

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 24th February 2020 at 7.00pm 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 A Luccarini
Councillor E McManus
Councillor M Marks
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Roach
Councillor D Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor P Fox

Absent: Councillor J Crooks

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

1 member of the public was present.

Welcome:

Mayor J Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded and reminded them of the rules regarding filming and recording.

MINUTES

**C20
/023**

Apologies for Absence

The above apology was noted. Mr E Pinnock had also submitted his apologies.

**C20
/024**

Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation

None.

**C20
/025**

The minutes of the Full Council meeting 27th January 2020

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Marks that the minutes of the meeting held 27th January 2020 be adopted as true records.

RESOLVED

ACTION

**C20
/026**

Progress of actions arising from the minutes

C19/143 Haverhill Area Forum – Councillors reviewed the outcome of the Forum. Councillors expressed concern that the timetable was unclear and agreed that the Town Council and HAF should continue to lobby. Councillor M Marks clarified that funding would come mainly from the Dept of Health and not the CCG, but that a business case needed to be put together on the basis of need, this being done by Public Health England, which is expected in May. It was further noted that the HAF had asked that ONE Haverhill Partnership take the lead on this project.

C20/016a Access to Polling Stations – The Clerk advised that Mr Ben Smith from West Suffolk had thanked the Council for the feedback given about polling stations.

C20/016b Crown Post Office – The Clerk confirmed that he had written to the Post office highlighting our concerns about the franchising proposals and written to Matt Hancock. He had also responded to the consultation questions in respect of access. Members asked that they be copied into any future correspondence arising from meetings, for information.

C20/019 Haverhill Spring Clean – Councillor J Mason outlined his proposal for the event on 20th March and showed Councillors new banners to promote what was happening. It was agreed that:

The Clerk will extend an invitation to Suffolk County Councillor Q Fox.

The Marketing Manager will arrange promotion on social media, the digital display and a press release.

The Community Warden will check the stock of litter-picking supplies

The Clerk will ask West Suffolk for logistical support in collecting bagged waste following the collection

The Operations Manager will work with Councillor J Mason

**C20
/027**

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 – no comments were made.

**C20
/028**

Mayor's Report

See Appendix 4.

**C20
/029**

ONE Haverhill Partnership

- a) The Board had not met since the last meeting of the Council.
- b) It was proposed by Mayor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that Councillor A Luccarini be the appointed representative of the Town Council on the BID working group.

RESOLVED

- c) The meeting noted that the post of Co-ordinator for the new Haverhill Volunteer Centre would be advertised shortly. This was a ONE Haverhill Partnership project with the Community Trust as the lead body, making the Town Council the employer of the Co-ordinator. This was the same arrangement as the Youth Skills project.

NOTED

The project would be based on the ground floor of the AXA building, expected to commence from 20th April.

C20 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/030 a) **Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 28th January and 18th February 2020 adopted.

RESOLVED

b) **Finance Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held 21st January 2020 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C20 **Consultation responses**

/031

The Council noted that the Rail Haverhill Group had written to local councils requested support for their stance that only a light railway from Cambridge to Haverhill should be considered, rather than the electric bus proposed under the Cambridge Metro proposal. Members agreed that the light railway was indeed the better option, but also agreed that the council wanted a sustainable transport link to Cambridge and therefore would not argue against an option – its concerns were a perception that principal councils in Suffolk were not making a big enough show of support for the Combined Authority.

It was agreed to advise Rail Haverhill that the Council would await the formal consultation on the CAM proposals before responding.

NOTED

Councillor P Firman left 20:27hrs

CLERK

C20 **Financial Matters**

/032

a) **Authorisation of payments**

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the listed payments totalling £63,230.25 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C20 **Urgent Correspondence**

/033

None.

C20 **Date of Next Meeting**

/034

MONDAY 23rd 2020 at 7:00pm

C20 **Closure**

/035

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:30pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

Emergency Services Report

Ambulance service: report will be in March

Police service: Members noted that Inspector Dan Cooper had been re-deployed to the control room at Martlesham and that Inspector Kevin Horton would be his replacement.

Appendix 2

County Councillors' reports

Councillor D Roach reported:

SCC Council tax rise had been set at 2% for social care and 1.9% for other work.

The North Ipswich relief road had been shelved as it did not have support from the district councils in respect of the housing growth it enabled.

County Council had continued to carry out white-lining in town, which was welcomed. Councillor Roach asked that Members reported any areas where white lining had not been renewed.

Councillor Roach confirmed that the Haverhill HWRC improvements were number three on the 'to do' list for SCC, after safety improvements at Ipswich and Stowmarket.

Appendix 3

District Councillors' reports

Councillor J Burns reported:

- **NW Haverhill:** Persimmon recently provided update for all further stages of the development to Councillors. This was disseminated via social media.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Chalkstone construction compound application was approved when it was determined that the compound itself was allowed under permitted development rights, so the only consideration was the access itself. Concerns were raised by me over the ability for lorry drivers to see into the flats opposite as well as disruption to residents parking along Chalkstone Way. I requested the developer bring forward the installation of traffic lights at junction of Chalkstone Way and Wratting Road to not only facilitate their own construction traffic but also to assist the considerable delays every time the school run is underway.
- **Manor Road School Site:** This started in early February with tree removal and pruning. It is noted that some mud on the road has already been experienced so we need to keep an eye on this.
- **Atterton & Ellis (Ironworks):** Ongoing discussions with owners still underway. I raised the SHELAA errors over the site which stated the entire site is owned by one developer (WSC own part) as well as including the entire green area which we were told would not be included. Any SHELAA errors should be reported direct to Marie Smith at WSC. I attended latest Local Plan meeting on 12th February in Mildenhall.
- **Sturmer Arches:** I continue to investigate this separately from what is being done between the Secretary of State for Transport and WSC at (I suspect) a very high cost. I have already found strong evidence that HUDC (from council minutes) did indeed purchase the property in August 1972 (old railway line and Haverhill North & South stations) and hope to have some more news soon with firm evidence.
- **Woodlands Hotel:** Discussions ongoing between Golf Course, Sturmer PC and prospective purchases is still ongoing by WSC property.
- **Police Matters:** I attended the Police & Crime Panel (PCP) on 31st January at which we unanimously approved a £10 per year (19p/week) precept rise for Band D properties. This will provide around 20 extra police officers across the county in areas such as serious crime disruption, roads policing and rural crime. The recent consultation of about 1000 responses resulted in a 69% approval rating for the increase with many commenting they would pay more if they could.

This is in addition to the 54 new officers planned (and many undergoing training now) as part of the government's 20K new officers (2K of which will be dedicated to the National Crime Agency and 6K Haverhill Town Council adopted the General Power of Competence on May 14th 2019. All decisions are taken using that power unless otherwise stated.

to the Metropolitan Police). There will be 38, of this batch, assigned to SNT and Response forces including Sentinel teams. We are anticipating similar per year numbers for next 2 years but this is still to be confirmed by the Home Office. I did ask about whether we are getting our fair share and appears we are based on population however the Police Funding formula (which is unnaturally biased) still means Suffolk is underfunded by about £5m or 80 officers. The government has long stated they will be reviewing this, but Brexit and elections seems to delay this every time.

Suffolk Leaders group recently put pressure on the government to ensure that Highways England take on responsibility for management of the A14, A12 and A11 when it comes to traffic incidents. These are currently managed totally by the Constabulary meaning highly trained roads and firearms teams being held up ensuring an incident is cleared ASAP rather than doing the job they are trained for.

I made strong concerns at the PCP meeting about the quality and content of 'Constable's County' as not being much better than the previous incarnation. The Chief Constable promised to take this away and review again. I suggested it would be worthwhile asking the end user (i.e. the public) for any ideas. I also asked for an indication of how many downloads there are from the website considering that only 5 out of the 12 pages in the document actually include any useful information and, even then, very small amounts for the local areas.

I will be attending the Police Accountability meeting in Martlesham on 6th March and the next PCP on 20th March in West Suffolk House. These are both meetings held in public so all welcome.

- **SCC Highways:** The pavement outside Barclay's Bank still has not been repaired. I have been in email conversation with the Highways Director but not receiving any satisfactory answers. They are however continuing to paint new white lines as well as fill in some potholes albeit not in any sort of response to the HMOP standards by the look of things.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** Traffic lights now being installed at junction of Linton High Street.
- **Combined Authority:** A consultation is about to start over the whole concept of a mass transit system for Cambridge and surrounding areas including Haverhill. It would appear the bus lobby has convinced the Mayor that a rubber tyre 3-unit bus is the preferred solution despite apparent strong evidence to the contrary from the light rail lobby groups. It is hoped that supporters of either concept contribute to the consultation with reasoned arguments.
- **Haverhill Area Forum:** Hosted this event on 5th February and subject of separate minutes.
- **Leiston Centre CCTV:** This is nearly complete and most public areas are now covered with a few more cameras to be installed over next couple of weeks. The cost of installing in-house is approximately ¼ cost of using an outside contractor, including potential labour costs, with rough savings of £7,000. We hope to move onto the Zone to replace their existing analogue system once a site survey and needs analysis has been completed. A new CCTV policy is being developed for all HTC buildings.
- **Corn Exchange:** Understand Cllr Tony Brown still awaiting a response from WSC conservation regarding the state of the building. Rumours abound about a potential use of the building by current owner but nothing forthcoming to date
- **Car Parking:** The provisions for Haverhill (for implementation in April) were recently approved by Cabinet including the retention of "Free After 3" on a Friday against my better judgment when I had wanted a "Free Before 12" on the same day. It is proven, by ANPR data, that there is a dramatic drop off in car park usage from 3pm onwards on a Friday whereas a Friday morning have good occupation levels. WSC officers wanted to alter this to a less used day, such as a Wednesday, but I complained bitterly this would not encourage footfall to the market and businesses.
- **Grant Working:** The group is due to meet in March to look at more effectively managing the process.

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- **One Haverhill:** Some cosmetic work on website was done. Further work still needed to use modern design practices and to make a potential change to the bland colour scheme. Attended ASB and People Bank task group meetings during period.
- **Lidl:** Still no further news on the footpath location and other enforcement.

Other work: All HTC computers now using Windows 10 and all users running Office 365. Set up new computer for Operations Manager. Indicated to staff about document and email management with some work done on reducing profile sizes. Introduced new hardware to run the cinema and box office advertising systems with reduced power usage and equipment size as well as ease of updating the presentations. It is hoped to do something similar for the Zone to advertise events with appropriate content. Made changes to website arrangements for HAC and moved domain control to HTC. Set up new and managed email accounts.

Appendix 4 Mayoral Report

Date	Event	Location	Comments
4 th February 2020	Opening of Haverhill History Group "It Pay's To Advertise" Exhibition.	Haverhill Arts Centre	Posted on walls of café and corridors. Very interesting to see all the old businesses that existed and advertised when the town was much smaller, and we had a wide circulation newspaper before the days of the internet.
5 th February 2020	Hosted Haverhill Area Forum on Health requirements for Haverhill.	Castle Manor Academy	Not strictly a Mayoral event.
7 th February 2020	Have You Voucher Presentation	Cineworld Haverhill	Presentation of Cineworld vouchers to 4 x young people who contributed to the "Have You" website being developed for the young people of Haverhill.