

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18th February 2019 at 7.00pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre,
Haverhill, CB9 8AR



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor A Brown
Deputy Mayor Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Roach
Councillor S Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor L Smith
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Councillor M Byrne
Councillor W Yang

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

2 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

- | | | ACTION |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| C19
/017 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies and those of Borough Mayor Margaret Marks were noted. | |
| C19
/018 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
No declarations or requests for dispensation. | |
| C19
/019 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings held 28th January 2019</u>
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meetings held 28 th January 2019 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED | |
| C19
/020 | <u>Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM</u>
a) Police Report – The Council noted the February SNT Newsletter is not yet published. Concern was expressed about apparently increasing levels of | |

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

violent crime associated with drug dealing, with no visible police presence to deter it. The Council asked that Inspector Danny Cooper be invited to the next meeting to address concerns regarding violence locally.

- 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.

C19 **Mayor's Report**
/021 See Appendix 2.

C19 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**
/022 a) The Board has not met since the last Full Council meeting.

C19 **Adoption of Committee Reports**
/023 **a) Planning Committee**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the meeting held 12th February 2019 be adopted.
RESOLVED

C19 **Financial Matters**
/024 **a) Authorisation of payments**
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the listed payments totalling £44,553.63 be authorised.
RESOLVED

C19 **Urgent Correspondence**
/044 None

C19 **Date of Next Meeting**
/013 7pm Monday 25th March 2019.

C19 **Exclusion of press and Public**
/014 It was proposed by Councillor C Turner, seconded by Councillor D Roach, 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 – Third party confidential information and commercial property matters.
RESOLVED

C19 **Property Matters**
/015 a) The Clerk updated the meeting on progress in due-diligence enquiries on proposals for acquiring a premises for the delivery of services to young people in Haverhill.
RESOLVED

C19 **Closure**
/016 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:00pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

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

C19/020b) County Councillors' reports:

Councillor P Fox gave the following report:

There has been a change in our political make up. Quillon is a Conservative County Councillor and Paula is now an Independent Councillor as of the 12th February 2019.

High Street

There is a push for Haverhill to be a Business Improvement District (BID), I have spoken to some of the people that wish to have the BID, and there is a lot of resistance to any other suggestion like a Community Improvement District (CID), but I find that now even this idea is falling behind with other towns. In Scotland they have started working with the idea of a Digital Improvement District. Whatever happens we need to include the community in the High Street and not just businesses, the Community are the footfall, they are what makes a town. As mentioned before, footway repairs will be taking place along the High Street soon. This includes the re-laying of the slabs on the footway, with the worst areas targeted. This may cause some disruption but the Town Council will be kept up to date with what is happening.

Haverhill (Risbridge) Dementia Action Alliance (HRDAA)

We are now up and running properly as of last week. Finally, we will be able to start moving along with projects and creating a town that is dementia friendly. I am not talking just shops on the High Street, I am including businesses all over town. People phone up different businesses from time to time to talk to them and the person on the receiving end of the phone call needs to be aware that the person may have dementia. After a small training session which will be open to all we are hoping that businesses will incorporate the training into their induction sessions for new employees and train existing employees.

I asked the DAA group to allow the name to have 'Risbridge' in the title because I would like to take the good practice we hope to develop in Haverhill to the Risbridge Hundred area. This way we can include villages like Kedington, Hundon or Wickhambrook.

Duddery Hill

Good news - Works are going to take place at the end of the month to fill in the dips.

Bad news – They are not going to properly survey the road to see how they can fix the road permanently. They only filled in the sinking area two years ago, but are coming back to do it again and one wonders, will they need to come back in another two years and is this cost effective. They need to fix the problem then fix the road.

Mount Road

Quillon and I have offered to use our highways locality budget to have some kind of traffic calming measure put in along the road; this is mainly because there is not a lot else they can do down the Victorian street. We are waiting to hear if that is a viable option.

Burton End

After a lot of campaigning we have finally got work starting at Burton End, I did need to use the highways locality budget to achieve this and it is not quite what the campaigners wanted but it is something to address a few of the issues. The main campaigners for improvements to this area are a few mothers and one in particular. They have put a lot of work into getting noticed. You may have seen about the campaign in the Haverhill Echo. The works are planned for 25th February – 1st March. Planned Works: Reconstructing the footway in order to install a pedestrian crossing point, associated signage and road markings along Burton End from the junction of Cleeves Road to the junction of Greenfields Way.

Councillor D Roach advised that a) he had attended the Health and Wellbeing event at the Leiston Centre; b) Councillor locality budgets need spending up; c) the works to improve Railway Walk adjacent to East Town Park are underway.

C19/020c) Borough Councillors' reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

NW Haverhill: Work continues apace. Discussions now ongoing between Persimmon Homes and planners over Phase 2 including drainage and infrastructure.

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Two applications have been published which includes plans for 2 x construction compounds off Haverhill Road north of the Fox PH and in Chalkstone Way opposite Gannet Close. There will be two developments as part of Phase 2 totalling about 1000 units with development off Haverhill Road and a cluster of about 200 units alongside Chalkstone Way to the east of Westfield School.
 - **Old Westfield School Site, Manor Road:** This came before the Borough Planning Committee for determination on Thursday 7th February and was passed unanimously although I did question the development brief, developed by SCC some 8+ years ago, as being relevant to today's market forces. The upgrade for the railway walk was welcomed that Cllr Brown and myself had asked for.
 - **Chapelwent Road:** This also came back before Development Control and was also passed unanimously with the removal of the plan for a footpath between Howe Road houses. The developer confirmed they would look separately at a route across the old railway walk in the SE corner of the development.
 - **Atterton & Ellis (Ironworks):** No further news.
 - **Sturmer Arches:** Still no news on this.
 - **Clerkin Site, Hollands Road:** No further news.
 - **Sturmer Road Coffee Shop:** The application was withdrawn by the applicant as there was no satisfactory resolution to the lorry movement and noise concerns. It may well return.
 - **Offices above old Job Centre:** Still under consideration. This will affect existing 2nd floor residents by removing one of their fire escape routes.
 - **Woodlands Hotel:** No formal notice on this yet as believe contracts still not completed.
 - **Sainsbury's Access Road:** Still no news from the Borough officers over arranging a meeting.
 - **Police:** The February SNT report is not available as at time of writing. The December crime statistics were distributed earlier.
- The vandalised VAS I have now cleaned as best I can of paint although still some minor work to remove from the Perspex covering the LEDs.
- **SCC Highways:** I spoke to Cllr Mary Evans again at a recent Borough meeting and was told that SCC are working on answering the questions I posed to them some 4+ months ago! Some good news regarding the High Street paving issues will be announced soon by SCC.
 - **Markets:** I reviewed the new regulations due to come into force across West Suffolk Council in April 2019, without any adverse comments, however these need to be agreed with the traders across the region first.
 - **NW Relief Road:** As was announced recently this road will be officially named "Suffolk Regiment Way" once it is built with Persimmon Homes agreeing to help out with a formal opening. I've had confirmation that Friends of the Regiment are keen to become involved and we hope that the Regiment itself will have some personnel available when the time comes.
 - **Roadside collection of batteries:** The Shadow Council Cabinet for West Suffolk has decided to cease this facility as from April 1st 2019 in view of the alternative places where they can be disposed of. Personally, a retrograde step as the amount being collected is increasing at a steady rate and may mean more end up in the black bin and ultimately the incinerator at Great Blakenham.
 - **Haverhill Leisure Centre.** Along with other Councillors and guests, I attend the relaunch of the new play areas plus the new treatment rooms etc. funded by the Borough Council.

C19/020d) Public Form:

Resident: Does the Council have any comment on the level of GP coverage in town, with Newmarket having 20 GPs and Haverhill just 7. Does this reflect a reluctance to work in Haverhill?

Councillors advised that the Council was aware and had expressed concern on several occasions to the West Suffolk CCG and the Secretary of State for Health himself. Undoubtedly there are factors which make Haverhill less attractive to new GPs. The shortage of GPs itself means that any new GP is immediately going to be overworked themselves. This is exacerbated by the fact the average number of visits per patient is significantly higher than the national average upon which funding is based. This is a vicious circle which makes Haverhill an unattractive proposition.

The Council supports efforts to reduce the burden on existing GPs so that Haverhill can turn this around. A new Health Hub is envisaged in the Masterplan. Changes to booking systems to reduce 'no shows' and proposals to change systems for repeat prescriptions would also cut the number of appointments. The triage system to immediately refer patients to on-site clinical professionals rather than via the GP themselves also reduces the workload.

Resident: The workload for GPs is ridiculous – the NHS needs to bring in a new GPs as a team so that they are not themselves immediately overwhelmed.

Councillors: The Haverhill Area Forum heard directly from the Secretary of State that we must lobby now for improved services on the back of residential development and the Masterplan, as these things take many years to deliver. The walk-in centre was lost and patients are having to travel to access healthcare, which can be a barrier. It is ridiculous that Haverhill patients have to go to Newmarket for a blood test.

The Council is working with the Masterplan on a public health hub and seeking to identify the key NHS officers who can work on making it a reality.

Appendix 2

C19/021 Mayors Report

7/2/2019 – The Mayor took part in BBC Radio Suffolk's Mark Murphy Breakfast Radio show promoting Haverhill.

9/2/19 - Attended the launch of the "Friends of St Mary's Group" at the Church, good to see so many people keen to help support the oldest Church in Haverhill, that has such a great History. Councillor D Roach thanked the Mayor for attending this.

Launch of the new £1.5m improvements at the Haverhill leisure centre; the new facilities look terrific. Councillor J Mason expressed concern at the charges for using the new facilities. It is understood these will be kept under review by Abbeycroft Leisure.

10/2/19 - Attended a concert by Linton Jazz for the Joshua Tarrant trust at the arts centre, it was a great afternoon and well over a £1000 was raised for the charity. The Mayor remind Members of the opportunity to sponsor him in the charity cycle ride he had organised.