

Haverhill Town Council



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held remotely on Monday 26th January 2021 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

Present:

- Mayor Councillor J Burns
- Deputy Mayor Councillor L Smith
- Councillor A Brown
- Councillor J Crooks
- Councillor B Davidson
- Councillor P Firman (Joined at 19:35am)
- Councillor P Fox
- 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: None

In Attendance:

- Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
- Alisha Jenkins (Office Administrator)
- Vicky Phillips (Assistant 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

C21 **Apologies for Absence**

/001 All present.

C21 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**

/002

Councillor J Mason	PI: L21/008 –West Suffolk Citizens Advice in Haverhill Grant Report, as Councillor Mason is on the Board.
--------------------	---

ACTION

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

C21 /003	<p><u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings 14th December 2020</u></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor E McManus that the minutes of the meeting held 14th December 2020 be adopted as a true record.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
C21 /004	<p><u>Progress of actions arising from the minutes</u></p> <p>a) C20/174b Haverhill 'health hub': it was agreed that an invitation to be extended David Pannell Chief Executive of Suffolk Federation to attend a future meeting, after the vaccination roll-out, regarding funding distribution.</p> <p>b) C20/183 Meeting dates for 2021: Councillor B Davidson mentioned that in the previous meeting it was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon and seconded by Councillor D Roach that the Town Council meeting dates be added to the Councillors calendars. A. Jenkins to create a Town Council meeting calendar and share with Councillors.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	Clerk AJ
C21 /005	<p><u>Progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by the Agenda</u></p> <p>Councillors reviewed the reports from officers previously circulated:</p> <p>a) C20/176 Restoring you Railway – Haverhill Area Forum meeting: Have given a deadline for declarations of support for the end of March 2021. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that the Clerk write a letter expressing support for rapid mass transport services between Haverhill and Cambridge and ring-fence £4,000 for the project.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	Clerk
C21 /006	<p><u>Consultation</u></p> <p>a) PSPO consultation on excluding Tudor Court from the protected area: It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor T Brown proposal to agree including supporting comments.</p> <p>b) consider the letter from Play England in relation to keeping haverhill pump track open: The Clerk advised that unlike the first lockdown, this time around we are not legally obliged to close the pump track. Playgrounds can stay open, but skate parks must close. The legislation does not mention pump tracks. The Clerk requested guidance from Councillors on whether the pump track should stay open. It was proposed by Councillor E McManus and seconded by Councillor L Smith that the Clerk double-check and then take the decision under delegated authority, in line with his findings on the legislation.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	Clerk Clerk
C21 /007	<p><u>Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM</u></p> <p>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</p>	
C21 /008	<p><u>Mayor's Report</u></p> <p>All events either postponed or cancelled due to Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak.</p>	
C21 /009	<p><u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u></p> <p>No further update.</p>	

C21
/010

Adoption of Committee Reports

a) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 11th January 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure and Community Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor P Fox that the minutes of the meetings held 12th January 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

i. L21/007 – To consider choice of benches for Railway Walk:

Councillors considered the proposal for the installation of benches along the length of railway walk between East Town Park and West Town Park. It was noted that benches no. 18 to 25 within West Town Park is on land in Withersfield, owned by the Environment Agency. It was suggested that the parish council and the Environment Agency be approached to see if they would consider contributing funds towards the project. It was noted that benches have recently been placed in the Flood Park in any case, which may resolve the need for some of our planned additions.

Councillors discussed the variety of benches presented within the report. Councillor A Brown favoured the Railway Sleeper bench design and offered assistance in assembling the wood if this design was approved.

Other councillors were keen on the recycled plastic benches due to their durability and the statement it would make as a council regarding being conscious of the environment.

The Clerk advised that the next steps would be to submit a design report to West Suffolk Council as they own Railway Walk and would need to approve the choices. The next brief presented to the Council will include a mixture of the preferred benches to get a more accurate representation of the cost of the project.

ii. L21/008 – To consider a recommendation to grant £10,000 towards the work of West Suffolk Citizens Advice in Haverhill

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor P Fox that the grant of £10,000 to West Suffolk Citizens Advice be approved.

RESOLVED

c) Finance Committee

The minutes were not yet available, so to be deferred to the next meeting.

AJ/VP

AJ/VP

C21
/011

Financial Matters

a) **Authorisation of payments:** It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the listed payments totalling £128,252.93 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) **Budget Briefing:**

The Clerk circulated the latest version of the budget briefing document. West Suffolk Council have reinstated the local council tax support grant equally £21,000 for the next financial year only. As it is unlikely that similar support will be offered the year after it was suggested to set up an earmarked reserve in the up-and-coming financial year to be used as a 'council tax support' for the following year.

The Clerk was thanked for his work on the report.

i. To approve the 2020/21 budget:

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the 2020/21 budget be approved.

Councillor J Crooks requested a recorded vote.

In favour: Mayor Councillor J Burns

Deputy Mayor Councillor L Smith

Councillor A Brown
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman (Joined at 19:35am)
Councillor P Fox
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

Against: Councillor J Crooks

RESOLVED.

ii. Approve the Precept:

It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the precept be approved.

14 in favour, 1 against.

RESOLVED.

iii. Authorise the Chairman and Clerk to sign and serve the precept demand upon the District Council:

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor B Davidson, that the Chairman and Clerk sign and serve the precept demand upon the District Council.

RESOLVED.

C21 **Urgent Correspondence**

/012 None.

C21 **Date of Next Meeting**

/013 It was noted that the next meeting will be held Monday 22nd February 2021, by remote meeting.

C21 **Decision in capacity of Sole Trustee of the Haverhill Community Trust**

/014 It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor D Smith, to waive the rent charges normally applied to occupants of the Haverhill Arts Centre for the period of April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021.

RESOLVED

C21 **Closure**

/015 The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 21:24.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

Police Report

Inspector Kevin Horton has offered to speak to local councillors over Zoom Conferencing regarding any police related issues.

Police have been attending supermarkets to ensure that face coverings are being worn.

Appendix 2

County Councillors' reports

Councillor P Fox reported:

Hazell Stub - The residents would like a speed reduction there and a traffic assessment was arranged for this week but it has been put on hold because of COVID and the lock down.

Blue Badges - As part of the One Haverhill Masterplan Group I was tasked at looking at the placement of our current blue badge parking spaces in town. I, with two WS Officers walked around and have agreed that the disabled parking spaces needed re-jigging so that the spaces were in more suitable positions. Watch this space – will it happen?

ONE Haverhill Masterplan Group - I have mentioned this in meetings, and it is a bit of a bug-bear with me, but we need more women on this group.

Moving the bus stop at the Clements - The saga continues, and we await legal teams to deal with land issues.

Haverhill Vales - Does the town need several more thousand houses?

Councillor A Lucarini left the meeting at 20:10

Councillor D Roach reported:

COVID-19 report will be released twice a week.

Launch of the 2020 fund Councillor D Roach will circulate information to members.

Action: Councillor D Roach

Suffolk County Council are sourcing grant funding for an additional 100 ECP in the whole county.

Appendix 3

District Councillors' reports

Councillor P Hanlon reported:

Potholes have remerged by the Cangle Junction, not long after being repaired.

Councillor J Burns reported:

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues. No updates.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues. Have asked developer what is happening about temporary entrance to site opposite Falcon Close, as was started then stopped. This was required to redevelop the nearby roundabout. No response but suspect they may well be furloughed.
- **Manor Road School Site:** Work continues apace. Sign showing ownership was installed but, in my opinion, very poor as not advertising strongly that this is effectively a WSC development and benefits to the taxpayer.
- **Castle Hill Site:** Work continues.
- **Chapelwent Road Site:** Work progresses.
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** No further updates.
- **Police Matters:** The November crime stats were distributed on 28th December. There has been no new edition of "Constable's County".

I attended the PCC's Accountability & Performance Panel meeting online on 15th January however were not allowed to ask any questions. A recording of the meeting should become available in due

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

course on their website.

Also attended (last week) 1st meeting of a new Task & Finish Group of the Police & Crime Panel tasked with identifying all areas of Road Safety that the PCC's office, through funding to the Constabulary, should be concentrating on especially for those regions of the county that do not normally receive the support expected such as speed awareness & enforcement, cycle safety and training, etc.

The next Police & Crime Panel meeting is this coming Friday (29th January 10.30am) where lots to scrutinise including the proposed Band D precept of £15 for 2021/22. Papers are available here: <https://bit.ly/39d7Z7R>. These meetings are streamed.

- **Covid-19 SCC Highways / High Street Closures:** The meetings are now taking place one a month. With the latest lockdown, which looks like could be here for some time yet, it is noticeable that the amount of people in the town centre is much more than was during first lockdown but no known untoward problems by the majority of the public.

The green cycling sign, which was recently fitted to the barrier, was damaged and subsequently disappeared. I did question at the time why SCC provided a plastic sign rather than the metal one we all thought was being provided, so hardly surprising. I am trying to find out if WSC removed it without telling us.

WSC are now ensuring the Quakers Lane barriers are put into place every day following intervention with their operations management.

The new cycle rack woodwork will be decorated in the next 2/3 months using some simple artwork. The town centre benches are currently being renovated with new wood by HTC staff and paid for by HTC. They look fantastic and staff doing brilliant job. Some new benches are being ordered for the town centre as well.

SCC Highways regularly being chased about the removal of the unnecessary barriers and installation of new road signage.

- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** I attended a meeting last Wednesday about projects from Cambridge as far as the proposed park & ride/CAM system at Fourwentways. These include new pedestrian/cycle paths from Addenbrookes to Babraham P&R, new road layout at Wandlebury and the new 50mph speed limit from A11.

They had 430 responses to the consultation over the new P&R,, including 130 written submissions which I understand may well have been lengthy, so there is no resume of the consultation available yet. I will be attending a meeting, just before this full TC meeting, which discusses projects between the A11 and Haverhill so should be able to update members then.

- **Parking:** WSC enforcement officers have been around town but, as from the statistics I distributed on 12th January, looks like we are probably not getting our fair share of resources. We still have problems with illegal parking in Queen/High Street with takeaways that remain open.
- **Markets:** The markets are obviously in lockdown. The 4 x new picnic benches were installed but we need to encourage traders not to move them (or at least put back afterwards) as they are primarily there for Covid-19 reasons, to allow pedestrians to relax having perhaps purchased food/drink from the market, and to stop drivers accessing the High Street across the Market Square. They are well used when the weather is good; appropriately spaced.
- **Other items:** Nothing further to report on Lidl footpath enforcement, Combined Authority actions related to Haverhill, and Sturmer Arches mainly due lockdown.

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

- **Other work:** Continue to support Clerk and others working from home. This last weekend helped (remotely) install new network firewall system at HAC.

Attended final meeting of the WSC Grant Working on 13th January where we decided the distribution of grant funds to various organisations across the District. Once it has gone through the final Cabinet process the amounts/organisations will be announced. Attended WSC Development Control and various Town Council meetings.

Meeting being arranged for mid-February to hear from the land agents for the proposed development south of the bypass (which they have named “Haverhill Vales”) to which local parish officials have been invited.

- **Census 2021:** This takes place on Sunday March 21st. The organisers are concerned about ensuring as many people as possible this time which, by very nature of technology and of course Covid-19, will be mainly digital. They will be issuing tons of information guides and resources to those that will have difficulty completing online as well as those who may have reluctance to answer some of the questions which this time includes 3 relating to gender. Census packs will start dropping on door mats 1st week March and a nationwide advertising campaign 3rd week February. I am in contact with the local Engagement Manager and have already put them in contact with various voluntary, community and business groups.
- **Other news:** Before Xmas filmed SWA annual Xmas concert and a “Perform” concert the next day. Both were livestreamed to YouTube with 3K and 1.2K views respectively to date. Great performances I thought.