

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25th March 2019 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 Fox
Councillor Q Fox
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Roach
Councillor S Roach
Councillor B Robbins
Councillor C Turner

Apologies: Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Bramwell
Councillor W Yang

Absent: Councillor J Crooks

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Inspector Danny Cooper

5 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor A Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Mr Dennis Wendell, who updated the Council on the two Haverhill Community Trust Groups that he leads. The Men's Social Group was set up in February 2015 by Age UK. Mr Wendell took over running the group in April 2017 when funding for Age UK ended. The group provides self-support and friendship to members, male over age 50. 9 attended the monthly group in February out of a membership of about 17-18. The members like to talk and put the world to rights.

'Terrific Tuesdays' dementia group meets weekly at the Arts Centre or Cleves Place. Sue Ryder pulled out in 2017 and with help from the Town and Borough Council Mr Wendell was able to maintain the group's existence. Funds are healthy at the moment. 24-26 members attend each week out of an overall membership of 33+. Guest speakers attend to tell anecdotes, or talk about local history for example. Singing, quizzes, bingo are all popular activities. They have tea and coffee mid-morning and a lunch. Sue Ryder do send a rep once a month. It is a self-help group for family carers, not paid carers.

The Mayor thanked Mr Wendell on behalf of the Council for his report, but more particularly for the work he did for fellow family carers and those in need of social support. The Mayor called the meeting to order and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

ACTION

- C19 /030** **Apologies for Absence**
The above apologies were noted.
- C19 /031** **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
No declarations or requests for dispensation were made.
- C19 /032** **The minutes of the Full Council meetings held 18th January 2019**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor B Robbins that the minutes of the meetings held 18th February 2019 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED
- C19 /033** **Progress of actions arising from the minutes of 18th January 2019**
Inspector Cooper is attending the meeting.
- C19 /034** **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM**
- a) **Police Report** – Inspector Cooper thanked the Council for inviting him to speak about the concerns Councillors had in respect of violent crime. He observed that it is an issue for Haverhill, but that the town is by no means alone.
Police are addressing the issue in a number of ways, but society generally has a role to play. Councillors accept that a partnership approach is required.
Inspector Cooper said he shared the shock people felt about these incidents, but also felt angry that these crimes are played out in his patch. That anger turns to frustration in some cases, as it emerges these are internecine crimes where the victim is themselves connected to the drug scene and in some cases intending harm to others and finding the tables turned, ending up the victim. This can make securing prosecutions based on victim testimony difficult so often the Police treat them as ‘victimless crime’ and prosecute the matter without relying on a witness/victim giving evidence.
There are of course some incidents unfortunately involving people entirely innocent of any connection with crime, but the guarded phrase “a targeted attack” in the media would suggest the victim was highlighted for a specific reason and that there is minimal risk to the wider public.
Unprovoked/unrelated attacks remain rare in Haverhill.
Inspector Cooper gave some feedback on specific incidents.
Operation Sceptre involves a knife amnesty and leaflets plus school visits warning young people about the consequences of carrying a knife. 78 knives have been surrendered, some particularly nasty ones included.
The Suffolk Community Safety Partnership is leading co-ordination of responses on County Lines, covering both enforcement and education (e.g. Crucial Crew).
Inspector Cooper thanked Councillor John Burns for providing Haverhill-only figures extrapolated from the national database. This shows levels of overall crime as static.
- Councillors then asked a series of questions:
- Stop and search ongoing? *Yes, particularly in response to intelligence received, in which case specific individuals are stopped.*

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Are both secondary schools getting briefings? *Yes.*

A recent SCC Scrutiny Committee meeting suggested W Suffolk had more of a problem with County Lines than E Suffolk? *Yes, this would be true, but bear in mind the situation is in permanent flux – lines form and close down within the course of a day.*

How supportive are parents when told of children being found involved with knives etc? *Mixed – some horrified, many are helpful, but some deny it. Also some 11-12yo children have no family support anyway.*

Ex-gang members report feeling a sense of belonging within a gang that they have not found elsewhere? *The CSP is looking at how gangs are providing role models for disaffected youth and how this can be debunked. There is no gang in Haverhill at the moment but one could form, easily.*

How does county lines activity in Haverhill compare to that in Sudbury, for example? *Currently there are 1-3 county lines operating in Haverhill compared to usually only one in Sudbury.*

Reporting crime is too long-winded through 101. *The Haverhill SNT is happy to receive any intel through email haverhill.snt@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

Could we have some traffic police visits? – speeding vehicles have been a real menace. *That request will be relayed back to HQ*

- 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**

/035 See Appendix 2.

C19 **Planning Matters**

/036

- a) **DC/19/0226/FUL** 1-3 High Street, Haverhill CB9 8AA. Councillors considered the application for change of use of the first floor level from class A1 (ancillary retail storage) to C3 (Dwellings) to create 7 flats. The Town Council resolved to **OBJECT** to this application on the following concerns:
 - Overdevelopment of the building
 - Individual flats are very small, do the flats meet any minimum size guidance such as LACORS Fire Safety Guidance to ensure residents safety?
 - There is insufficient daylight and sunlight in the majority of the flats, therefore if constant electric lighting is required, is this a sustainable development for resident's health and wellbeing?
 - As the building is in a Conservation Area, the provision of a discreet communal TV aerial and satellite dish is required.
 - The Town Council suggest the provision of 12kw car charging points
 - Please confirm that the cycle storage and refuse storage facilities are being provided in an appropriate way to encourage use by the residents
 - Provision for sufficient quality of Broadband for the flats.
- b) **Local List:** The meeting noted the production of the book "Notable buildings of Haverhill", compiled by Mr Patrick Crouch. This was funded by the Council to be the basis of a 'local list', which should be compiled by the planning authority's Conservation Officers. It was agreed to send a complimentary copy of the book to the head of planning and to the Conservation Officer.

**Action:
Town Clerk**

C19 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/037

- a) The Board meeting is later this week.

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Councillors P and Q Fox left the meeting 20:25pm

C19 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/038 **a) Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meeting held 12th March 2019 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C19 **Financial Matters**

/039 **a) Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor C Turner, that the listed payments totalling £127,194.96 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C19 **Urgent Correspondence**

/040

None

C19 **Date of Next Meeting**

/041

7pm Tuesday 30th April 2019. This will be the last meeting of this Council session.

C19 **Exclusion of press and Public**

/042

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor C Turner, 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, confidential personnel matters.

RESOLVED

C19 **Confidential briefing by a commercial party**

/043

Mr Philip Jordan provided an overview of proposals for the Gurteen's Mill site, which will shortly be subject to public consultation. Members made various observations on the proposals and looked forward to seeing an application come forward in due course.

Councillor C Turner left the meeting 21:20pm

C19 **Property Matters**

/044

- a) The Clerk updated the meeting on progress in due-diligence enquiries on proposals for acquiring premises for the delivery of services to young people in Haverhill.
- b) Councillors expressed a preference for closing this deal, all things being satisfactory, at the earliest opportunity. The Clerk was asked to obtain advice on how this can be achieved.
- c) The meeting agreed that it was important that the continuity of service provision must continue between now and any transfer. The Clerk was instructed to work with the current owner to enable the service to remain open.

Proposed Councillor M Byrne, seconded Councillor D Roach

RESOLVED

C19 **Personnel Matters**

/045

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Roach, to approve the changes to employer status with the Town Council acting as Paymaster.

RESOLVED

**Action:
Town Clerk**

**Action:
Town Clerk**

It was noted that the Town Council, as Paymaster, main employer and in ultimate control of the other legal entities, would always be a co-respondent in any employment law matter. This represented 'no change' as the Town Council was currently the only employer.

**C19
/046**

Closure

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.

C19/034b) County Councillors' reports:

Councillor P Fox advised that:

A survey has been carried out for Mount Road to tackle speeding

Crowland Road not suitable for a 1-way traffic system.

Orchard Close – Residents are interested in developing a community garden to prevent on-verge parking.

Councillor Q Fox advised that:

Highways England were the legal owner of Sturmer Arches. Deputy Mayor J Burns disputed this. The Clerk advised that previously Highways England had stated it did NOT belong to them and works they carried out were purely on a without prejudice basis.

Councillor D Roach advised that:

He had raised concern with Suffolk Highways that every mini roundabout and pedestrian crossing in Haverhill required repainting.

He noted the story in the paper that the works on the Railway Walk at Chalkstone Way had been completed.

No date for the works to improve the household waste recycling centre had been given. Councillor Q Fox advised 2020/21.

Councillor M Byrne thanked the Councillors for their support on getting Duddery Hill resurfaced. It was looking very good. Also thanks to Councillors Q & F Fox on behalf of Mount Road residents.

C19/034c) Borough Councillors' reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

NW Haverhill: Work continues apace. There have been some problems as to construction of the houses and the Borough planning officers are creating a briefing document for Councillors to be issued soon. It is understood that some remedial work will be needed to ensure the development is built as per approved drawings.

• **Great Wilsey Park:** Several people, including the Town Council, have submitted their comments regarding the applications for 2 x construction compounds.

• **Clerkin Site, Hollands Road:** The retrospective application for this was approved last month despite reservations from myself, and others, regarding traffic management and asbestos removal.

• **Offices above old Job Centre:** Approved despite objections by the Town Council and others.

- **Haverhill Retail Park.** I keep emailing the owners, but they are not answering my queries as to rumours surrounding the 4th (empty) unit. Still awaiting news of any action being taken regarding the incorrect layout of the Lidl car park.
- **HSBC Bank:** As was reported in the press, the sale of this building to the Borough Council was announced this past week. This was instigated by Tony Brown and myself, about 4 years ago, so it is a shame it has taken this long to come to fruition especially as no mention of the efforts we went to in trying to force the Borough's hand on this. Let's hope it is used for the benefit of the people as was suggested during the discussion process. **Councillor P Hanlon** expressed his thanks to the Borough for doing this.
- **Sainsbury's Access Road:** Still no news from the Borough officers over arranging a meeting. I spoke to the officer this last week expressing disappointment the planning department have not followed this up for some 4 months now.
- **Police:** The February & March SNT reports will not be published because the author has been away on other duties. It is hoped the April report will be made available around middle of next month. The January 2019 crime statistics were distributed earlier.
- **SCC Highways:** It was good to see some of the jobs that I, and others, had reported over the past 2-3 years (e.g. Duddery Hill, Hollands Road) finally get resolved (hopefully) recently. It is a shame that SCC failed to respond to the emails I posed to them some 5+ months ago at the Borough Scrutiny meeting. The good news that work starting on the High Street paving (finally) was welcomed. I have made sure it was widely announced on social media and market traders have been advised that they may need to be flexible when it comes to their stall locations. The damaged bollard outside Costa Coffee will be replaced at the same time.
I have been told the white lining at northern end of Duddery Hill near the High Street has finally been ordered but no timescale. The other missing white areas – such as several roundabouts that no longer exist – appear not to be on anybody's list due to “budget cuts” as quoted by SCC.
- **Haverhill Leisure Centre.** I attended the finalisation of the footpath up to the old railway line in Chalkstone Way this last week. This was instigated by Tony Brown about 3-4 years ago as SCC Councillor with some of his locality funding, as did I at Borough level, to help with the cost which was not unsubstantial. It appears well used already based on pedestrians and cyclists I have seen using it and the work done to a high standard by the Borough's contractors. This now makes 4 such enhancement projects either carried out, or pending to be funded by S106 contributions, instigated by local members.
- **CPE & TRO.** I have been discussing with SCC Highways the Traffic Regulation Order for Queen Street and they have agreed to finally install parking permitted signs on the two marked parking bays in the road. All other locations are (in theory anyway) not allowed to be used for parking and will be enforced when CPE finally roars into view. There are quite a few new signs to be installed to ensure this and other TROs are legally enforceable as well as replacement of those that are either in the wrong place or damaged.
- **Speeding.** I recently placed the 2 x VAS in way of School Lane on behalf of the police, but the alleged continuous speeding was not found to meet enforceable limits.
- **Westbourne Court Development.** Despite what it says on the board outside this development on the corner of Millfields Way and Wrattling Road, the new residential units are going to be called “Gibberd Place” after Sir Frederick Gibberd, the architect of the first masterplan for the town in 1972, designer of Harlow New Town and Liverpool Catholic Cathedral. This is welcome news remembering a man whose masterplan is still used today by planners as the “bible” for the town.
- **Commonwealth Day.** As mentioned by Tony Brown in his report, I was proud to attend this event and to make a speech on behalf of the Commonwealth Secretary General. I do apologise to those who thought I wrote it but was substantially longer than even I would normally write with some tongue-twisting sentences. It was a good afternoon, the sun shone, and Samuel Ward Choir did their usual splendid singing. A film of the event is available on YouTube.
- **Mayor's Bike Ride.** I had the easy bit driving from location to location. Again, the weather was kind to us right up until we returned to Haverhill. It is worthwhile mentioning that there were only 4 riders and Tony did really well riding the 46 miles between locations, up and down several hills (he probably would call them mountains), raising a fantastic amount of money for his nominated charity; Joshua Tarrant Trust. Some film and photo footage were made and hopefully will make its way onto the charity website.

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A reminder that a Casino Night also in support of the charity is being held this Saturday night (30th March) in the Arts Centre.

• **Future High Street Fund.** I assisted in gathering together video footage in which 3 young people from Samuel Ward Academy spoke about their desires and frustrations with the Town Centre. They did really well considering they were thrown in at the deep end, and the footage was being edited by the Borough Comms team when I saw them last week ready for submission to the MHCLG. Fingers crossed we get through the first stage and onto the actual bidding process.

I did attend the Forest Heath Scrutiny meeting where they had lodged a call-in as to the process used to nominate Haverhill but, after due discussion and voting, it failed to achieve the required support despite the passion of the Brandon members. They were advised there is likely to be a second town from West Suffolk nominated and they will be included as potential candidates. One downside from their point of view is that there is currently only planned 85 houses to be built as part of their local plan because the town is surrounded by Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSI).

• **Haverhill Research Park.** As was recently emailed to local Borough members, the owner of the Haverhill Research Park, a day after being approved for a conditional loan by the Borough Council to build the “EpiCentre” at the gateway to the town, announced a consultation to build 155 residential properties on the remaining land instead of employment units that were supposed to be the backbone to the development in Vision 2031. The consultation is being held at the Flying Shuttle PH pm from 3pm to 8pm. It has attracted a lot of negative comments from residents on social media.

C19/034d) Public Form:

Resident: Is it possible for the Town Council ask the Planning Authority for all development in Haverhill to be put on-hold until there are sufficient GPs to cover the town?

Clerk: No.

Mayor: The resident will be well aware of the efforts the Town Council has gone to in raising the issue of GP shortages, including raising it with the Secretary of State at the Haverhill Area Forum. The next Area Forum is focussed on getting the relevant NHS representation from the departments that decide on building new facilities.

Clerk: We need to create the sort of £multi-million, multi-disciplinary health centre that has been built in Sudbury, for a much smaller population, as this would be an attractive offer to new GPs and if we can get a group to join at the same time that will make a big difference to capacity. It is difficult to attract a single GP who will just see an impossible workload coming their way, in relatively poor buildings.

Resident: Voiced concern over the new triage system – he wanted to see a GP, not discuss his issues with a receptionist.

Councillors: The triage system does work. The public need to shift their expectations from insisting seeing a GP before getting referred to a specialist, when they can be seen by a specialist immediately. It misrepresents the situation to suggest the patient is being asked to self-diagnose. The ratio of patient visits to GPs in Haverhill is far higher than the national average which exacerbates the problem caused by a GP shortage. LifeLink and triage are intended to reduce the burden, to make Haverhill less unattractive to recruiting GPs.

Appendix 2 C19/035 Mayors Report

Chalkstone community Centre

Cutting the ribbon at the opening of the extension to the Chalkstone Community Centre. It was very good to see the amount of effort that went into the revamp and extension, also the number of groups that now use the facility. It is busier than it has been for a long time.



Joshua Tarrant Charity Cycle ride

Along with my fellow cyclists I managed to cycle the 46 miles from Ipswich to Haverhill via Hadleigh and Sudbury. At each of town we were made to feel very welcome by the Mayors of each of the Towns; it was a great day. We managed to raise the profile of the charity and getting on for £1500, for the charity. Special thanks to Cllr John Burns and Denise Tarrant for all the support that they provided on the ride and the staff at the Arts Centre for their warm welcome on our return.



Story here <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/brain-tumour-charity-bike-ride-success-1-5939874>

Commonwealth Day

We had a terrific Commonwealth Day event on the market square; many people attended including representatives and Mayors from nearby towns including Ipswich. Highlights included Samuel Ward Choir singing three songs, also Caribbean steel drum music and a flag-raising ceremony. I should think without doubt that it was the best Commonwealth Day event in Suffolk, if not East Anglia.



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