

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 27th July 2021 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

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

Apologies: Councillor J Crooks
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Fox
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Absent: None

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

0 members of the public were present. The meeting was livestreamed on YouTube.

Welcome:

Mayor L Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

C21 /109 Apologies for Absence
Noted above.

C21 /110 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation
None.

C21 /111 The minutes of the Town Council meeting held 28th June 2021
It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 28th June 2021 be adopted as a true record.
RESOLVED

C21 /112 To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda
C21/092 Festival of Suffolk 2022: The Clerk has emailed the Festival of Suffolk and is awaiting a response.

ACTION

C21/095 Invite to the Chair of ONE Haverhill Partnership: The Clerk reported that the Chair of ONE Haverhill would be invited to attend the Full Council meeting in September, which cannot be held in the Arts Centre auditorium due to a clash of dates. An alternative room is currently being sourced which may be at Samuel Ward Academy to facilitate the presence of Mr Andrew Hunter, Headteacher and Chair of ONE Haverhill Partnership, and ensure that there is plenty of space for socially distancing if required.

C21 /113 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM

- a) Police – None
- b) County Councillors – see appendix 1
- c) District Councillors – see appendix 2
- d) Members of the public – None present.

C21 /114 Health Matters in Haverhill

The Clerk advised that Kate Vaughton, Director of Integration and Partnership, NHS West Suffolk CCG, would be available to attend a future meeting with the council. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that a separate meeting of the Full Council is arranged to discuss the health matters in Haverhill.

C21 /115 Mayor's Report:

Mayor's report – see appendix 3

C21 /116 ONE Haverhill Partnership

No Further update.

C21 /117 Adoption of Committee Reports

a) Planning Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 29th July and 10th July 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure & Community Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor J Mason that the minutes of the meetings held on 6th July 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) Personnel Working Party:

The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held 7th July 2021 is deferred to the next meeting.

d) Finance Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanon, seconded by Councillor T Brown that the minutes of the meetings held on 20th July 2021 be adopted.

RESOLVED

C21 /118 Financial Matters

- a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the listed payments totalling £65,937.82 be authorised.

RESOLVED

CLERK

- b) Grant Application – Haverhill FC U15 team: It was proposed by Councillor T Brown, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that a grant of £1,104.60 be given.

RESOLVED

C21 Policy Review

/119 It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the Equality and Diversity Policy for The Zone be adopted.

RESOLVED

Mayor L Smith nominated herself, Councillor P Fox and Councillor A Stinchcombe to sit as a working party to review the Equality & Diversity Policy and bring it back for re-adoption. It was proposed by Councillor M Marks and seconded by Councillor J Burns.

RESOLVED

**Cllrs Smith,
Fox &
Stinchcombe**

C21 Actions taken under delegated powers

/120 None.

C21 To receive urgent correspondence

/121 None.

C21 Date of next Meeting:

/122 The meeting noted that the next meeting will be held on 28th September 2021.

C21 Exclusion of the Press and Public

/123 It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor D Smith that 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 the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – Contractual matters.

RESOLVED

C21 Bevan House Disposal

/124 It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor D Roach that the proposed revisions to the sale arrangements be approved.

RESOLVED

New instructions were therefore issued to the tender working party.

C21 Closure

/125 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:55pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date.....

APPENDIX 1 - County Councillors' reports

Councillor J Mason:

Training induction meetings continue and will do through to October.

Last week, Heike Sowa & myself toured the Cangle Division, identifying issues to be resolved

County Parish Report for July has not yet been published. I will distribute this when it becomes available.

Tasks Issues specific to Cangle, I have been engaged with and not yet completed.

Highways

Flooding Issues. Dreadful scenes in and around town of flooding. Many reports from businesses, members of the public and other councillors. Concerns regarding blocked drains/highway gullies and maintenance. Correspondence continues. Have contacted Highways regarding maintenance awaiting an update.

Pathways

Lots of reports regarding hedges over growing paths and uncut rights of way in multiple place around town. Including Withersfield Road, and Old Rope Walk - Burton End - Ongoing - awaiting response.

Broken barrier fence at roundabout on Chivers Road

Estates

Concern regarding kerbside weeds in estates. Most noticeably Clements Estate. Have contacted Havebury for works to be done to improve appearance of the estates.

Street Furniture Issues / Reports made

Lamp Posts

Damaged Lamppost nr Beaumont Court. Needs urgent repair - unsafe.

Dropped Curbs

I have been contacted by multiple residents separately regarding dropped kerbs and the need for improvements for wheelchairs/mobility scooters. Exploring use of locality funding to improve access.

Pavement

Number of Pavements need urgent attention. 1 particular stretch along Howe Road near post box - Tripping hazard.

Grit Boxes

Locations for grit boxes identified: Alderton Close & Copellis Close.

Potholes

Lobbying for estates to have improved surface continues.

Road Safety

Faded 'slow' signs, (originally designed by local children) along Chimswell and Chivers Road - no longer fit for purpose.

Concerns regarding traffic calming measures on Cleves Road – 'Slow' signs needed?

Traffic speed from new Fox roundabout on Haverhill Road speeding into town down Wrattling Road. Junction of Anne Sucklings remains a concern with speeding traffic.

Play Areas

Missing swings at Leiston playground. Equipment needs servicing

Missing swings at Howe Road playground (Tractor Park)

Bollards, near the zebra crossing on Withersfield Road and damaged pedestrian barrier fence

Building Work

The construction of new housing on the site of a former Haverhill school is well underway - as reported in the Echo.

Phase 2B Persimmon development returning to Development Control next week, with amended plans. Thanks to Councillors who sit on this committee for their input/support.

Reporting of Issues

I continue to invite residents and councillors to use the West Suffolk or Suffolk County Council reporting tools in the first instance for issues relating to their wards, and to contact myself or Heike on issues that have not been resolved either satisfactorily or in a timely fashion.

APPENDIX 2 - District Councillors' reports

Councillor P Hanlon:

Reported that Haverhill has an issue with the drainage system, and the frequency of their maintenance which enabled the flooding to happen over the weekend. Blockages are coming from the mud being washed away in the fields and the flood park. The issue of the flooding is no longer just limited to the town centre valley but rather hilly estate areas, residents in Queensway reported flooding damage to their houses.

Councillor A Luccarini:

Added that after the rainfall on the weekend, he has reported blocked drains to Anglian Water.

Councillor M Marks:

The Environmental agency has been approached in the past because the rivers are very silted up which is one of the reasons that the pipes under the embankment at Sturmer Arches cannot accommodate the water. Councillor M Marks proposed and Councillor T Brown seconded reapproaching the Environmental Agency again for any flood preventing solutions. The Clerk advised that the flooding reported by Councillors Brown, Hanlon, Luccarini and Marks all fall to different authorities, but the Flood Authority was Suffolk County Council, who are supposed to ensure everyone else maintains their watercourses and drains. It was agreed to write to the county flood manager.

RESOLVED

Councillor J Burns reported:

NW Haverhill: Phase 2B was deferred early July upon my proposal due to the gateway building being too large and square, density and clarity over EV points. The revised plans are coming back to committee next week.

Great Wilsey Park: Work continues on the Haverhill Road end with buildings reaching eave height and groundworks currently underway opposite Falcon Close to build the haul road and 1st part of spline road. Understand that SCC are happy with the construction management plans and will be approved by WSC soon triggering the construction of the 1st x 30 homes off Chalkstone Way.

Manor Road School Site: I have advised WSC planning that the footpath being built from the development to the railway walk is far too narrow (at 0.89m) and needs to be at least 2m wide. Understand 1st occupancies due next month with the trigger for the monies for railway upgrade being provided once 35 units occupied. I have asked that be brought forward seeing as Barley Homes paying its owner (WSC) and funded from a WSC loan anyway. I have advised WSC they need to discuss with us first rather than just spending money.

Castle Hill Site: Work continues.

Chapelwent Road Site: 38 houses now occupied. Awaiting to hear about the £25K promised from TW for the railway walk upgrade.

Atterton & Ellis site: Still no updates.

Police Matters: The June 2021 crime stats are not yet available and there has been no update to “Constable’s County”.

At the Police & Crime Panel (PCP) I attended on 16th July I raised the benefit of this latter document which out of date as soon as designed. I specifically asked for how many people read (download) it, how much officer time does it take to write and collate the articles, what is the total cost of producing it and how is it kept up to date?

At the same PCP I also raised questions over reintroduction of SNT meetings using the Community Engagement Officers and support available to officers responding to people with mental health conditions and the availabilities of venues to which they can be taken. I also asked what can be done to overcome the time that local officers are out of the area because they have to drive to the BSE Custody Suite anytime someone is arrested taking a minimum of 2 officers off our streets often for several hours at a time.

Covid-19 SCC Highways / High Street Closures: We are concerned that SCC Highways will, as they have done elsewhere in the county, take a unilateral decision to revoke the temporary TRO and go back to the way we were pre-Covid without discussion first and no real CPE effort. It does not help that the Safer Spaces/Masterplan meetings have still not resumed and WSC seem oblivious to our concerns.

Combined Authority: No further updates.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: No further updates.

Parking: WSC enforcement seems to go from bad to worse. The June figures show a 25% drop in attendance in town with the local officers stating they are “short staffed”. They seem to not want to attend areas where there are problems instead concentrating on easy pickings in the car parks. In the meantime (post 4pm) we have numerous vehicles in suspended parking bays, loading bays, on the pavement blocking pedestrians, and generally anywhere they can.

Markets: Markets continue to thrive as the lockdowns ease. Picnic benches still being moved on a Friday by one or two traders who are determined to make sure they do not move their stall from the exact position it was the previous week.

Sturmer Arches. Despite the reminder in last month’s report, I have again reminded the leader of WSC that the promised report due by end May has still not been received.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way): This was finally boarded up properly last week and the ASB has stopped for now –although there are other examples of ASB now iwo the Community Centre. I understand planning are now “talking” to the owners, but they are having difficulty making them understand the planning conditions that have to be complied with first. There is also some doubt as to whether demolishing a small part of the building makes the planning approval extant. Planning due to contact them again after 4th August when the officer returns from vacation.

Strasbourg Square: Some weeding was done but nothing has been done to the wooden sleepers that are now rotten and loose.

Market Square: No obvious work done to tidy this up.

Grass Cutting: We are now getting weekly updates although lots of complaints about the general state of the town. I spoke to a Havebury officer last week about a conjoined contract with WSC/SCC over grass cutting. Their contract comes up for renewal next year so may be a good time to force the issue. It is something that comes up at WSC O&S every year.

Other work: Continue to support Clerk and others working from home plus projects for HAC, Zone (CCTV upgrade started with cameras about to be ordered), new till system for Rec Kiosk, and Leiston. Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as several online and now physical meetings.

APPENDIX 3 - Mayors Report

Mayor's Report June 2021

As we continue to come out of lockdown with caution, I am happy to be getting a few invites coming through.

On the 4th of July I attended the Haverhill Show at the invite of Cllr Joe Mason and the committee. I formally opened the event by cutting the ribbon and then spent nearly 3 hours, dodging the showers, to speak to stall holders and spend some time on the South People's Forum stall. There was a steady crowd of people and busier than most of us expected. Well done to the organisers and volunteers that helped out on the day.

On the 14th July I was interviewed for the Look East programme which was to be shown on the Thursday, 15th broadcast from the Arts Centre and featuring staff of the council, volunteers and members of the public. Sadly they didn't use my contribution, but I am proud of all those that made time to speak to the broadcaster and showed Haverhill in such a positive light.

This last Sunday, 25th July, I attended the Chair of West Suffolk District Council's civic service at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. An enjoyable service, made personal by Cllr Margaret Marks and it was lovely that, following the lifting of restrictions, we were able to sing to our heart's delight. I am sure there will be further opportunities to repeat this and look forward to planning the Carol Service later this year.

Mayor Liz Smith