

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held remotely on Tuesday, 30 March 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 D Roach
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor P Fox
Councillor L Miller-Jones

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 recorded to later be posted on the Council's YouTube channel, due to technical difficulties with the live stream.

MINUTES

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------|
| C21 /032 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted. | ACTION |
| C21 /033 | <u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u> None. | |
| C21 /034 | <u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings 22nd February 2021</u> It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 22 nd February 2021 be adopted as a true record. RESOLVED | |

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

C21 **Progress of actions arising from the minutes**
/035 C21/027 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:

The Clerk reported that, despite the House of Commons passing legislation to continue their meetings remotely until the 21st of June, the government has again stated it does not intend to extend the power to hold meetings remotely. It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe and seconded by Councillor L Smith for the Clerk write to MP Matt Hancock in support of his statement for the House of Commons and looking for similar support in the continuation of remote meeting for Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels.

RESOLVED.

C21 **Progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by the**
/036 **Agenda**

All items taken under their respective agenda items.

C21 **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to**
/037 **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 **Mayor's Report**

/038 The Mayor referred the meeting to his report – see appendix 4.

C21 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/039 Haverhill Health Hub: Members reported that Ian Gallin Chief Executive of West Suffolk Council suggested that when proposals are made, Councillors should “think big”, as it is important that a Hub meets the requirements of the services being provided and of the town.

It was also mentioned that plans for the new West Suffolk Hospital will include looking to co-locate non-acute services, plans such as mobile services are being discussed.

The Clerk advised the council that Mr Andy Hunter, Headteacher at Samuel Ward Academy, will be the new Chair of ONE Haverhill Partnership from the June Board meeting.

C21 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/040 a) **Leisure and Community Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 9th March 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) **Energy and Sustainability Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe that the minutes of the meetings held 16th March 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

- i. To consider the recommendation for the lighting system at the Leiston Centre: It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe to accept the recommendation for the lighting system at the Leiston Centre.

RESOLVED

- c) Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 22nd March 2021.

RESOLVED

**C21
/041**

Financial Matters

- a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the listed payments totalling £84,248.72 be authorised.

RESOLVED

- b) Payment to Hartseats for the provision of services 2020/21: it was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that £11,280 for bar services and £11,250 for café services be approved for payment.

- c) Draft Earmarked Reserves 2020/21: Deferred to the 26th of April Full Council meeting.

**C21
/042**

Member-Officer protocol

The meeting discussed the draft protocol. In introducing the item, the Clerk stressed that it was because we had such active Councillors working alongside staff at events etc that the question of 'boundaries' arises. In some other councils there is sadly little engagement of Councillors and no need to have a protocol.

The Clerk further advised that the protocol didn't change anything, but simply gathered together the strands from documents such as the Code of Conduct, Standing Orders and Employee Handbook to make processes for Officers and Councillors clearer. The document absolutely does not restrict Councillors from giving feedback for events and work produced by Officers but does provide a framework for doing so. It was suggested that the document also include a section clarifying actions taken for any potential issues arising by Clerk and Officers.

The Clerk invited Councillors to email him with comments and observations to assist in a second drafting. This would be re-examined at the 26th of April Full Council meeting.

**All
Councillors**

**C21
/043**

Urgent Correspondence

None.

**C21
/044**

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting will be held Monday 26th April 2021, by video conference.

The Mayor advised that a closed-session would take place at 6pm on the 26th April 2021 to discuss arrangements for the Annual meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED.

**C21
/045**

To Exclude the Press and Public

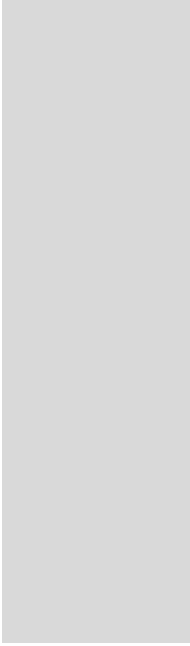
It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor L Smith to exclude the press and public for the rest of the meeting.

RESOLVED

C21 **Meeting to continue**
/046 It was proposed by Councillor M Marks and seconded by D Roach that due to the meeting only having one item of business to transact, that Standing Order 3x, A meeting shall not exceed a period of 2 hours, be suspended, to enable completion of the business at hand.
RESOLVED

C21/ **Bevan House Disposal**
047 The Clerk reported on the conclusion of the sealed bidding process in relation to the sale of Bevan House. It was confirmed that the process for assessing bids had been applied and that one bid was recommended for preferred status, to enable due diligence to begin. It was proposed by Councillor M Marks and seconded by Councillor E McManus that the Town Council accept the bid in principle subject to normal due diligence.
RESOLVED

C21 **Closure**
/048 The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 21:23pm.



Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1

Police Report

Members reported concerns raised regarding car crimes in Haverhill. Police has responded by increasing plain car patrols and plain clothed officers in town to attempt to catch the culprits. Police have also been asking for people to submit any CCTV/dashcam footage they may have of any suspicious behaviour.

Appendix 2

County Councillors' reports

Councillor D Roach reported:

Following requests from residents to remove yellow lines on Chalkstone estate, discussions are happening with Suffolk Highways to review the TRO.

COVID-19 updates are still being circulated on a regular basis.

Issues regarding the A143 road closure, with hundreds of cars driving through Kedington due to poor signage of the diversion route. A marked crossing is looking to be place along Coupals Road, but not before the May elections.

Appendix 3

District Councillors' reports

Councillor J Mason reported:

Attended a Citizens Advice Bureau Board meeting, who are looking to hire more staff.

Received information regarding the Mildenhall Hub - Councillor M Marks can provide further information on this.

Keep Haverhill Tidy has been helping to provide guidance and information to the public regarding reporting issues for dog bins or fly-tipping which has highlighted the need for an information programme for residents to have.

Councillor D Roach reported:

Is working on a 10-person working group that is politically and geographically balanced, looking at consultations over the summer.

Councillor T Brown reported:

Complaints are being received regarding the restrictions in place for the waste recycling centre in Haverhill including the booking system that is in place.

It was proposed by Councillor T Brown and seconded by Councillor P Firman The Clerk to write to Suffolk County Council asking for the booking system to be discontinued and the centre open with social distancing in place.

ACTION: Clerk

Councillor M Marks reported:

Reiterated the importance of educating the public on what their taxes pay for as there is a lack of clarity on who is responsible for what in Haverhill.

The Clinical and Commissioning Group are currently looking at additional services for young people and mental health issues.

A Future Systems Report was shared at the ONE Haverhill Partnership Board meeting, Councillor M Marks to circulate the report to members. **ACTION.**

Councillor J Burns reported:

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues on Phases 1 and 2A. 2B going through the planning determination process. Site clearance for Relief Road now started but understand final agreement on road itself still not yet reached between WSC, SCC and developers. When it does start in earnest due to take 9-12 months to complete and hopefully open exactly 50 years since it was first mooted by Sir Frederick Gibbard.

The roundabout next to the Fox PH is progressing well for connection to the A143 with the road closed for about 10 days from 30th March to facilitate this.

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on the new A43 roundabout, construction compound, and start of the spline road off Haverhill Road. Still no response from the developers to my questions over the Chalkstone Way roundabout but I now understand from SCC this was due to start however there has been no agreement with them over construction traffic hence the delay.
- **Manor Road School Site:** Work continues with the marketing of the properties online. I have some concerns over the valuations and affordability considering their size and expressed this to Barley Homes who after all are a council-owned developer.
- **Castle Hill Site:** Work continues and notice that at least one property is up to eaves height.
- **Chapelwint Road Site:** Work progresses.
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** No further updates.
- **Police Matters:** The February 2021 crime stats were distributed on 27th March 28th January. There has been no new "Constable's County" issued since the Feb 2021 issue

I attended (online) both the Accountability & Performance meeting on 5th March and the Police & Crime Panel on 19th March. Just before the latter the PCC issued a statement of how the 53 officers scheduled as part of the Home Office uplift plans were being distributed. At the moment looks like there will only be 3 new Constables made available to the Sudbury & Haverhill area, but have not identified how many will be assigned to Haverhill. None of the other 50 officers are planned to be assigned to any SNT area in the county instead to centralised units such as CID, Safeguarding, and 13 to external agencies such as ERSOU or joint working with Norfolk Police.

- **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 were finally removed. Still no sign of any new road signage. The closure is constantly under review based on government guidance.

Recently took film of Quakers Lane for SCC to decide if there is anything that can be done to make this hospitable for cycling/pedestrian use. Awaiting follow up by WSC and SCC.

- **Combined Authority:** The CPCA recently issued 3 concept drawings of a new transport system one part of which could come to Haverhill. None of them inspired me personally as were all based around a tram system.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No update that affects Haverhill.
- **Parking:** I queried with WSC parking about the low level of enforcement activity in the town compared to elsewhere. The response I received was very dismissive of my claims and making every excuse that could be thought of. It will however be interesting to see what March has done as the CPE officers have been finally seen in/around town. I will then escalate it further.

I have recently written to WSC CPE regarding a complaint to me about lack of overnight enforcement on the bypass layby which I fought hard for in 2016 for a TRO to be placed on it to stop (particularly) refrigerated lorries parking there. I have yet to receive a response and have reminded WSC again today. As they don't work beyond 2000hrs interesting in their response.

Markets: The markets are still obviously in lockdown, but Sharon Fairweather continues to encourage new talent into the town. April 12th should hopefully bring back a lot more stalls and its vibrancy particularly on a Friday which has been impressive by its resilience.

- **Sturmer Arches.** Following the letter to Leader of WSC last month, and a brief acknowledgment, there has been no further correspondence from WSC. The National Archives are still shut until further notice.
- **Other items:** Still nothing further to report on the Lidl footpath enforcement or other known enforcement requests.

I have been dealing through WSC regarding vandalism and demolition debris on the ex-Vixen PH on Millfield's Way. The owner has finally been located and WSC planning are trying to find out what their intentions are. In meantime building has been made secure until the next time it is vandalised.

- **Other work:** Installed new network attached storage and associated UPS systems in Zone and HAC. Installed new network switch in Leiston. Continue to support Clerk and others working from home plus projects for HAC, Zone and Leiston. Usual ton of emails and questions answered.

Appendix 4 Mayors Report

| Date | Event | Location | Comments |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 29 th March 2021 | Funeral of Ernest Walter Brett | BSE Crematorium | <p>I represented HTC at the funeral of Ernest Brett. A major privilege to be invited. Ernie died recently just before his 102nd birthday. Apart from a wide and varied life (he was born & lived in Kedington but ended his days in Haverhill) he fought in WW2 being captured in Singapore Feb 1942 by the Japanese and remained incarcerated until August 1945. During that time, he was forced to walk hundreds of miles and ended up working on the Burma-Siam railway – that of River Kwai infamy.</p> <p>Last of the Far East POW veterans from the 2nd Cambridgeshire Regiment.</p> <p>I represented him in Ipswich last August at a ceremony to commemorate his friend and comrade 2/Lt Groom who fell fighting in Jan 1942.</p> <p>Cllr Tony Brown attended both events.</p> |

It was noted that Ron Mayes who served on D-Day in Normandy and returned to the frontline after being hit by shrapnel has sadly passed away. It was proposed to fly the flags half-mast on the Market Square for his funeral on Thursday 1st April 2021. **ACTION: Clerk.**

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