

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 27th September 2021 at 7.00pm at Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill

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

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

Absent: None

In Attendance: Councillor Heike Sowa (Suffolk County Council)
Andy Hunter (Headteacher, Samuel Ward Academy)
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Alisha Jenkins (Office Administrator)

1 member of the public was present. The meeting was livestreamed on YouTube.

Welcome:

Mayor L Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

C21 **Apologies for Absence**
/128 Noted above.

C21 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/129 Councillor D Roach declared a non-pecuniary interest for item C21/139b as West Suffolk Portfolio Holder for Planning.

C21 **Samuel Ward Academy**
/130 Andy Hunter, Headteacher Samuel Ward Academy, having previously given councillors a tour of the site, gave a brief update on the future plans for the Sixth Form. This academic year has seen a large increase of young people applying to study, with its largest acceptance of students since opening.

ACTION

Haverhill Community Sixth Form is currently looking at areas for development and growth including working closely with employers of the town to continue to offer a good range of courses that provide the relevant skills needed for local jobs.

Mayor L Smith thanked Mr Hunter for allowing the council to hold its meeting at the Academy, for showing Councillors the plans and the site, and for his update on the sixth form.

C21 **The minutes of the Town Council meetings 27th July 2021**

/131 It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 27th July 2021 be adopted as a true record.

RESOLVED

C21 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

/132

C21/092 Festival of Suffolk 2022: The Clerk advised that the Lord Lieutenant is looking for each community to host an event under the banner 'Festival of Suffolk 2022'; Mayor L Smith has been invited to attend a meeting and will report back.

**Mayor L
Smith**

C21/114 Health Matters in Haverhill: The Clerk confirmed he had invited Kate Vaughton, Chief Operating Officer / Director of Integration West Suffolk CCG to attend a meeting to discuss health matters in Haverhill, and they are trying to find a mutually acceptable date.

Clerk

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

/133

- a) Police – see appendix 1
- b) County Councillors – see appendix 2
- c) District Councillors – see appendix 3
- d) Members of the public – None present.

C21 **Health Matters in Haverhill**

/134

a) Closure of Steeple Bumpstead Surgery: It was reported that the closure of the surgery was that the building was not suitable and the decision to bring patients to the Clements was necessary in a crisis, therefore no response to the consultation was required.

Mayor L Smith to circulate latest Section 106 figures to members.

b) Domestic Abuse Survivor Report:

See Appendix 4.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns and seconded by Councillor E McManus to approve the expansion of services provided by Karen Chapple.

RESOLVED

**Mayor L
Smith**

C21 **Mayor's Report:**

/135

Mayor's report – see appendix 5

C21 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/136

a) Mr Andy Hunter spoke to the council about his recent election as Chair of ONE Haverhill Partnership (OHP), and that he was honoured to have been considered for the position. So far it has been clear that Haverhill has a great community spirit and an abundance of collaborative working to achieve common goals, which cannot be said for many other towns.

Does OHP have any current aims or objectives under Andy Hunter's lead?

Mr Hunter explained that with this year being the 10th Anniversary for OHP, the Board had taken the opportunity to revitalise and refresh the business plan and the strands of the working groups. He sees the Chair position as a mirror for the community and is very keen to engage with the public and the community to help with Haverhill's priorities.

What does the Chair think that the main successes have been so far for OHP?

Its successful piloting of Social Prescribing, which has had a massive positive impact on many peoples lives with the potential to be rolled out nationally.

More 'partnerships' are being formed in the town; could this be a threat to OHP?

Mr Hunter replied that having a town that had so many organisations working together with a common goal could only ever be something positive for the town. OHP exists solely on collaboration with others. More organisations and partnerships just allow more opportunities.

Mayor L Smith thanked Mr Hunter for his time in talking about ONE Haverhill Partnership.

- b) It was proposed by Councillor J Burns and seconded by Councillor M Marks to transfer of £633 from 9001 ONE Haverhill Earmarked Reserve, being the remaining funds held in that reserve for HTC expenditure on Partnership matters, to 9024 One Haverhill Partnership Funds Earmarked Reserve, being the reserve funds held by HTC on behalf of the Partnership.

RESOLVED

C21 /137 Adoption of Committee Reports

a) Planning Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meetings held 10th August, 7th and 21st September 2021.

RESOLVED

b) Energy & Sustainability Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held on 23rd August & 20th September 2021.

RESOLVED

- i. ESC21/053: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Smith to approve a £6,000 budget for the Climate Action Support Programme.

RESOLVED

c) Leisure & Community Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held on 14th September 2021.

RESOLVED

- i. Grant Award Recommendation: £4,000 Homestart

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini and seconded by Councillor M Marks to approve the £4,000 grant recommendation for Homestart.

RESOLVED

- ii. Grant Award Recommendation: £10,000 REACH
Henry Wilson attended the meeting to provide additional information and answer questions.

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason and seconded by Councillor J Burns to approve the £10,000 grant recommendation for REACH.

RESOLVED

- iii. Grant Award Recommendation: £1,975 Churches Together
It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini and seconded by Councillor J Burns to approve the £1,975 grant recommendation paid in part for Churches Together.

RESOLVED

- d) Volunteer Centre Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanon, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meetings held on 6th September 2021.

RESOLVED

C21 **Financial Matters**

/138

- a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor E McManus, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the listed payments totalling £125,362.30 be authorised.

RESOLVED

- b) Women's Tour Cycle Event 2021: It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that a financial contribution of £5,000 to be made to West Suffolk Council to help with cost of staging the event in Haverhill.

RESOLVED

C21 **Consultation**

/139

- a) To note the outcome of the LGBCE review of Suffolk County Council electoral arrangements.

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns and Seconded by Councillor D Smith that the Clerk write to West Suffolk Council request that District Wards align with Parish Wards.

RESOLVED

- b) To consider a response to the West Suffolk Local Plan Services and Facilities Matrix.

It was noted that the Facilities Matrix was correct for Haverhill and in any case the form is used to measure what services are provided for in smaller parishes rather than larger towns such as Haverhill. It is not aimed at towns to complete.

CLERK

C21 **Window Displays in High Street**

/140

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, to utilise the 'What's on in Haverhill?' Boards in the High Street and the noticeboards placed in the different wards for Haverhill Town Council to advertise Councillor information.

RESOLVED

CLERK

The Clerk advised Members that if any other Councillor would like an ID lanyard they are provided on request, as not all Councillors wanted one.

C21 Actions taken under delegated powers

/141 None.

C21 To receive urgent correspondence

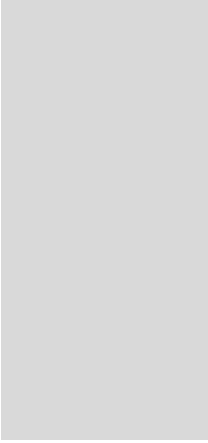
/142 None.

C21 Date of next Meeting:

/143 The meeting noted that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26th October 2021.

C21 Closure

/144 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:58pm.



Signed
Chairman

Date.....

- Appendix 1 – Police**
- Appendix 2 – County Councillors’ reports**
- Appendix 3 – District Councillors’ reports**
- Appendix 4 – Domestic Abuse Survivor Report**
- Appendix 5 – Mayor’s Report**

APPENDIX 1 – Police

The Clerk informed that Inspector Ferry will be attending the October Full Council meeting.

Councillor John Burns circulated members crime statistics for Haverhill.

APPENDIX 2 – County Councillors' reports

Councillor D Roach:

Continuing to chance for the time plates to be replaced on a layby on the Haverhill Bypass.

Councillor H Sowa:

Greenest County Awards – Suffolk County Council is pleased to champion these awards to promote environmental achievement at a variety of levels, from large organisations taking significant steps to reduce their environmental impact, to communities growing local foods and educating others about how to live more sustainably.

Every finalist will automatically be invited to our gala awards event on 12th November. Taking place at the Hold in Ipswich, the ceremony is a chance to celebrate the excellent work being done across the county and meet others who are also addressing their impact on the environment and making sustainability part of their businesses.

Nominations for the 'Creating the Greenest County' awards are now open and close on Thursday 14 October 2021.

APPENDIX 3 - District Councillors' reports

Councillor M Marks:

A consultation is taking place for taxi firms in Haverhill, who are looking to make all taxis accessible to all, other surrounding areas allow a percentage of their taxis to be accessible by wheelchair users.

A planning application for the new West Suffolk hospital is due to be submitted by the end of this year, which should enclose plans for the colocation of certain services. The Clerk to invite Sarah Howard to attend the next Full Council meeting. **ACTION.**

Councillor D Smith:

There has been an increase in complaint from residents regarding overgrown pathways, that are no longer accessible.

- Councillor M Marks reported that Keep Haverhill Tidy have acquired four low powered strimmers to help maintain pathways, by clearing areas and then bagging the debris.

The next round of the Local Plan is due to commence with the first meeting taking place on Wednesday 29th September.

- Councillor D Roach informed that the summer has been used as a consultation period for West Suffolk Planning Policy.
- Councillor P Hanlon enquired whether it was possible to earmark areas for additional Health Services within local plans.

Councillor J Burns reported:

NW Haverhill:

Phase 2B was approved after changes were made to the "gateway" development. Infrastructure and sports pitch applications currently going through the planning process. Further name suggestions for roads will be proposed via HTC Planning Committee.

Great Wilsey Park:

The first show homes are due to be able for viewing on the A143 site towards end of October. The roundabout at both this location and Chalkstone Way are both due to be complete and connected to the road network around Spring 2022. Work has started on the first show homes at the Chalkstone Way site. Further road name suggestions will be needed by end of 2021. I have once again emphasised to SCC about the importance of having the traffic light junction at Wratting Road/Chalkstone Way installed.

Manor Road School Site:

This has now been all but completed with the first occupancies now having taken place. We are awaiting to hear about the s106 monies for the railway walk. Existing residents have expressed their relief that contractors' vehicles are no longer clogging up Manor Road.

Castle Hill Site:

Work continues.

Chapelwent Road Site:

Awaiting to hear about the £25K promised from TW for the railway walk upgrade.

Atterton & Ellis site:

Still no updates other than a desire by the developer to get started with or without the cooperation of WSC.

Police Matters:

The July 2021 crime stats were distributed on 3rd September; August stats are due any day now. The August edition of "Constable's County" (for what it is worth) is being sent with this report.

I have attended meetings of the Police & Crime Panel (PCP) working party on Road Safety and due to report to fellow members at the next PCP meeting on 8th October in Ipswich. That same meeting, we will be discussing the next Police & Crime Plan draft, which I was given an early draft of recently, which concentrates a lot more on local policing. I continue to attend meetings of the ASB OHP Task Group particularly concentrating on Drug & Alcohol support as well as Domestic Abuse support.

Covid-19 SCC Highways / High Street Closures:

No further news on this and I hope that SCC Highways will not just suddenly reopen the road without warning as they have done elsewhere. We need them to carry out the task they have promised several times for a full public consultation so we can put the part or full pedestrianisation of the High Street to bed one way or the other. I continue to be extremely frustrated that WSC took the unilateral decision to close down the OHP Town Centre masterplan meetings without any discussion with members. But since Covid it has been very noticeable by many members here, and elsewhere, that many WSC officers have taken on the mantle of ignoring us at every opportunity.

The police have been taking more interest in the Camps Road one way system recently and vehicle monitoring has shown upwards of 150 vehicles a day flouting the No Entry signs including many repeat offenders claiming ignorance. We even had one disabled driver go between the barrier and the bollards yesterday (Saturday market) and park in the suspended parking bay opposite the church. He stated he had a Blue Badge so could ignore all signs!

Combined Authority:

No further updates. The Rail Haverhill Group, RailFuture and Cambridge Connect seem to have different ideas of how a sustainable transport system can exist between the Cambridge sub-region and Haverhill.

Greater Cambridge Partnership:

No further updates. Work progresses on parts of the A1307 west of the A11.

Parking:

WSC enforcement still seems to be ineffective. The High Street/Queen Street is ignored when it most needs action around 4pm and they still concentrate on areas where there is little or no infringement but justifying their presence by "visits". The High Street has 6 such visit areas because each TRO double line

stretch is a “visit”. They state Newmarket is more important as it has more “visit” areas rather than concentrating on the road itself. I really do not know how we can convince them to do the job properly in our town. Reopening of the High Street will become a nightmare for the public and damage to pavements etc.

Markets:

Markets remain OK although as furlough ends trade may be dropping off as other shops reopen fully. 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. This is very frustrating considering the public use them before seeing something they like on their stalls. The blocking up of the pavement outside the church is particularly galling.

I am Chair of the WSC Market Review group and we will be consulting all WSC Councillors plus Town/Parish Councils over the new few weeks as well as obviously traders, businesses and the general public. If anyone has any ideas of how we can make our markets thrive, to benefit the town and its residents, please let me know. That not only applies to Haverhill but to all markets across West Suffolk.

Sturmer Arches.

I am still awaiting a response to the report we were promised in May and once again have reminded the WSC Leader of this.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way):

No further updates and WSC have not yet been contacted with the developers plans.

Strasbourg Square:

The entire planting and sleeper beds need a massive overhaul. The sleepers are all now rotten as they have not been maintained only 5 years after they were installed. There are more weeds than plants. It has been suggested they are ripped up and just returned to a paved area or the weeds dug up and replaced by grass. The sleepers need to be raised as may provide an opportunity for local planting assuming the CCTV camera is replaced with static versions. Conveniently it never sees anything when damage is done.

Market Square:

No obvious work done to tidy this up including the paving slabs that have subsided. I chased up WSC 10 days ago about this and the War Memorial in the Cemetery which requires work done on it for Remembrance.

Grass Cutting:

We are getting updates but residents still complaining as often it is the Havebury/WSC/SCC area ownership dispute saga.

Other work:

Continue to support Clerk and others working from home plus projects for HAC, Zone (CCTV upgrade now finished apart from final testing), Leiston, new and repairing laptops for staff, and many other jobs. Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as several online and now physical meetings.

APPENDIX 3 – Domestic Abuse Survivor Report

Helen Callup from CAS has been chairing meetings to look local support for victims of domestic abuse. I along with representatives of our partner organisations who attend these meetings are conscious that there is a gap in service for the victims of domestic abuse: There is currently no offer of support or training to domestic abuse victims locally within Haverhill. Victims are asked to attend support services offered in Bury St Edmunds which is not convenient. The domestic abuse violence figures both nationally and locally are at an all-time high.

Pat Leach who is a trustee for Women's Aid in Bury St Edmunds is currently putting a bid together to enable the *freedom programme* to be delivered in Haverhill. This will be for those who are suffering from domestic abuse and those who have been victims in the past.

The aim of the Freedom Programme is to:

- Help victims understand the beliefs held by their abusers and identify and challenge any shared beliefs
- To illustrate the effects of domestic abuse on children
- To assist victims in recognising potential future abusers

Once victims have received their freedom training, usually delivered in 2-hour sessions over 12 weeks, and can move on, we would like to offer our support to them. This group will be known as the *survivors group*. We would like to offer a package of support, initially on a 1-2-1 basis in our normal mentoring style, and eventually if numbers allowed, we would like to consider working in a group with them. Where we will offer sessions on improving confidence, growing new skills and their self-esteem, and looking for employability/volunteering opportunities etc. Very similar to our current offer that has led to some very positive outcomes for our clients. We would like to have no age limits for this piece of work. It would seem wrong to turn a potential client away because of their age, and one would assume that new relationships and support networks would have formed between participants on the Freedom Programme, it would be a shame not to encourage these further.

If Council agrees that we can offer this support, we would like to suggest at looking at offering the venue and Dan and my staff costs, as match funding. I am already trained as a Domestic Abuse Champion; I would ask if Dan can train too; the training is free to attend. This will then ensure we can both offer support to this vulnerable new client group that deserves a tried and tested offer of good local support.

APPENDIX 5 – Mayor's Report

Mayor's Report September 2021

After all the changes and some cancellation of events due to Covid it was nice to get out and about in late July and during August and September. On the 29th of July I attended the High Sherriff's Summer party that was very well attended near Woodbridge by Mayor's around the County and lots of people from voluntary societies with whom it was nice to touch base with. Within a few days I was able to speak to the owners of the Mini's on the Market Square and present the trophy to the winner, chosen by members of the public.

August was not a particularly busy month, although the weather was nice. I had a meeting with Julie Clark the new Town Centre Manager and discussed some of her plans over the BID application and particularly around the preparation for the coming Women's Tour in two weeks. Dave and I attended the Clements Fun Day on the 18th, where I chatted to all the stall holders and had some photo opportunities, including with the befriending group in the kitchen. It was not as large as in previous years but a welcome change to the restrictions that we have had.

With Max and Vicky, I have started planning the Civic Carol Service for December the 8th and hopefully will be sending invites out soon.

I had hoped to have a Charity evening event in September but due to some unforeseen circumstances and the uncertainty over Covid we decided to cancel. I hope to have a Civic Service of Thanksgiving at St Felix early next year.

September kicked off with a visit to Stowmarket on the 4th for the Chair of Mid Suffolk Council's Charity BBQ. Great food and even better company. Then to the epicentre for Dave and myself. It was lovely to see the new café open and to connect again with some of the people we had met previously as well as new faces. Unfortunately, an event at the prison was postponed and I hope to attend this now later in the year.

I attended the opening of the Splashpad on the 18th of the month and this was a very popular event with the families of Haverhill and probably even afar!. My thanks goes out to all those involved in making this happen, especially to Cllr Tony Brown for his vision and passion. I spoke to many of the families, and they were all positive comments and thanked us all.

The 19th of September saw the Battle of Britain re-dedication at St Mary's church in Bury St Edmunds. A wonderful service with rousing hymns and a fantastic sermon from Rev Pope. Makes me feel old when the vicars and priests look younger than my kids.

With Dave and Lora, I manned the recycling stall at the Sustainable Haverhill event last Saturday and it was great to see Mel and Helen doing Vegan burgers and other volunteers manning the stalls. There was also the folk band playing music during the afternoon. Great to see so many people making the effort to recycle.

Yesterday saw my trip to Ipswich for the Mayor's Civic Service. I have met the Mayor of Ipswich several times now as well as some other regulars. IT was great to speak to the Mayor of Bungay who was impressed with our Art in the shop windows, and they have moved to do a similar thing in their town.

Mayor Liz Smith