

# Haverhill Town Council

## Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 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 M Byrne  
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 W Yang

**Absent:** Councillor J Crooks

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole (Town Clerk)  
Vicky Phillips (Assistant Town Clerk)

6 members of the public were present.

### Welcome:

Mayor A Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Mr Henry Wilson MBE who gave a report on the work of REACH. This valuable service continues to be incredibly busy. The food bank service has provided 614 people with 910 boxes. The contributory factors for this includes the outreach work REACH are doing which is connecting with more people. In addition, REACH has been able to assist people through its share of a £20k winter crisis fund. This can provide immediate financial assistance to people who are in crisis.

REACH has moved warehouse to a better location closer to their main office. Their resource centre has been refurbished. The resource centre workers are able to dig deeper and resolve underlying issues which have led people into crisis. There is, however, a 3-month waiting list. This is a challenge as rent arrears are a priority, with this rising from 49% to 64% of issues being dealt with, since the introduction of Universal Credit. The Suffolk Foundation has facilitated the funding of an additional worker to try and tackle the waiting list.

Councillors thanked Mr Wilson for his update and praised and thanked REACH for the work that it does. Various Councillors expressed dismay that such services are needed in the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy on the planet and that there are children living in poverty in our town.

The Mayor thanked Mr Wilson on behalf of the Council for his report and asked that our thanks be passed on to the team.. The Mayor called the meeting to order and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

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## MINUTES

## ACTION

- C19 /052**      **Apologies for Absence**  
The above apology was noted.
- C19 /053**      **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**  
No declarations or requests for dispensation were made.
- C19 /054**      **The minutes of the Full Council meetings held 25<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**  
It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meetings held 25<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 be adopted as a true record.  
**RESOLVED**
- C19 /055**      **Progress of actions arising from the minutes**  
**a) 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
C19/036b – Local List: The Clerk had requested additional books for West Suffolk Council Planning.  
C19/044b – Services to Young People: This was the focus of the Full Council meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019.  
C19/044c – Continuity of Service: This had been maintained.  
**b) 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**  
The legal process for acquisition was ongoing.
- C19 /056**      **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM**  
a) Police Report - The SNT report had been circulated earlier.  
b) County Councillors gave their report - see appendix 1  
c) District Councillors gave their report - see appendix 1  
d) Public Forum - see appendix 1
- C19 /057**      **Mayor's Report**  
See Appendix 2.
- C19 /058**      **ONE Haverhill Partnership**  
a) The Board met on 28<sup>th</sup> March. The task groups have been asked to revisit their sections of the business plan, to update it from 2017, showing progress and updating where objectives have changed.
- C19 /059**      **Adoption of Committee Reports**  
**a) Planning Committee**  
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 be adopted.  
**RESOLVED**  
**b) Finance Committee**  
It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Mason, that the minutes of the meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019 be adopted.  
It was noted that in assessing the draft Earmarked Reserves, the Finance Committee proposed that unspent funds for the Parish Handyman project be used to make the replacement post full-time, to make the post more attractive to potential candidates.  
**AGREED**

**C19**      **Financial Matters**  
**/060**      **a) Authorisation of payments**  
It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by D Roach, that the listed payments totalling £121,209.17 be authorised.  
**RESOLVED**

**C19**      **Urgent Correspondence**  
**/061**      None

**C19**      **Date of Next Meeting**  
**/062**      7pm Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Informal briefing for all councillors. (*This meeting is not open to the public*)  
7pm Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 - Annual Town Meeting, followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Town Council

**C19**      **Exclusion of press and Public**  
**/063**      It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Burns, 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**      **Property Matters**  
**/064**      a) The Clerk updated the meeting on progress in respect of 1a Boundary Road.  
b) The Clerk update the meeting on progress in respect of Bevan House.

**C19**      **Closure**  
**/065**      The Mayor thanked the Council for their work over the last four years and that it had been a pleasure to work with them. The Town Clerk expressed thanks on behalf of his team and particularly himself and the Assistant Clerk for the close working relationships between Councillors and staff, which had resulted in a team approach that had delivered great outcomes for the people of Haverhill.

The Mayor declared the final meeting of this council closed at 20:10pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....

## **Appendix 1**

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

### **C19/056b) County Councillors' reports:**

#### **Councillors P & Q Fox:**

We find ourselves at time of change within the Town and District Council due to the local elections this week. Quillon will no longer be a Town Councillor as his term comes to an end. Myself, I doubt very much that I will be back on the Town and District Council but I will continue to work for the town the very best I can in seeing out the end of my term as a County Councillor. I know that Quillon will carry on working for the town also, especially during the next two years of his term.

Can I just take the time to say it has been an absolute pleasure to serve Haverhill South Ward and I wish I had decided to stand there again in South Ward for the Town and District councils. I look forward to continuing to serve you for the next two years as your County Councillor.

The last 2 -3 weeks have been quiet with meetings because of the forthcoming election but the elections certainly seem to have woken people up and I have been busier than ever meeting with residents and talking through their issues, almost all of them are highway related.

#### **High Street**

Suffolk County Council have been completing a lot of work in the High Street to make the pavements safer for pedestrians less of a place more suitable for mountain bikers.

There have been several requests by disabled residents to sort out proper blue-badge bays outside WH Smith and Nine Jars with enough space around the car to get a disabled person in and out of the car, especially for those with wheelchairs. This has been a topic for me since being the representative of the Town Council on the Haverhill Disability Forum. If no one in the new Town Council wishes to go onto the forum I would really like to carry on being part of this forum.

#### **Haverhill Dementia Action Alliance (HDAA)**

We will hopefully be having a collective stall at the Haverhill Show; several have requested a stall but there is some issues around manning the stall because of caring obligations so it seems that we may be having one stall for all so that this can be manned

Next meeting is, hopefully, 13<sup>th</sup> May, not sure if it will be at the Leiston or the Studio yet.

#### **Burton End**

The works to make it safer for parents has been completed but we still would like to see the 20mph signs moved, we would like the south set of signs moved to the other side of the chicanes, as they seem pretty pointless where they are now. There is a perception that, because of the chicanes, traffic moves slower and it does not.

#### **Mount Road**

Quillon and I have asked that traffic calming measures be put in place the length of Mount Road. We had a positive response as long as we used our Highways Locality Budget which we said we would. I will be honest I have not heard back from Highways and I have not chased it up, this newsletter has jogged my memory so I will get onto it this week.

#### **Orchard Close**

This is an ongoing problem; the pavement needs sorting as mentioned before and I have been told that it is going to be done. The white lines have been agreed to be repainted at the bottom of the road but again only if I use my LHB, I have said yes. They should be completed by the end of the summer.

The community garden, the residents are working on ideas having received a positive response from Highways that it will be possible. The residents will try to raise money for plants and shrubs etc, have suggested councillors help from their budgets, so whoever gets to be a District councillor for South ward expect a knock on the door.

#### **Paske Avenue**

There are still some issues about this and some of the neighbours have discovered that the land maybe contaminated due to a diesel spill several years ago. I do not understand the Scientifics of how diesel breaks down and how long it takes so I shall be passing all the information that neighbours have given me onto the planning department at West Suffolk.

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## Pearmain Walk

We met with a resident of Pearmain Walk about highway issues, tree roots and brambles etc overgrowing and lifting the road and resident's driveways. This something I will pursue with Highways but the reason I bring it up is because there is hardstanding area with two sculptures and, quite frankly, it is untidy and something needs doing. I am thinking this might be another opportunity to suggest another small community garden, it needs a bit of love and inspiration and a gathering of neighbours but I will need them to take the lead.

## Drugs and elderly residents

A resident near Burton End, has informed me of drugs transactions taking place outside their homes. As with all residents that contact me, I met with them where the problem is. One elderly lady will not leave the house because they tried to get into her house and one of the others has been broken into. It seems that an alleyway helps these people make their transactions so a closure of the alley has been requested. I met with the new Highways liaison man and we talked about it and I am due to meet with the police, courtesy of Inspector Cooper.

Everyone has been extremely helpful although whether these activities will stop or just move around the corner, is unknown. I am happy to keep everyone up to date with that and I am happy to talk to the next Councillor of South Ward, whoever they maybe and whatever party they may be in. Nothing changes unless we all work together.

**Councillor D Roach** advised that:

Deben Road on Chalkstone Estate was now being resurfaced. SCC Highways was also going to do Millfields Way and Chalkstone Way.

The Household Waste Recycling Site off Chalkstone Way had amended opening hours, including late night on Thursdays.

## C19/056c) District Councillors' reports:

Councillor J Burns gave the following report:

**It has generally been a quiet month due to merger of the two councils and elections pending.**

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues apace. There have been some complaints about the parking on Anne Suckling Road by occupiers of the new properties there where they are parking on both sides of the road narrowing the road to one lane or even worse. The District Council has been advised of this but is something that was advised when the planning application process was running. Work continues on the new roundabout and we await to hear about progress on the new Relief Road.

- **Great Wilsey Park:** A new planning application has been submitted of details for the reserved matters access, landscaping, layout and scale for the Spine Road and associated strategic infrastructure. The other two applications for the construction compounds are still being considered with Highways objecting strongly to the use of Chalkstone Way as a construction route. The developers are due to send a response to this in next few days including questions over denying access to a parcel of land. They are hoping to submit a reserved matters application for the first housing next month. A consultation was held in the Arts Centre yesterday and about 100 people attended with many completing the consultation forms. The consultation details are on the dedicated website:

<http://redrowgreatwilseypark.co.uk/>

Councillors noted that at the consultation they heard concerns expressed in respect of traffic generation and whether the promised community gain would materialise.

- **Atterton & Ellis (Ironworks):** No further news.

- **Sturmer Arches:** Still no news on this.

- **Woodlands Hotel:** I was contacted last week by the prospective purchaser whose plans are being objected to by Braintree District Council. The land has still not been sold by West Suffolk Council. I advised the purchasers to wait until after the election if they intended lobbying anyone for support.

- **Haverhill Retail Park.** The owners have advised the 3<sup>rd</sup> unit has had very little interest other than a possibility of a business that would require a non-retail planning change of use. They also advise the land to the rear designated for light industrial has had some interest and they are hoping to see

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something come to fruition there later this year.

- **Sainsbury's Access Road:** Still no news from the District Council officers over arranging a meeting despite further reminders. I will chase this up post-election (if appropriate) to see what can be done.
  - **Police:** The April SNT report was recently published & distributed. This is the last of the current design with the next one being more of a brochure covering not just Haverhill but with a Haverhill specific section. It will describe other activities that the police undertake (such as cybercrime unit at Halesworth) to make it more informational. The February 2019 crime statistics were distributed earlier.
  - **Housing.** West Suffolk Council recently published their housing land support report which showed that we have some 6.3 years' worth of supply. Amongst other reasons, this is used to help ensure indiscriminate house building is avoided.
  - **SCC Highways:** Work progresses on the High Street and the latest update I have (last week) is they are approximately 4 weeks ahead of schedule despite the numerous complaints from drivers unable to find a place to park on the pavement.
- CPE & TRO.** SCC have just published the combined TRO for West Suffolk in anticipation of CPE being introduced – there is a rumour this may happen in November. New parking signs will be installed in Queen Street at the two designated parking bays which will legalise the ability to police this road – finally after 10 years.
- **Sudbury & District Scouts – St. George's Day.** I attended this event at Long Melford on Sunday and was extremely impressed by the number of young people giving up their time to serve in the various Beaver, Cub, Scout & Explorer groups across the district. Haverhill was well represented including winning an award. A video of the parade is available here <https://youtu.be/NPW73oCrmxg>.

#### **C19/056d) Public Form:**

Resident: Concern about Anti-Social Behaviour on the Clements Estate – he is seeing people openly smoking cannabis and also randomly breaking bottles on the pavement to create a hazard. The Mayor asked if the gentleman had reported this to the Police – No, as 'there is no point'. Cuts in police funding is impacting on ASB. Councillor P Fox advised that residents in the Burton End area had filmed this sort of issue and had been told that the Police cannot use the footage.

Councillor B Robbins endorsed the concerns raised having had his own encounters with a dealer. He said he had raised this with the West Suffolk MP but nothing has changed.

Councillor M Byrne observed that the parish council has a responsibility to address social issues such as broken glass, which our Parish Handyman could clear. The Clerk advised that the most concerning issue was about the behaviour of breaking the glass, not the ability to clear it. Councillor Byrne asked that such incidents attended be mapped.

The Mayor proposed, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the incoming Council be requested to hold a town meeting as an open forum to air concerns about Anti-Social Behaviour in town.

#### **RESOLVED**

It was asked that the West Suffolk MP be invited to that event.

Resident: Concern about 'potholes' he had reported in Clements Lane had not been addressed. Councillors advised that the Highways depth threshold for requiring a repair had not been reached.

Resident: REACH should ask local allotment holders to donate spare crops.

Concern was expressed at the apparent difficulties people were facing accessing GP appointments, and that GP provision was now at a critically low level for the town. It was noted that the Haverhill Area Forum had asked the Town Council to find out who was responsible within the NHS to develop a new provision within Haverhill, to create a much-needed health hub, which may make GP recruitment more attractive a proposition. It was also noted that the Haverhill Masterplan included a provision for space for such a hub. It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor S Roach that the new Council considers a public meeting to discuss any proposals that are forthcoming.

#### **RESOLVED**

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## Appendix 2 C19/057 Mayors Report

### Farewell to the High Sheriff

I attended the farewell celebration of the outgoing High Sheriff, George Vestey, at Castle Manor school. This event was well attended as George Vestey has been extremely proactive in promoting charities in our area and Haverhill in particular <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/praise-for-high-sheriff-of-suffolk-1-5978121>



### Air Cadets Presentation Night

I was invited along to the presentation night of our Haverhill air cadets at the Haverhill golf club. It was an excellent night; once more I was extremely impressed with the standard and enthusiasm of the staff and cadets.

### Haverhill Health Fair

I attended the Haverhill health fair at the leisure centre and was pleased by the amount of small, large and varied groups offering different types of care, fitness and health services in our area that were represented there. <https://www.haverhillecho.co.uk/news/inaugural-fair-puts-focus-on-a-healthier-lifestyle-in-haverhill-9066904/>

### Princes Trust

I was honoured to present the certificates to the young people who had completed the 12 week course put on by Inspire Suffolk, funded by the Prince's Trust. It was truly humbling to see young people that initially had issues including low self-esteem and lack of confidence complete this inspiring course; they worked as a team and helped each other through. I really wish them well for the future, they worked very hard.

### Haverhill Singers Spring Concert, St Marys Church

Once again, I was just amazed at the high standard and wealth of talent that we have in our area. I highly recommend that if you get the opportunity to go along to one of their concerts please do you will be in for a treat.

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