spray painted. This will now require work to clean off and probably replace the internal Perspex sheet that covers the display lamps. I remain convinced that the damage looks remarkably like that caused when VAS was in Chimswell Way some 14 months ago so may well be same culprit.

- **SCC Highways:** We have had no responses from them over any of the formal questions I raised with Cllr Mary Evans nor any response to questions raised at the “We Are Listening” event in the High Street.
- **Anglia Revenue Partnership:** I have recently dealt with several queries over council and business tax demands from ARP who collect council tax on behalf of SEBC. This includes a resident being demanded back payment for council tax when the resident had no such arrears. It was later determined that the arrears related to a previous occupier from 5 years earlier and had only come to light when a new computer system was introduced. I formally complained and have subsequently found I am not alone in having complaints about the service. The same resident received 8 separate tax demands in 3 months, all for differing values, and ARP failed to take any direct debits despite being set up. The resident is now having to pay twice what they budgeted for each month so they do not go into arrears by next April.
- **Corn Exchange.** I have asked the Borough Conservation Officer to determine the current ownership now and make sure work is carried out to protect the building again under an Urgent Works Notice as needed due to continued decline in the building fabric.
- **Haverhill Town Council Website:** This is now operating using Secure Socket Layers (SSL) and thus you should see a padlock alongside the URL in the browser address bar and the address is now <https://haverhill-tc.gov.uk> (note the https bit). This makes the site more secure but also prepares for when browser developers insist on sites using SSL at some time in the future.

C18/203d) Public Forum:

Mr D Wendell advised that the Terrific Tuesdays group and the Men’s Group are both increasing in memberships, which is good news. The Mayor thanked Mr Wendell for his work with the groups and for his report.

Appendix 2

C18/204 Mayors report for December 2018.

I attended West Suffolk College to see their production of ‘Zombie Prom’; it was a terrific show, the standard of acting and singing was amazing, it was good to see students from Haverhill involved.

I was invited along to Henry Wilson’s MBE reception at Thurlow, I was so pleased that Henry was awarded this deserved honour for all his tireless work helping those less fortunate in our area. As Henry said, it was also for all the staff of ‘REACH’ and their dedicated commitment to the Town.

Went to a charity Coffee morning at Peasgood and Skeates funeral directors. They are extremely community-minded and like to get involved in our local area.

I attended the ‘Toy Service’ at the Methodist Church. This is the Sunday where members of the congregation bring in presents and toys that are distributed to those children that are in the care of Social Services in our town. The generosity of the donors was outstanding; even young children had given up some of their pocket money to buy gifts.

I must say that I have noticed over the last few months how much the churches in our town go the ‘extra mile’ to look after those that are vulnerable and have special needs in our community. This is to their credit, they are doing an amazing job, helping to look after those that sometimes fall through the cracks in our society

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I was invited to the Mayor of St Edmundsbury's carol service at the Cathedral. It was a lovely event and a good start to the Christmas festivities.

I attended the Nativity play at 'Stepping stones' pre-school, it is always fun to see young children enjoying themselves.

The Family Christmas Night and firework display was marvellous, good to see so many community stalls in the High Street; I tried to visit as many as possible. It was good to see the Army Cadets helping with the event and especially the bucket collection. Well done to all the Town Council team it was a terrific night, many residents praised the events.

I had the honour of being invited along to St Mary's Church in Bury for the Royal Anglian Regiment's regimental carol service. This was also a terrific event and I was made to feel very welcome. Speaking to several senior members of the regiment after the event they said that they had appreciated the many Haverhill members of the regiment who had served over the years.

I was invited along to the Old Independent Church for the Haverhill Singers presentation of 'Christmas Days'. This was a fantastic evening, hearing their version of Handel's Messiah will be something that I will particularly never forget; a huge choir, accompanied by the best organ in East Anglia and an internationally renowned opera singer was truly amazing. I was not aware that the Haverhill Singers have been going since 1860; we are very lucky to have so many talented musicians and singers in our town.

Finally, the town's civic carol service is this Wednesday Evening at St Mary's Church, please come along, it will be good to see you there. For those that cannot make it I would just like to wish everyone a great Christmas if I do not see you before.