

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held remotely on Monday, 26 April 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 Fox  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor E McManus  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor J Mason  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor D Roach  
Councillor A Stinchcombe

**Apologies:** None

**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**

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>C21</b><br><b>/049</b> | <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b><br>All Town Councillors were present.   |
| <b>C21</b><br><b>/050</b> | <b><u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u></b><br>None.   |
| <b>C21</b><br><b>/051</b> | <b><u>The minutes of the Full Council meetings 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021</u></b><br>It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 be adopted as a true record. |

### **RESOLVED**

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.

**ACTION**

C21  
/052

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

- a) C21/026e Remote Meetings: The Clerk reported that we were still awaiting publication of the judgement sought by Hertfordshire County Council and others, on whether remote meetings were already lawful under the 1972 Local Government Act. The government supported the case made by Hertfordshire. MHCLG had opened a consultation with local councils on their experience of remote meetings. Councillors made their observations on remote meetings. The Clerk to respond with pros and cons expressed.

**RESOLVED**

- b) C21/037c Haverhill HWRC Opening times: The portfolio holder had responded to the Clerk, advising that SCC are reviewing the booking system, including making same day booking appointments available. It was added that the booking system was only a temporary measure created by West Suffolk Council under the Covid-19 safer spaces group.

- c) C21/042 Member-Officer protocol: taken under C21/058.

CLERK

C21  
/053

**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  
/054

**Mayor's Report**

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

C21  
/055

**ONE Haverhill Partnership**

No further update.

C21  
/056

**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 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

- b) Energy and Sustainability Committee

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor T Brown that the minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**RESOLVED**

The Clerk advised that the Sustainable Haverhill community launch event will take place via Zoom on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm. The Climate Change Officer had secured as keynote speaker Chris Hines, who is a climate change activist and founder of Surfers against Sewage.

All  
Councillors  
to Note

C21  
/057

**Financial Matters**

- a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that the listed payments totalling £42,902.57 be authorised.

**RESOLVED**

- b) Draft Earmarked Reserves 2020/21: It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that the earmarked reserves 2020/21 be approved.

**RESOLVED**

- c) Events Earmarked Reserves: The government has announced a 'Welcome Back Fund' which will allow district councils to fund boosting the "look and feel" of local areas. Haverhill Town Council's Arts & Leisure Manager is compiling a programme of events that can be held in the summer to boost footfall in the town centre, but would need funding guaranteed as soon as possible, in order to contract suppliers and artistes, as by the time the grant is confirmed it will be too late to organise anything. It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor B Davidson, that the events earmarked reserves be used to underwrite the event organisation.

**RESOLVED**

- d) RFO Report April 2021 (bank reconciliation): Councillor B Davidson confirmed he had checked the printed bank statements against the cashbook figures presented, and they all reconciled.

**NOTED**

**C21** Member-Officer protocol

**/058**

It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the Member-Officer protocol be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C21** Exclusive Rights to Burials

**/059**

The Clerk advised that views in principle were being sought from Councillors on a proposal to extinguish ERBs issued in perpetuity, which would enable burial authorities to use existing cemeteries indefinitely, rather than need to find space for new cemeteries. The Council, by a show of hands, indicated that such a proposal would not be supported, should it be made. The Clerk advised he would report back to the sponsor of a private bill in parliament, that Haverhill did not, in principle, support this proposal.

**CLERK**

**C21** Urgent Correspondence

**/060**

None.

**C21** Date of Next Meeting

**/061**

It was noted that the next meeting will be held Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, by video conference.

**RESOLVED.**

**C21** To Exclude the Press and Public

**/062**

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor D Roach that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to unfettered debate as it would undermine this process and result in less robust, well-considered or effective policies.

**RESOLVED**

**C21/** Arrangements for Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**063**

Members discussed arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Town Council and proposals for the roles of Mayor and Deputy.

**C21  
/064**

**Closure**

The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 21:16pm.



Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....

## **Appendix 1**

### **Police Report**

No further update.

## **Appendix 2**

### **County Councillors' reports**

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

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

Signs for the bypass layby have been ordered, just waiting for them to be installed. Culina have been supportive in this issue.

Potholes by the Haverhill golf course have mostly been filled, a couple have been left out that may need to be reported to Essex County Council.

## **Appendix 3**

### **District Councillors' reports**

#### **Councillor J Mason reported:**

Plans have been put forward for a 64-bedroom care home, which was discussed at the last planning committee, the developer has just published additional supporting papers for the plans tonight, with the decision to be made by West Suffolk Council on Wednesday. This does not leave enough time for local authorities and members of public to review the additional papers and have an opportunity to comment leaving previous comments made outdated.

There was a lack of information made available for the temporary closure of Camps Road, due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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

Reported that there has been an increase in vandalism within the town, with public bins being set alight and tipped over.

Progress has also been made with Havebury who have reintroduced their multi-agency estate walks, engaging with residents.

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

Asked members for their support in reporting issues to the Families and Communities teams at West Suffolk Council.

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

Jaynic Developments have made a proposal for additional warehousing and industrial use at the Karro Food Ltd 20-acre site just outside of Haverhill. This follows their planning approval for 155 homes to be built at the Haverhill Research Park getting approval on appeal, on the basis there was already sufficient employment land available.

Complaints have been received from residents at Ickleton Place regarding a lack of parking available.

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

Haverhill needs to register any publicly-used footpaths with the PROW officers at Suffolk County Council, that have not already been registered by January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.

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

- **NW Haverhill:** Work nears completion on Phases 1 and continues on 2A. 2B going through the planning determination process with complete site infrastructure planning application due soon. Site clearance for Relief Road now underway. Still waiting final agreement on road itself between WSC, SCC and developers. New roundabout opened on time although as of last week was waiting for new road signage. I had to remind developers, through SCC, to remove all the old road closed/diversion signs which still around town a week later.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on the new A43 roundabout, construction compound, start of the spline road off Haverhill Road and initial housing. The developers due to install the temporary

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access road opposite Falcon Close before end April and then halt until the construction method statements have been agreed. Once that has been done the new roundabout will be constructed to replace the mini version near Westfield School, the first part of the access road and 26 units (including 4 show homes), the temporary access removed, and again then will halt for review from local residents and stakeholders as to whether the construction has progressed without any major disruption before continuing with the rest. At this time there is no longer a plan to build the access road to the construction compound from opposite Gannet Close but will very much depend upon how the first house build process goes.

- **Manor Road School Site:** The show house opened on 17<sup>th</sup> April and understand some units have been sold. We are now awaiting the developer contribution to upgrade the railway walk. Hopefully will finally remove all the contractors' vans parking along Manor Road.
- **Castle Hill Site:** Work continues although understand some concerns over lorries unloading on the highway against the planning approval conditions.
- **Chapelwent Road Site:** Work progresses.
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** No further updates.
- **Police Matters:** The March 2021 crime stats are not yet available. The April 2021 edition of "Constable's County" was distributed on 14<sup>th</sup> April. There have been no other police-related meetings this month. Due to have a meeting in June as follow up to the Road Safety TAFF I am on looking at all aspects including lack of roads policing in Haverhill.
- **Covid-19 SCC Highways / High Street Closures:** The Safer Spaces meetings have, to our annoyance, been cancelled by WSC officers without discussion; something we are questioning as there is still a lot of work ongoing not least of which is working out what happens post-Covid. The new road signs were recently installed (some 9 months after being requested) and the old A-frames removed. Work ongoing to procure new benches and bins plus other options such as a general clean-up of the town centre by WSC.

Some more businesses are applying for pavement licenses with Queen Street looking very busy during the day. The businesses there are being reminded of the requirement to keep access clear and not to put anything out before or after the road closure period as a condition of their license.

- **Combined Authority:** No further updates. There is a lot of pressure by the Cambridge Connect and RailFuture group for a new light rail system proposal which apparently undercuts the cost of the CAM proposal considerably by reducing the scope of the project to not duplicate existing transport routes. Haverhill is still on the "map" though.
  - **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** The average speed cameras are being installed along the A1307 corridor from the Suffolk boundary to the Horseheath Bypass. Parts of the road is coned off and has 40mph speed limits.
  - **Research Park:** As we all know the planning appeal for 155 houses was allowed, much to my disgust, followed promptly by the same developer purchasing (and knocking down) the Karro site next to the A143 on Haverhill Road. Then claiming in the press that there is a big demand for speculative warehousing whereas the same argument was used in the appeal documentation to criticise the new owners of the Business Park putting up warehousing. I understand that there is a meeting of WSC senior officers, with legal advice, planned for this week to decide what to do next. It is suggested, if not done so already, that WSC are advised of your own feelings either way to help them make a decision we would like them to.
  - **Parking:** The level of enforcement in Haverhill increased in March by 30% but still way below what Newmarket (50% below) and BSE (80%) have. 4 new EV charging points have recently been installed in the Corn Exchange car park by WSC Environment Team with, it now appears based on email threads I have had, no obvious discussion with WSC Parking Management and certainly no WSC members. This has resulted in a 20% drop in available parking places in the car park for normal road
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users whereas we are desperate for charging points in the main car parks. The lack of consultation by WSC officers is once again astounding. I am sure that Covid will once again be blamed or fact they are so “busy”.

WRT layby on bypass I have now received a response to say they are unable to enforce due to lack of “signage”. As this is something they were supposed to have ensured was in place before taking on CPE (and there was at one time) I have again told them they need to sort it out. Needless to say, they also don’t work beyond 8pm so not sure how they are going to enforce the TRO banning overnight parking by lorries anyway.

- **Markets:** The markets, since April 12<sup>th</sup>, have massively brought the crowds into town and perhaps even to the detriment of social distancing. That will need to be kept an eye on as nothing has changed in that respect. Somebody/some persons are constantly moving the picnic benches on the Square during the week which is being looked into. They are there for a reason and not to allow people to drive across the Square.
- **Sturmer Arches.** Still no further correspondence from WSC and I will be reminding them that has now been 2 months. The National Archives have reopened but they are on a very restrictive pre-booking service only with a massive demand for spaces having just reopened.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** After several months of trying to get WSC to do something, they have finally agreed this last week to issue the owner with a formal notice to clear the rubble/rubbish and fence the site in. If they fail to do so, then a s215 notice will be issued which can lead to prosecution and a criminal conviction if found guilty. The plan, as it stands today, is that the owners are still looking to carry out the approved conversion to 2 x shops and 18 x flats but I suspect they have underestimated the scale of the project and the potential cost which is why the previous owners did not follow through.

I chased some kids out of the building 4 times last week with one of them claiming they went in because they “found the door open” – which I saw them force open. I suggested if someone did that to their own house they may complain. I reported to the police and they have been up there several times since not only for this but general ASB in the Strasbourg Square area.

- **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. Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as several meetings.