

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 29th October 2019 at 7.30pm at the Haverhill Arts Centre, Haverhill, CB9 8AR



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor J Burns
Deputy Mayor Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Brown
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor E McManus
Councillor M Marks
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor P Fox
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor D Roach

Absent: Councillor J Crooks

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

2 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| C19
/137 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>
The above apologies were noted. |
| C19
/138 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u>
No declarations or requests for dispensation were made. |
| C19
/139 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 24th September 2019</u>
It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor M Marks that, subject to amendments to the record of Councillors present, the minutes of the meeting held 24 th September 2019 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED |

ACTION

Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 14th 2019. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

C19 /140 **Progress of actions arising from the minutes**
C19/113b County Lines publicity feasibility report – The Clerk advised that he had received a response form the PCC in respect of the Town Council proposals. The police are not able to support the proposals as there is a concern that such leaflets may increase fear of crime disproportionate to the real risk and prevalence. However, a number of other ideas were suggested and Will Wright has been in contact and colleagues from the Community Safety Partnership are aware of our concerns and will be in contact in due course with some proposals
C19/115e Neighbourhood Planning – Directly preceding this meeting Amy Wright from West Suffolk District Council Planning had kindly attended to provide a briefing for Councillors on this topic. Councillors will consider whether or not they wish to proceed further.

Councillors

C19 /141 **Reports from the Police, borough and County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM**
a) Police Report – See appendix 1
b) County Councillors gave their report - see appendix 2
c) District Councillors gave their report - see appendix 3
d) Public Forum - see appendix 4

C19 /142 **Mayor's Report**
See Appendix 5.

C19 /143 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**
a) The Clerk advised that the Board has not met since the last Town Council meeting.
b) Most project group meetings were scheduled for November to be just ahead of the next Board meeting.
c) Councillor Mason asked about the work towards a new healthcare hub. The Masterplan group is responsible for finding space, but the work of designing and bringing forward plans for the hub itself does not fall to ONE Haverhill Partnership. The Clerk is to organise a Haverhill Area Forum meeting at which the people doing that work can discuss aspirations with the Forum.

CLERK

C19 /144 **Adoption of Committee Reports**
a) Planning Committee
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor B Davidson that the minutes of the meetings held 1st, 21st and 22nd October 2019 be adopted.
RESOLVED
b) Leisure and Community Committee
To note that the committee has not met since the last Full Council meeting.
NOTED
c) Finance Committee
It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes of the meeting held 15th September 2019 be adopted.
RESOLVED
d) Personnel Committee
To note that the committee has not met since the last Full Council meeting.
NOTED

C19 **Financial Matters**

/145 a) Authorisation of payments
It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the listed payments totalling £79,489.19 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) Insurances

The Council noted that insurances had been reviewed by the Clerk in conjunction with the insurers

- i. Community Trust - Trustee Insurances £5,290.21 (2018/19=£4,754.58)
The Trustee should note that this now includes the additional activity of Hartseats Ltd at the Zone
- ii. Arts Centre – Excess Layer insurance £1,145.00 (2018/19=£1,145.00)
- iii. Commercial Combined Insurances £10,422.23 (2018/19=£7,164.98)
Councillors should note this now includes the additional activity of the Council running the children’s playzone at the Zone and transfer of insurable interest of the Haverhill BMX track from the Community Trust.

NOTED

C19 External Audit

/146 It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the Council accepts the External Auditor report, noting that the minor matter identified had been addressed at the September meeting.

RESOLVED

C19 Urgent Correspondence

/147 None

C19/ Date of Next Meeting

148 MONDAY 25th November 2019 at 7:00pm

C19 To Exclude the Press and Public

/149 It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor E McManus 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 unfettered debate as it would undermine this process and result in less robust, well-considered or effective policies.

RESOLVED

C19 Haverhill Business Improvement District

/150 Councillors received a report from the Mayor and Clerk on a briefing meeting they had attended on 23rd October, with John Mayhew and Dan Pilley of the Town Centre Business Engagement Group.

Councillors asked for more information as and when it became available, but in principle this could be of benefit to the sustainability of the town centre, particularly as other towns in Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex are benefitting from this approach.

C19 Closure

/151 The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 21:08pm.

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

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Appendix 1

Police Report

PC Jon Gerrish had written to the Mayor advising the Council of the success of the recent Operation Sentinel crackdown on street crime. Results:

- Arrests 30
- Stop/Search 28
- Police Incident Report 41
- Traffic Offence Report 25
- Vehicles seized 12

Appendix 2

County Councillors' reports

Councillor P Fox reported:

Health Visitors

At the last Suffolk County Council meeting there was a motion on Health Visitors. Councillors who put this motion forward had discovered that Haverhill did not have any Health Visitors. I asked in the council meeting the new cabinet member for CYP Councillor Mary Evans if she would address this issue and let me know exactly what is going on. I had an email response within 24 hours.

I am advised the situation is not as described: There is an establishment of 4.1 fte Health Visitors for Haverhill and while they are short staffed there are 3.65 HVs available. One person is leaving shortly but a new person has been recruited to start the first week in November..... Incidentally she advises me that GPs were advised of the changes – but very early on in the process.

However, on further research I found that the Health Visitors are not actually based in Haverhill, and that information is easy to find on the website. They are primarily based in Ipswich, apparently.

Christmas Maltings and Clements Practice

A very abusive email was received about the above. I responded to the person who was nice; he had been very frustrated by 'the system' which still does not appear to be working that well. When the system works it works well, but it is the getting to that point that is difficult.

Greenfields Way

No news on the new bus stop. The scheme is STILL at costing and design stage.

Haverhill Disability Forum

There was a recent meeting at the beginning of the month that I was unable to attend, shame as I really enjoy this forum.

Home Education

The Suffolk CC Task and Finish Group on Home Education has been set up, and I am Chair. We have had our first meeting to discuss what we would like to know more about. Off-rolling and access to services as a home educator, are the areas to be looked at. This is an important topic for me and I would like this to be an area that I have some influence on as it is and has been a very important part of our family.

If anyone knows of a home educator that has had difficulty accessing services, or a child that has been off-rolled and will be willing to talk to me, in confidence, please could you give them my details. Our next meeting is with the Head of Safeguarding at the beginning of next month

Churchill School

I now have my Churchill School email and ID. I am looking forward to really getting involved with the school. If there is any need to contact me at all with regards to the school this is my email.

PFox@churchillschool.co.uk

County Council Meeting and Voting Record

The last Full Council meeting we had, was last week, 17th October 2019, here are the links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nYpXmDhBdw>

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/the-council-and-its-committees/county-council/record-of-votes-at-meetings-taken-at-suffolk-county-council/record-of-votes-in-2019/>

I will add this to the end of every newsletter for reference, if there has been a meeting.

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Councillor D Roach reported:

SCC have started works on Chalkstone and Millfields Way. The start was delayed and is now in progress. The works are to repair the expansion joints on these two roads. It should have been completed by last Friday but due to weather was not. I have raised with SCC the poor signage which was impacting on businesses as well as residents and the excessive road closures put in place. They came out on Saturday and put out Business open as usual signs. Works should complete by Friday 1st Nov.

I am still pushing for the two roads to have total surface redressing done and have been assured this is in the forward work programme.

Mount Road: I am continuing to progress traffic calming measures and have met with residents and again last night with Councillor Davidson, to discuss various options. I have had an engineer out to look at the road and he outlined options for differing types of calming measures and I will fund this from my county highways locality budget. I have to go this route as there are not the funds available elsewhere. Its now gone for comment to the speeds team and I am awaiting proper costed options. I have had the disabled bays around town remarked but there is still a lot of white lining work to do especially around the zebra crossings.

Appendix 3

District Councillors' reports

Councillor J Burns reported:

- **NW Haverhill:** No further news. HTC awaiting visit to planning from their rep to brief us on next stages.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Detailed planning applications are in for first ~500 units and infrastructure. Recently discussed at HTC planning where some concerns raised which hope developer representative will feed back to their team before it finally reaches DevControl committee.
- **Manor Road School Site:** No further news when work is due to start which was due this month.
- **Chapelwent Road Site:** Work is ongoing however have had cause to complain to WSC enforcement team regarding lorries parking up on the road blocking access to residents.
- **Atterton & Ellis (Ironworks):** No further news. Work progresses on the adjacent site owned by the same owner.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still no news on this. I did offer to Suffolk Record Office but still awaiting officers to sort something out.
- **Woodlands Hotel:** Plans are still being discussed with prospective buyer.
- **Police Matters:** The October Constable County report was recently distributed. I am due to attend an informal Police & Crime Panel discussion in Ipswich on 20th November to discuss plans for the actual meeting due to be held on 31st January 2020. August 2019 crime statistics were recently distributed. September figures are late in being issued. I had cause, shortly after the Freedom Parade and based on events that happened that day, to email Tim Passmore about the poor 101 service response. This was basically a follow-up to the Police & Crime Panel meeting just 2 days earlier where we have extensively discussed this. I had an initial response and now awaiting a response from the Constabulary.
- **SCC Highways:** CPE is (tentatively) now scheduled for April 2020.
- **Faded/missing white linings and roundabouts:** Still no physical response from SCC Highways as to when they will repaint - they promised in February works had "been ordered". I spoke to Cllr Mary Evans before she left her Highways post and she asked I wrote to her with details. I will be writing formally to the new Cabinet Member, as this has been going on for far too long, in the hope he is as proactive as Mary was in the short period she was in post.
- **Road closures in Millfields Way:** I had cause last weekend to speak to Highways contractors about the 2 x shops on Strasbourg Square claiming a massive drop in income due to insensitive use of road signs. Unlike Chalkstone Way, where they did one stretch at a time protecting access to the schools,

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they had not taken account of the businesses. That was resolved yesterday but the work was due to finish by Wednesday anyway.

- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** A recent event took place at the Arts Centre as part of the A1307 consultation. They had a pretty good response although surprising more users did not voice their comments. It could be the 2-hour window did not help and being held mid-week.
- **4th Unit at Haverhill Retail Park:** An application for light industrial units to rear of the Retail Park is still currently under consideration.
- **Lidl:** An application has been received (following my request to enforcement about 20 months ago) which will be discussed at HTC planning next week. Fundamentally mainly revolves around the footpath alongside the store being in the wrong place as per original approval resulting in pedestrians walking behind cars and drivers not being able to see them.
- **The Zone:** Work on rebranding has started with some temporary banners being erected to show it is open. The recent half term opening on a Monday & Tuesday appeared to be successful. I have recently installed a new till system, which is now fully operational, and financial data being available in the Arts Centre for accounting staff. A formal opening of the site will take place once branding has been decided.
- **Leiston Centre:** I spent a day recently with our Tech Manager installing new cables totalling 700+ metres ready for CCTV installation and will be back this Wednesday to complete as far as the proposed camera locations. A decision about the type of cameras, the final number on how many to install, and the type of recording device will take place soon.
- **Corn Exchange:** No news on this.
- **Car Parking Working Party:** This continues, and I am meeting with the group every 2 weeks or so. I am working hard to try and protect Haverhill from officers making decisions regarding charging on a West Suffolk basis rather than the specific economic needs of the town. We have at least a further 2 meetings to go before it is presented to Overview & Scrutiny at WSC.
- **Freedom Parade:** This was a major event for Haverhill and, although I would have liked to see a lot more residents turn out to support our local Armed Forces, the weather put paid to that although the sky cleared just for the hour or so we were on the Market Square. Video footage of the event was made, and I hope to have this edited ASAP. A great day for the town.
- **Grant Working:** This takes place on November 7th at WSH and the Community Chest is significantly over-subscribed. Cllr Marks, Hanlon and I (plus some others) having to absorb 680 pages shows the work that is needed to make final decisions.
- **One Haverhill Website and Email:** I am awaiting work by 3rd party so this can be moved to a new hosting platform, and reduce cost to zero, at same time making it into using the industry standard WordPress platform. I spent some time earlier this developing the new site ready for this.
- **Haverhill TC website:** I recently moved the site to a new server which seems to have increased the response time due to faster hardware. It is hoped work will be done on this site to change to a different template builder system that has more functionality at same time making it less “corporate” and more useful to residents and other users.
- **Other events & work:** I have been working on various projects including volunteering at the very successful Halloween Trail last Friday along with Cllr Luccarini. We have the annual Remembrance Parade & Service event this year being held in the morning of Sunday 10th November starting from about 1030 from rear of Arts Centre. We hope as many Councillors and residents as possible will attend. And of course, the Xmas Family Night & Fireworks on Friday 6th December with the lights now being switched on about 2 weeks earlier.

Councillor P Hanlon reported:

- Attended briefings and workshops about the future for West Suffolk including future housing and what area they are going, plus public service hubs combining all services in one building.
- Attended committee meetings as substitute and a licencing workshop which included talking about electric taxis and charging points with the difficulties that could bring.

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- Attended the Royal Anglian Regiment Freedom Parade, which went very well with thanks to all the Town Council staff and catering which was brilliant.
- Attended Town Council committees which included two planning meetings over two evenings one about Paske Avenue that was well attended by people from the Paske Avenue area and on day two we had Redrow presenting the Reserved Matters on the North East Haverhill plan.

Councillor M Marks reported:

As chair of the PPG at Clements Surgery, **Councillor Marks reported** on the taking on of the Steeple Bumpstead surgery operation by the Clements surgery. It will be an outreach service 3 days per week, appointment son the day only. This means e-consulting has been pushed back. Signing up to ‘e-records’ has struggled, so the surgery is moving on to ‘my care records’ instead. Locality working is underway. This includes an educational programme to reduce the impact of additional patients on the surgery.

Councillor A Brown – Feared the Steeple Bumpstead initiative will impact negatively on Haverhill. Referring to the research on GP numbers he proposed, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that an extraordinary meeting to discuss the town council position on primary healthcare.

Councillor P Hanlon – taking on Steeple Bumpstead seems unbelievable, as it is so difficult recruiting GPs when we are in crisis, why is Clements taking this on? Councillor M Marks responded that if nothing had been done then the patients would have come to Haverhill for service anyway, in an uncoordinated way. There are three extra doctors coming permanently to that surgery and a nurse prescriber.

Councillor L Smith – Why isn’t West Essex CCG resolving this matter? Councillor M Marks responded that as private businesses the GP surgeries decide whether to help. The Family Practice decided not to get involved in this matter and Clare GP surgery closed its books to Essex patients.

Councillor J Mason – voiced concern that an extraordinary meeting may give the wrong perception of healthcare locally, having moved a long way from where the practice was 18 months earlier. He sits on the PPG too. Whilst this issue is a concern he has confidence in the surgery management and the progress they have made. Locally GP numbers are up. Any discussion must be based on accurate facts.

Councillor A Brown said he felt the surgery were doing a fantastic job but were under-resourced, so a discussion needed to be had.

Councillor M Marks pointed to the strengthened multi-disciplinary team at surgeries saving the need for patients to be referred to specialists by their GP, as they can go direct.

Councillor J Mason proposed an amendment to Councillor Brown’s proposal, that the extraordinary meeting with invited professionals in attendance. Councillor Brown declined the amendment as he wanted to clarify the Council’s view ahead of meeting with professionals. Councillor Hanlon seconded the proposed amendment. The subsequent vote was AGAINST the amendment.

Councillors voted on the unamended proposal. The vote was in FAVOUR of the unamended proposal.

RESOLVED

Councillor D Smith reported:

- Attended Development Control – Spoke in vain against the proposed gas-powered electricity generator in Homefield Road.
- WSDC Full Council meeting scheduled for November has been cancelled. He expressed concern regarding the implications for scrutinising Cabinet decisions.

Appendix 4

Public Forum

Resident 1: Completed Matt Hancock’s survey on health matters, interested to see the results of that. With the expanding town, we do not have sufficient GPs now, will need more. Councillor M Marks highlighted that the situation has improved, with 5 GPs serving the town, plus 2 locums.

Resident 2: Has repeatedly raised concerns about number of housing developments being approved and started, despite the lack of GPs locally to service that increase. Councillor M Marks advised that the s106 funding given by developers is purely a contribution towards capital costs for a further provision, the revenue costs have to be found from the NHS funding per patient.

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Appendix 5
Mayoral Report

Date	Event	Location	Comments
3 rd October 2019	Haverhill Family History Group - Opening Night of Chantry Mills Exhibition	Haverhill Arts Centre	Great set of panels showing history of Gurteen's employees and exhibition in History Group room.
6 th October 2019	Royal Anglian Regiment Freedom Parade	Haverhill Town Centre	This was a fabulous event that I was extremely pleased to host on behalf of the town. They did us proud. The event was well organised, and we received many compliments.
12 th October 2019	Essex & Suffolk Twinning Congress Annual meeting	West End Congregational Church	First time this has been hosted by Haverhill and impressed with turnout from afar. Could only stay for about an hour to hear how other groups manage their twinning organisations.
12 th October 2019	Suffolk Libraries Day	Haverhill Library	Attended for arrival of book travelling around Suffolk whilst being entertained in the rain by excellent music. Several stalls on the Market Square and Haverhill branch of Suffolk FHS helped users with their research.
16 th October 2019	Democracy talk to Year 8 students	Samuel Ward Academy	With the Town Clerk gave a short briefing of what democracy means at Town Council and levels going upwards with Q&A afterwards.
25 th October	RBL Haverhill launch of the 2019 Poppy Appeal	Market Square	Short flag raising and photo call with RBL members and supporters. A very worthwhile cause.

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