

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held remotely on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 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  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor B Davidson  
Councillor P Firman  
Councillor P Fox  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor E McManus  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor D Roach  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor A Stinchcombe

**Apologies:** Deputy Mayor Councillor L Smith  
Councillor J Mason  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Alisha Jenkins (Office Administrator)

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

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**

- |                    |   |               |
|--------------------|---|---------------|
| <b>C20</b><br>/171 | <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b><br>The above apologies were noted.  | <b>ACTION</b> |
| <b>C20</b><br>/172 | <b><u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u></b><br>None.   |               |
| <b>C20</b><br>/173 | <b><u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020</u></b><br>It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor D Roach that the minutes of the meeting held 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020 be adopted as a true record.<br><b>RESOLVED</b> |               |

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

C20  
/174

**Progress of actions arising from the minutes**

- a) C20/159a CAMS EIA Response: The Clerk has submitted a response on behalf of the Council. The meeting thanked the Clerk for his work on the submission. The Assistant Clerk is still working on getting a date to meet Mayor Palmer
- b) C20/162b Haverhill 'health hub': Councillor M Marks reported that the planning for a new West Suffolk Hospital is progressing, with a site announced adjacent to the existing hospital. Councillor Marks observed that reference to a health hub was a misnomer and that coupled to the development of a new hospital was a revision of the most effective methods of service provision. What needed to be provided in a hospital would be, what needed to be provided in local buildings would be, but other services may be best provided in an alternative manner, such as mobile services. A better term would be "Enhanced services for Haverhill".

C20  
/175

**Covid-19 Coronavirus Reports**

Councillors reviewed the reports from officers previously circulated:

- a) **Clerk's Report:** The report was noted.
- b) **Art & Leisure Manager's Report:** the Clerk advised that the construction of the temporary rear structure was complete, ready for an event on Wednesday.
- c) **Youth Skills Manager's Report:** The report was noted.
- 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.

C20  
/176

**Consultation**

**a) West Suffolk Local Plan Issue and Options Consultation:**

The Council thanked Councillor D Roach for arranging Ms Marie Smith's presentation prior to the full council meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk should submit a further contribution to the Issues and Options paper flagging concerns about site W097 in the SHELAA, drawing attention to the need for a boundary review so that the sustainability of such a site was properly achieved through the whole site being in West Suffolk.

**b) Railfuture East Anglia request for support in a bid to "Restoring Your Railway":**

Following discussion on the documents provided, Councillors agreed that it would be beneficial if representatives of Railfuture East Anglia were invited to join the January Haverhill Area Forum meeting being arranged with Mayor James Palmer.

CLERK

C20  
/177

**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  
/178

**Mayor's Report**

The Mayor referred the meeting to his report – see appendix 4.

- C20**  
**/179**
- ONE Haverhill Partnership
- a) **Masterplan:**  
The Clerk advised that a public consultation exercise will be launched this week by the Town council to gather views on further improvements to the High Street.
- b) **The Board:**  
The Board met on 3<sup>rd</sup> December. In addition to updates, the Board heard from the Crime and Antisocial behaviour Task Group that work was ongoing to support victims of domestic abuse during the lockdown. Also, concern had been raised regarding drug and alcohol dependency services during the pandemic, for which access needs to be improved locally.  
Councillor A Luccarini reported that the BID Task Group had advertised for a Town Centre Manager, with a number of applicants enquiring but not yet shortlisted. The group were also working hard to recruit more businesses to offer benefits on the Haverhill loyalty card, which was funded by the Town Council.

**C20**  
**/180**

**Adoption of Committee Reports**

- a) Planning Committee  
It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meetings held 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be adopted.  
**RESOLVED**

**C20**  
**/181**

**Financial Matters**

- a) **Authorisation of payments:** It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the listed payments totalling £50,567.18 be authorised.  
**RESOLVED**
- b) **Budget Briefing:**  
The Clerk circulated a second version of the budget briefing document. It was observed that it was important managers continue to seek value for money in any contracts. The Clerk had provided a range of options. He highlighted that the significant drop in revenue as a result of the tax base reducing due to pandemic-related job losses would impact council tax one way or another; councillors had to decide what would be the fairest way to address this.  
The Council would consider the budget again and make a final decision in January. The Clerk was thanked for his work on the report with was noted.  
**NOTED**
- c) **Haverhill Splashpad:**  
Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, Seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that a budget of £200,000 be approved for the delivery of a splashpad project at the recreation ground, as agreed in principle at C19/180 last year.  
**RESOLVED**  
Councillors congratulated Councillor A Brown on his tenacity in bringing this project towards fruition.
- d) **Haverhill Splashpad:**  
It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that £200,000 be vired from the Property Acquisition Earmarked Reserve to set up a Haverhill Splashpad Earmarked Reserve.  
**RESOLVED**

**C20**  
**/182**

**Urgent Correspondence**

None.

**C20**  
**/183**

**Date of Next Meeting**

- a) It was noted that the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Haverhill Community Trust will be held at 7:00pm on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020,
- b) It was noted that the next meeting will be held Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, by remote meeting.
- c) It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the list of proposed dates of meetings for 2021 be adopted, subject to amendments.

**RESOLVED**

**C20**  
**/186**

**Closure**

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:44 and wished Councillors not attending next week's meeting a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....

## **Appendix 1**

### **Police Report**

Members noted the need for the no-entry signs at the top of Market Square to be enforced, the one-way system being well known but repeat offenders keep ignoring it, which is incredibly reckless. The meeting noted the improved format of the Constable's County. The Clerk will email the Assistant Constable thanking them for the improvements.

**Action: Clerk**

## **Appendix 2**

### **County Councillors' reports**

#### **Councillor P Fox reported:**

Clements Surgery Bus Stop – All has been agreed in principle; the County is awaiting an endorsement from the Clements Surgery to enable the works to be commissioned.

Hazel Stub – Councillor Q fox has funded from his locality budget the assessment costs for a change in speed limit from 60mph to at least 40mph, if not 30mph.

#### **Councillor D Roach reported:**

The adoption of Aragon and Parr Roads plods on.

Other county council matters were covered in the written District Councillor's report provided by Councillor J Burns.

In response to a question from Councillor D Smith regarding boundary signage, Councillor Roach advised it was his understanding that four signs had been ordered.

## **Appendix 3**

### **District Councillors' reports**

#### **Councillor P Hanlon reported:**

There remained some legacy St Edmundsbury Borough Council signage on the industrial estate. The Mayor advised that this be reported direct to West Suffolk, however signage is being replaced as necessary to avoid costs.

#### **Councillor A Luccarini reported:**

The makers market was a great success in Haverhill over the weekend with high turnout of shoppers, a queue to get into the car park and stall holders reporting they sold out of stock. It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the Clerk write to Sharon Fairweather, Market Development Manager, thanking her for her efforts which have transformed the market.

**RESOLVED**

#### **Councillor J Burns reported:**

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues. No updates.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues. No updates.
- **Manor Road School Site:** Work continues apace. Still awaiting sign showing who the developers are. Have had complaints from nearby residents that new builds have blocked their receiving satellite broadcasts which waiting on Barley Homes to resolve.
- **Castle Hill Site:** Work continues.
- **Chapelwent Road Site:** Work progressing.
- **Police Matters:** The October crime stats were distributed on 1<sup>st</sup> December with the December edition of "Constable's County" sent on 11<sup>th</sup> – the latter is a bit better.

The next Police & Crime Panel meeting is on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021 where amongst other things will be discussed the proposed precept for 2021/22 although the deadline for the PCC to submit to the PCP is 1st February. If any dispute, then a reserve meeting date set for 19<sup>th</sup> February to ensure a precept is set. The government have announced they are allowing up to a £15/year increase on a Band D

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property. These meetings are streamed.

Police once again reminded (via Inspector Horton) of their obligation to monitor and deal with illegal entry from Camps Road into the town centre. It continues to be a major problem with most offenders seen to be the same drivers; quite often taxis from a particular company, local takeaway owners and their delivery drivers.

We also continue to see the occasional vehicle in the High Street having gained entry via either Quakers Lane or the Gurteens complex.

- **SCC Highways / High Street Closures:** Regular meetings continue to be held to support the Safer Places town centre closures. We are awaiting a new green cycling sign which will be fitted to the barrier. WSC have been asked to ensure the Quakers Lane barriers are put into place every day.

New cycle racks have been installed and we await new picnic benches/seating benches as well as repairs to the existing benches which HTC are organising. Once new road signage has been installed by SCC, we can remove the unsightly metalwork and plastic barriers. Complaints about the seating installed outside the Drabbet Smock by the PH has been received from the church. WSC failed to consult them meaning disabled drivers are now not happy to attend the church because they cannot reverse safely. This has been passed onto WSC Licensing by Cllr Luccarini.

Arranged for extraneous highways signs left over from August flood repairs to be removed by the owners. They responded extremely quickly (coming from Diss) and were gone within 2 hours. Somewhat of an example that others could follow I would suggest.

- **Covid-19:** I think we all are waiting to hear what tier we will end up when announced this coming week. It currently does not look good for the county albeit the figures locally are still relatively low.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** The consultation on the new park & ride/CAM system is still ongoing. The Town Clerk sent a very comprehensive rebuttal to the plans for a new proposed Travel Hub at Babraham as well as the proposed route of a CAM to that point.
- **Parking:** WSC enforcement officers have been around town but perhaps not during the times they really should be in the High Street/Queen Street area. At 5pm on Saturday night I counted 17 vehicles illegally parked across both roads. Very disconcerting to still note that Haverhill (at 8.3% of all visits across the CPE area) lags way behind BSE (30%) and Newmarket (14%). When the December figures are revealed I will distribute my full analysis of statistics from August 2020.
- **Markets:** The markets go from strength to strength. The numbers of people out and about, even during inclement weather is amazing, particularly on market days which goes against the claims by some businesses in the High Street that consider footfall is down due to the “road closures”. business need to help themselves by taking advantage of that footfall by bringing their wares outside their shops, via free temporary pavement licenses, to promote what they sell and/or entice customers in particularly during this festive shopping period.
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** The potential developers have now been put in contact with WSC property to encourage both sides to progress the redevelopment of this site. It is presumed that no part of the site will be retained due to the ravages of time and the two fires.
- **Other items:** Still no updates on Lidl footpath enforcement, Combined Authority, and Sturmer Arches.
- **Other work:** Continue to support Clerk and others working from home. Recently refurbished laptop for the Community Kitchen post to use. Worked with staff to procure new firewall system for HTC network and continue to develop backup/operating procedures.

Due to attend WSC Grant Working meeting this coming week, which looks like it may well be a long

affair based on number of applications and attended WSC Development Control plus numerous Town Council related online meetings.

- **Other news:** Recently filmed (not as part of Councillor tasks) 2 x A-Level and GCSE Drama submissions on behalf of SWA which I was very impressed with the talent shown.

This coming Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>) I'm providing systems and helping live stream the SWA annual Xmas concert (on YouTube from 6pm for about an hour) and on Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) a "Perform" concert (which I understand is individuals and groups performing something akin to BGT) from 1.55pm for an hour; again on YouTube. Tune in if you can.

St. Mary's Church Choir will be on the Market Square this Saturday morning (19<sup>th</sup>), around the Xmas tree, with their usual high-class carol singing.

#### Appendix 4 Mayors Report

Date	Event	Location	Comments
6 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	Toy Service	Haverhill Methodist Church	Attended 2 x socially distanced services and made short speech thanking the toy donors and social services in distributing to those needing support.  Well organised service conforming to Tier 2 rules.

All other events either postponed or cancelled due to Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.