

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held remotely on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.00pm under regulation 6 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Apologies:** Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor B Davidson

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole (Town Clerk)  
Nick Keeble (Arts & Leisure Manager)

All Councillors had joined by video conference. No members of the public joined the directly meeting by Zoom.

### **Welcome:**

Mayor J Burns welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded Councillors how to speak and vote, using the Zoom video conferencing system and that the meeting was being streamed live on the Council's YouTube channel.

### **MINUTES**

**C20**      **Apologies for Absence**  
**/096**      The above apologies were noted.

**C20**      **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**  
**/097**      .

**C20**      **The minutes of the Full Council meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**  
**/098**      It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 be adopted as a true record.  
**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

**C20  
/099**

**Progress of actions arising from the minutes**

a) C20/087a Letter to Chief Constable: A response has been received from the Deputy Chief Constable setting out how they see their work in Haverhill. Members noted that Inspector Kevin Horton is looking at policing holistically for Haverhill.

b) C20/089a Letter to Mr Andrew Cutting: This was sent and acknowledged.

c) C20/091c Haverhill Gymnastics: The legal advice is that the new rent figure mentioned in March is not yet official and that the club should wait until the review is actually carried out and a figure formally presented to them, before assessing their position.

d) C20/091d Portable CCTV: A response has been received from the Chief Executive of West Suffolk District Council. The Clerk was asked to request a breakdown of the £2000, given that Inspector Horton reported an identical deployment by Ipswich Borough Council was priced at £400. Councillor D Roach, in his capacity as a cabinet member at the District Council, will raise this matter at cabinet.

**CLERK**

**Cllr D  
Roach**

**C20  
/100**

**Covid-19 Coronavirus**

Councillors reviewed the reports from officers previously circulated:

a) Clerk's Report: The Clerk advised that he hoped to hear that the volunteer centre and arts space would be able to proceed to occupy 36 High Street.

b) Art & Leisure Manager's Report: Discussion took place on the practicalities of maximising the seating capacity in the Arts Centre auditorium. It will almost certainly require dynamic planning of seating capacity as people book tickets, as families and bubbles can sit together, but those groups and other individuals would need to socially distance. Therefore capacity would vary depending on who books tickets. Councillors discussed that the viability of opening was not just a financial matter for the council, but also a matter for the producers and artistes being able to make a living. Looking positively, the potential difficulties in offering a full programme similar to pre-Covid conditions presents an opportunity for local performers to put on performances that would not normally get stage space. Councillors asked to see the results of the recent survey the Arts & Leisure Manager referred to in proposing events over the summer

c) Youth Skills Manager's Report: The Councillors noted the report and asked if the remit needed to be broadened in the light of retraining etc needed for older people, rather than just <25 age group. The Clerk advised that Karen and Dan had worked successfully with older people on the Moving Toward Work project.

d) Zone Manager's Report: The report was noted

e) Customer Experience & Marketing Manager: The report was noted

f) Operations Manager: The report was noted, and that a meeting of the tenders working group was imminent.

**N Keeble**

**C20  
/101**

**Cambridge Autonomous Metro**

Councillors discussed the plans to terminate the Metro on the West side of the A11 at Fourwentways. It was agreed that this was extremely disappointing and did nothing for the people of Abingdon and Linton in terms of relief from traffic, as well as ignoring the economic contribution of Haverhill to the Cambridge economy. There was concern expressed that despite the support Haverhill Town Council, Rail Haverhill and the public had shown, this was undermined by a lack of commitment from other levels of Suffolk local government. Given the economic growth of the Cambridge sub-region and housing growth in West Suffolk and Babergh, more commuter traffic will be queuing at Fourwentways,

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given the access point to the terminus. It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe that the Clerk writes on behalf of the Town Council to Mayor James Palmer, copied to Roger Hickford and local MPs, expressing our disappointment given the strong support we have shown, that the proposed location and layout of the terminus at Babraham does not give any confidence that a future extension of CAMS itself is being accommodated in the design.

CLERK

**RESOLVED**

**C20**  
**/102** **Letters of thanks**

a) It was proposed by Councillor, seconded by Councillor, that a letter be sent to Mr Ernest Brett recognising his services to the country during World War two.

CLERK

**RESOLVED**

b) It was proposed by Councillor, seconded by Councillor, that a letter of thanks be sent to Mr Chris Rand, retiring Principal Planning Policy Officer at West Suffolk, for his many years of service to Haverhill, most recently on the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan and Great Wilsey development.

CLERK

**RESOLVED**

**C20**  
**/103** **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

a) Police – see appendix 1

b) County Councillors – see appendix 2

c) District Councillors – see appendix 3

d) Members of the public are welcome to make statements or put questions at this time. - None

**C20**  
**/104** **Mayor's Report**

See Appendix 4.

**C20**  
**/105** **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

a) The Clerk advised that there was little to report, as only an Ops Group had taken place, which received reports back on updates from groups that in the whole had not met due to Coronavirus.

**C20**  
**/106** **Safer Spaces**

This item was added to give Councillors the opportunity to comment on the arrangements for making social distancing in the High street easier, in order to encourage shoppers back into town. The mayor outlined the arrangements put in place so far, which was that the High Street and Queen Street were closed 10-4 each day. The TTRO had been renewed until 17/12/21.

Disability access remains an issue. We had aspired to free blue-badge parking, but this was not agreed. Shopmobility has opened at the Hospice. We are looking at blue-badge-only access to the High Street between 4pm and 6pm, but not only are some shops not opening that long, but it will be difficult to manage as likely to cause friction with other drivers.

Some businesses in town have been lobbying for permits to allow them to make deliveries between 10-4pm. Despite the Town Council's scepticism as to the necessity of this, a very limited permit scheme may be put in place. Given it is an unpopular concession, it will be watched like a hawk for any abuse by those businesses and can be withdrawn.

**C20**  
**/107** **Adoption of Committee Reports**

a) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the minutes of the meetings held 5<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

c) Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C20** **Actions taken under delegated powers**

**/108** The Clerk advised no actions had been taken under delegated powers.

**NOTED**

**C20** **Financial Matters**

**/109** a) **Authorisation of payments:** It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that the listed payments totalling £80,735.04 be authorised.

**RESOLVED**

b) **Grant to Abbeycroft Leisure:** It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that a grant is not given as the cost-benefit was unconvincing.

**RESOLVED**

**C20** **Urgent Correspondence**

**/110** None.

**C20** **Date of Next Meeting**

**/111** The next meeting would be held Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, by remote meeting. Cllr P Fox gave her apologies for this meeting.

**C20** **Closure**

**/112** The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:53pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....

## Appendix 1

### Emergency Services Report

Councillors had received a briefing from the local Police inspector directly before the meeting.

## Appendix 2

### County Councillors' reports

**Councillor D Roach reported:** He is hoping that the long process for getting Parr and Aragon Roads adopted by highways may be nearing completion. He has been working on planning and waste matters. Other matters he has been dealing with have concerned other parts of the county, such as the Sizewell C consultation – 56,000 pages to wade through.

**Councillor P Fox reported:** Attended a meeting regarding the installation of a bus stop at the Clements Surgery on Greenfields Way. This will now go out for costing. Cllr A Brown reminded the meeting that other bus stop installations are incomplete having been started more than a year ago, so expectations of a quick installation may be unfounded.

## Appendix 3

### District Councillors' reports

**Councillor M Marks:** Reported that it had been confirmed the practice manager would not be replaced at Christmas Maltings and Clements surgery.

District nurses are under great pressure, partly because people are taking their relatives out of care homes to look after them in the community.

People with long-term medical conditions are being triaged on a RAG rating, those rated 'green' are unlikely to be physically seen by a GP.

There is an expectation of high demand for vaccinations this winter. The government has announced an extension of free vaccinations to over 50's, but this has come after practices have submitted their requisitions for vials.

Mental health support is much improved recently.

**Councillor J Mason:** Congratulated Cllr m Marks on the roll-out of e-consult.

Cllr Mason attended a Citizens's Advice meeting earlier in the day and hear that funding is a big issue, as opportunities for fundraising have been badly hit by the pandemic.

### Councillor J Burns:

- **NW Haverhill:** Awaiting update following planning officer's adverse comments to Phase 2 plans
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Formal housing application for first 499 properties on phases A1, A2 and A8 being finalised for approval following work done to resolve outstanding comments by consultees. Some minor changes being sought before officer seeks approval through the delegation process.
- **Manor Road School Site:** Work continues apace.
- **Castle Hill Site:** An application has recently been received covering mainly the highways works and drainage.
- **Chapelwent Road Site:** Work progressing. Understand first tranche of properties due to be completed in the winter.
- **Police Matters:** The May crime stats are not yet available and there has been no new version of the SNT newsletter. I attended (online) the Police Accountability meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July (no ability to speak) and also the Police & Crime Panel meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July where we discussed Stop and Search powers plus the PCC's monitoring of Covid-19 action taken by the Constabulary. I emailed and had an answer regarding lack of ANPR equipment in the Haverhill area specifically for the Safer Spaces

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monitoring. Although not immediately satisfactory, work is going on to increase the availability of portable systems across Norfolk and Suffolk.

- **SCC Highways:** Have been part of the team implementing and monitoring the Safer Places town centre closures. Drivers still ignoring the No Entry and other signs particularly after 4pm and especially takeaway delivery drivers, taxis and even a Tesco delivery trucks I witnessed.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** I attended a Zoom meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July regarding possible changes to the A1307 iwo Gog Magog farm shop and Wandlebury crossings. There are two plans including removing the dual carriageway on the hill near the shop to make the outside lane into a dedicated right-hand turn. There are plans to make the entire road 50mph from the A11 to the 40-mph limit near to the Babraham P&R roundabout. Time ran out to discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Linton Greenway route west of the A11. Further online meetings are being scheduled and we all agreed a much better way of meeting.
- **Parking:** I have asked several questions about working hours especially in relation to Safer Places. We seem to have several officers turn up to issue tickets but not necessarily in the right place and at the right time. 175 tickets were issued in June in Haverhill. Work is ongoing to move onto the next phase allowing more access to blue badge and permit holders.
- **Markets:** Because of the hard work by Sharon Fairweather, the market is slowly starting to return back to some semblance of normality although the blanket decision by WSC to close them without any notice or discussion is still having an adverse effect on the traders attitudes as to whether they want to return. I understand that the BSE traders are not at all happy with some talk of WSC implementing some sort of new charging procedure, but I have yet to have this confirmed.
- **Covid-19:** Has still been very quiet from my perspective.
- **Other items:** No updates on Lidl footpath enforcement, Combined Authority, Corn Exchange, Atterton & Ellis, Sturmer Arches (Kew has reopened but getting there on public transport would not be a good thing at the moment) or Woodlands Hotel.
- **Armed Forces Week:** I raised the Armed Forces flag on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and helped raise the 3 forces flags on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> ready for AFD the next day. We had an excellent response to the Military convoy on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> well organised by Cllr Tony Brown and HTC staff albeit some of us got a tad wet managing traffic. The assistance from the Police, Fire Brigade and Scooters was well appreciated. I had some young people filming the convoy at strategic places and I edited a video of the whole route that is now on the HTC YouTube channel.
- **Other work:** Continue to support Clerk and others working from home. Currently working on VJ Day work with FHS and others including planning for publicity videos. Have placed VAS around town at request of police (Withersfield Road) and WSC (High Street).
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#### Appendix 4 – Mayoral Report

Date	Event	Location	Comments
26 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	Raising of 3 x Armed Forces Flags	Market Square, Haverhill	Late night event with Cllr Luccarini and RBL Bryan Mills for Armed Forces Day (next day).
15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	Graduation of young people	Stepping Stones, Haverhill	Socially distanced event outside handing out certificates to all those moving onto the next phase of their education.

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