

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held remotely on Monday, 22 February 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



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:** Mayor Councillor J Burns  
Deputy Mayor Councillor L Smith  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor B Davidson  
Councillor P Firman  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor E McManus  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor J Mason  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor A Stinchcombe

**Apologies:** Councillor P Fox  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor D Roach

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole (Town Clerk)  
Alisha Jenkins (Office Administrator)

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>C21</b><br><b>/016</b> | <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b><br>The above apologies were noted.  | <b>ACTION</b> |
| <b>C21</b><br><b>/017</b> | <b><u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u></b><br>None.   |               |
| <b>C21</b><br><b>/018</b> | <b><u>The minutes of the Full Council meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021</u></b><br>It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor E McManus that the minutes of the meeting held 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 be adopted as a true record.<br><b>RESOLVED</b> |               |

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**C21 /019** **Progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by the Agenda**

- a) C21/004 Meeting dates for 2021: A. Jenkins has created and sent a Town Council meeting calendar for Councillors.
- b) C21/005 Restoring your Railway: The Clerk has sent a letter expressing support for a railway services from Haverhill to Cambridge.
- c) C21/006 Pump Track: The Clerk investigated the current legislation, and the park has remained open. Thanks was recorded for Councillor A Luccarini and Jay Mills who works with Haverhill South People's Forum maintaining and monitoring that users stick to the rules.

**C21 /020** **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

**C21 /021** **Mayor's Report**

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

**C21 /022** **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

The BID Task Group have now offered the role of Town Centre Manager to an applicant and are just going through the appointment process. Heart of Haverhill received 25 suitable applications for the role; 6 were shortlisted for interview. The search for a new Partnership Chair continues as John Mayhew is seeking to step down; the Board meeting is due to take place next month which will consider any names put forward.

**C21 /023** **Adoption of Committee Reports**

a) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

b) Energy and Sustainability Committee

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor T Brown that the minutes of the meetings held 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

i. The recommendation for the lighting system at the Zone:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith to accept the recommendation for the lightening system at the Zone.

**RESOLVED**

ii. The recommendation to approve the Sustainability Policy:

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor D Smith to approve the Sustainability Policy.

**RESOLVED**

iii. To consider a proposal for the lightening system at the Arts Centre:

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor D Smith to accept the recommendation for the lightening system at the Arts Centre.

**RESOLVED**

- c) Finance Committee  
It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021.  
**RESOLVED**

**C21** Financial Matters

- /024 a) **Authorisation of payments:** It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that the listed payments totalling £17,006.35 be authorised.  
**RESOLVED**

**C21** Urgent Correspondence

/025 None.

**C21** Amendments to Council Calendar

- /026 a) Annual Town Meeting currently scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May to be held 4<sup>th</sup> May: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Mason that the Annual Town Meeting be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May remotely.  
**RESOLVED**
- b) Annual Meeting of the Town Council currently scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> May to be held 4<sup>th</sup> May: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Mason that the Annual Meeting of the Town Council be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May remotely.  
**RESOLVED**
- c) Planning Committee meeting currently scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> May to be rescheduled to a date TBA, dependent on further government action: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Mason that the Planning Committee meeting be deferred a week before or after the 4<sup>th</sup> May.  
**RESOLVED**
- d) To note that other meetings may be cancelled or rescheduled dependent on government action: It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe to note that other meetings may be cancelled or rescheduled dependent on government action.  
**NOTED**
- e) To consider sending a letter to the Communities Secretary, Ry Hon Robert Jenrick MP asking for the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 to be extended for a further 6 months: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Smith to send a letter to the Communities Secretary, Ry Hon Robert Jenrick MP asking for the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 to be extended for a further 6 months  
**RESOLVED**

**C21** Date of Next Meeting

/027 It was noted that the next meeting will be held Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021, by remote meeting.

**C21** To Exclude the Press and Public

/028 It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor E McManus to exclude the press and public for the rest of the meeting.  
**RESOLVED**

**C21** Bevan House Disposal

/029 a) To approve a bid assessment scheme for publication:

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the bid assessment scheme be approved for publication.

**RESOLVED**

- b) To appoint three councillors to join the Clerk and agent in opening the sealed bids after the application window closes, and scoring the bids against the bid assessment scheme:

Councillor D. Smith, Councillor M Marks and Councillor A. Luccarini were appointed to opening sealed bids after the application window closes and scoring the bids against the assessment scheme.

**RESOLVED**

**C21  
/031**

**Closure**

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 20:06pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....

## **Appendix 1**

### **Police Report**

No further update.

## **Appendix 2**

### **County Councillors' reports**

No further update.

## **Appendix 3**

### **District Councillors' reports**

#### **Councillor D Smith reported:**

That work is now taking place to install a ramp to enable wheelchair users to access the Leiston Community Centre.

#### **Councillor T Brown reported:**

District Council are preparing a campaign over the next couple of weeks to try and tackle dog fouling.

The Clerk added that the Community Warden has been printing and placing posters discouraging dog fouling around town. Clerk to ensure that extra posters are printed for councillors who wish to distribute. **Action: Clerk.**

Councillor J Burns added that Sara Marsh has been busy preparing and printing census 2021 posters which will also be placed in the town noticeboards.

#### **Councillor M Marks reported:**

Local flood defences are currently very full, one of the 'town' flood parks near the school as you come off Wrattling Road is missing fencing. This has been raised to West Suffolk Council who are planning to replace the fencing and dredge all the flood parks.

Councillor M Marks has also been speaking to the local Waste Operative at West Suffolk Council to arrange for fly tipping posters to go out with council tax bills.

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

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues Phases 1 and 2A. Phase 2B detailed application just been registered. Infrastructure application imminent. As this is at least a 10-year project, developer keen to engage with local residents and will be looking at dedicated website and other means of providing up to date information such as PROW changes, landscaping, etc. The Relief Road is all but ready to go except for the WSC Landscape Officer not yet agreeing to the proposals. If not done soon, the project could be delayed by yet another 6 months due to bird nesting season. I spoke to the Planning Officer this last week and emphasised the importance of this road to the people of Haverhill in terms of traffic and NOx levels. They are looking whether a phased approach to the landscaping could be approved so the road building can get started.

The roundabout next to the Fox PH is due to be connected to the A143 by end of March with traffic lights being installed in the next 2 weeks. This will have to be coordinated with the Great Wilsey traffic lights currently in situ.

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on the new A43 roundabout, construction compound, and start of the spline road off Haverhill Road. I took some photos this last week for WSC planning and met the Site Manager for the groundworks company who came out wondering who I was. He explained that they had had a lot of problems because of utilities running near the ditches, bad weather, and the clay mainly because they started the work at the wrong time of the year but work progressing well now. There has been praise on their management of mud from the site and whilst I was there watched the road sweeper clearing up back and forth. I have still not received answer from the developer re Falcon Close entrance but WSC planning were due to have a meeting this week and would remind them.

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**Chalkstone Way/Falcon  
Close 1**

**Haverhill Road 1**

**Haverhill Road 2**

- **Manor Road School Site:** Work continues apace. I have asked a Barley Homes Director, and WSC (as owners of Barley Homes), what is happening about marketing the properties as there is no sign on site nor prices on the William H Brown website who are the appointed agents. I have previously complained about using an estate agent that has no presence in town for a WSC owned site. We are not expecting the “affordable” element to be particularly affordable for the people of this town.
- **Castle Hill Site:** Work continues although only driven past and not stopped.
- **Chapelwent Road Site:** Work progresses.
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** No further updates.
- **Haverhill Vales:** A HTC meeting was held last week about a proposal for ~5000 residential units and other infrastructure with the land agents and local Parish Councils. This is something proposed in the new WSC Local Plan and will be interesting to see how far it progresses on basis there were a lot of questions asked about its sustainability and effect on Haverhill as whole. About 50% of the site is in Braintree DC/Essex area.
- **Police Matters:** The December 2020 crime stats were distributed on 28<sup>th</sup> January and the latest version of “Constable’s County” earlier this month. The local Police representative is due to brief Councillors before the Town Council meeting.

The Police & Crime Panel met on 28<sup>th</sup> January and unanimously agreed the Band D precept increase of £15 for 2021/22 after a detailed and extensive debate. Questions raised around transfers to reserves and use of the precept rise. Further reports from the PCC have been sent out to support what is happening. I have since emailed the PCC regarding policing numbers detailed in that meeting as there is some confusion over what is planned for Haverhill in the next financial year. What we were told in terms of local policing numbers may be watered down which of course is of concern. I have yet to receive a response although I do know it has reached the local Policing management for comment.

- **Covid-19 SCC Highways / High Street Closures:** The Safer Spaces meetings are now taking place one a month and in between work is undertaken locally to ensure the action points are carried out. The barriers outside Nine Jars are due to be removed soon – the parking bay is now suspended with a visible sign. New road signage is hoped to be here ASAP to emphasise the existing TRO and but then being able to remove the remaining signs on A-frames near the Bull PH. The High Street barrier has been hit (and damaged) by cars twice in as many weeks and cones are now put along the road edge to emphasise to drivers that they need to open their eyes. A new green cycle/pedestrian sign has now been fitted after repairs by MetCraft Ltd to the barrier.
- **Haverhill Area Forum:** We recently held a forum with the Mayor of the Combined Authority, James Palmer, and adjacent Parish Councils, discussing progress on the CAM project for the A1307 corridor. The minutes of this will be published soon.

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- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** I attended a meeting literally just before the last Full Council meeting on which I reported briefly at that meeting. This covered the area from the A11 to Haverhill. Items discussed were the Linton Greenway, Hildersham Crossing Traffic Lights, the deferment of the westbound bus lane east of Linton to Phase 2 (or never), Bartlow Road roundabout, Dean Road Crossroads and the average speed cameras being installed between the Horseheath bypass and the Suffolk border. More information is available on their website.
- **Parking:** Based on the last statistics produced by WSC, the enforcement officers have been around town but, we still are not getting anywhere near our fair share of resources and it certainly appears to be the case this is continuing based on lack of visibility plus increased illegal parking in February. I have written to the Parking Manager asking for an explanation.

As was seen in the press, there were some comments about the “new” parking charges that were proposed to start in April 2021 but on which WSC have now backtracked and stated they will be introduced at an (sic) “appropriate moment”. These are of course the ones agreed by the working party I sat on until January 2020 and the implementation of which was deferred from April 2020 (due lockdown) and which I fought hard to ensure we had the lowest possible increase compared to the original proposals to introduce 24/7 charging across West Suffolk.

It is of course not appropriate to introduce these until we know how our economy is progressing post lockdown. It is a shame I could not obtain agreement on free parking for (say) one hour, removal of charging for Blue Badge holders (up to 3 hours) and replacing the “Free After 3” with a “Free Before 12” on a Friday to help the market.

- **Markets:** The markets are still obviously in lockdown but continue to do their best even in cold weather. It is hoped come post lockdown they will return to the vibrant feel they had after the 1<sup>st</sup> lockdown.
- **Sturmer Arches.** Earlier this month, during the recent cold snap, icicles and debris was seen to be falling from the viaduct. Cllr Stinchcombe, after first consulting me, kindly sent an email to Highways England (HE) (as the entity responsible for inspecting the structure), SCC Highways (as the entity responsible for the road) and CEO of WSC (believed to be the owner) asking for immediate action. HE immediately arranged for the road to be closed and the next day arranged for contractors to take off the offending loose bits before reopening the road. A response that is worthy of praise and not the first time they have responded to cries of help about this as they also did the same during my investigations into ownership. No response has been received directly from SCC or WSC to date.

Further work is ongoing, as been reported here many times, over the ownership (which will need to wait until Covid restrictions allow) but more immediate efforts are being made to encourage discussions about whose responsibility maintenance of the structure is before someone is seriously injured or worse.

- **Census 2021:** A reminder this takes place on Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> and I have been asking HTC to ensure that social media and the digital sign have posts made advertising this in English and various languages we believe some residents may have as their first language. A3 posters are being printed for the noticeboards around town. I have asked for the possibility of lighting up prominent structures around town with laser generated images to ensure residents are aware of the campaign such as Sanofi, Old Independent Church, etc. Councillors were sent the handbook recently (issued by ONS) and, whilst there may be some questions, a nationwide advertising campaign is due to start this coming week and the census packs (preceded by a postcard notification) are due to go out 1<sup>st</sup> week March.

I have a meeting this week with local ONS Manager to advise them of what action has been taken to date. The 2011 census had a very good response, and it is hoped this one will be even better considering the main emphasis is on digital which a lot of people have got used to over the last nearly 12 months.

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- **Other items:** Still nothing further to report on the Lidl footpath enforcement or other known enforcement requests.
- **Other work:** Continue to support Clerk and others working from home plus projects for HAC, Zone and Leiston.

A new temporary backup system for the HTC server was installed last week and a more permanent solution will be installed in the next week or so for both HTC and the Zone systems. These will provide a lot more resilience to the existing systems as well as providing more benefits for staff in both locations. The new firewall system recently installed is working well with a new more reliable Wireless Access Point installed to connect the Digital Sign to the network.

Investigation work is ongoing into the broadband speed at the Leiston which appears way below what the ISP is stating we should be getting.

As has been reported in the press, the WSC grants (that Cllr Marks, myself and others) agreed on were approved by WSC Cabinet recently. These included projects in Haverhill. Attended WSC Development Control and various Town Council meetings.