

# Haverhill Town Council

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



HAVERHILL  
TOWN COUNCIL

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 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 A Luccarini  
Councillor J Burns                      Councillor M Marks  
Councillor B Davidson                Councillor J Mason  
Councillor P Firman                    Councillor D Roach  
Councillor P Hanlon                    Councillor D Smith

**Apologies:** Councillor J Crooks (working)  
Councillor P Fox (Illness)  
Councillor L Miller-Jones (Childcare)  
Councillor A Stinchcombe (Covid concerns)

**Absent:** None

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole (Town Clerk)  
Inspector Peter Ferrie, Suffolk Constabulary

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

### Welcome:

Mayor L Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### MINUTES

**C21**     **Apologies for Absence**  
/145     It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon  
           that the reasons for absence be approved.  
**RESOLVED**

**C21**     **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**  
/146     None.

**C21**     **The minutes of the Town Council meetings 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
/147     It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor M Marks  
           that the minutes of the meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be adopted as a  
           true record once amendments were made under appendix 2.  
**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the Freedom meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be adopted as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**C21 /148 To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

**C21/092 Festival of Suffolk 2022:** Councillor L Smith to investigate whether there is further information available to share at the next Full Council meeting.

**C21/114 Health Matters in Haverhill:** The Clerk has invited Kate Vaughton and colleagues to attend a meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November; councillors have been asked to prepare questions in advance of the meeting.

**C21/134a S106 figures:** Councillor L Smith and Councillor J Burns have circulated figures to members.

**C21/139 Community Governance Review:** The Clerk has contacted Alex Wilson at West Suffolk Council to request a review who forwarded the request to Ben Smith who has written to the Boundary Commission requesting for a limited review to take place now to be resolved for the Elections in 2023.

**C21/140 Notice Board Display:** The Clerk reported that this item was regarding displaying ward details which is currently in hand. It was requested that the Noticeboards be updated quarterly at least. Councillors J Mason and E McManus asked to be consulted on the location of a notice board on North ward.

**Cllr L Smith**

**Clerk**

**C21 /149 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) Police – see appendix 1. In addition, the Council thanked Inspector Peter Ferrie for his long service to the town.
- b) County Councillors – see appendix 2
- c) District Councillors – see appendix 3
- d) Members of the public – None present.

**C21 /150 Consultations**

- a) Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner's Police and Crime Plan:  
The Clerk reminded members we have been asked to read the police crime plan and show support or add additional comments on their 4 main objectives:
  - 1. Provide an efficient and affective police force.
  - 2. Provide services that support victims of crime and invest in initiatives that reduce crime.
  - 3. Engage with communities to gain insight into their views of the police.
  - 4. And work in partnership to improve criminal justice outcomes.Councillor J Burns suggested Councillors respond directly as individuals. The Clerk asked for any views to be passed to him within the next week.

- b) West Suffolk Markets Survey:  
There are five surveys being released which will be aimed at parish

**Councillors**

councils, businesses, traders, members of public and West Suffolk members. There is a large range of questions around; satisfaction of the location, timings, frequency, transport available to the market, the different range of businesses, stalls able to accept card or contactless payments, ability to move around the market, accessibility, cycle storage, car parking, appearance, cleanliness, COVID 19 safe, food stall availability, communication and marketing of the market. Councillor Burns encouraged Members to respond giving their experience both locally and where they have visited markets elsewhere.

**Councillors**

**C21** **Mayor's Report:**  
**/151** Mayor's report – see appendix 4

Cllr L Smith to arrange a Civic list for events that other Councillors would be able to attend.

**Cllr L Smith**

**C21** **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

**/152** a) Drafting a new Business Plan:

The Clerk informed that ONE Haverhill Partnership is in the process of reviewing the previous business plan alongside the development of the new plan. The Clerk to circulate a copy of the Business Plan Survey to all Councillors to complete.

**The Clerk**

**C21** **Adoption of Committee Reports**

**/153**

a) Planning Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meeting held 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

b) Personnel Working Party:

The minutes held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021 will be deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

**RESOLVED**

i. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanon, seconded by Councillor J Burns to approve the recommendation from the Working Party for the appointment of Councillor L Smith to Chair of the Personnel Committee/Working Party.

**RESOLVED**

**C21** **Financial Matters**

**/154**

a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor E McManus, that the listed payments totalling £262,259.38 be authorised.

**RESOLVED**

b) It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor E McManus that the report from the RFO on the financial position of the council at the end of month 6, September 2021, be accepted.

**RESOLVED**

c) It was proposed by Councillor D Roach and seconded by Councillor E McManus to note the conclusion of the External Audit Report and that this has been correctly displayed on our notice board and website in accordance with the regulations.

**NOTED**

- d) It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini and seconded by Councillor D Smith to appoint Groundwork to work with us to produce a spatial plan for the Chalkstone Open Space at a cost of £1,500 and give delegated authority to the Energy and Sustainability Working Party to agree details.

**RESOLVED**

- e) To note that the Clerk and WPS insurance broker have reviewed the Council insurances and Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company have agreed terms for year 2 of the three-year agreement.

**NOTED**

**C21** **Actions taken under delegated powers**

/155 None.

**C21** **To receive urgent correspondence**

/156 None.

**C21** **Date of next Meeting:**

/157 The meeting noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**C21** **To Exclude the Press and Public**

/158 It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor M Marks, 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 as it would undermine the Council's ability to have unfettered debate and result in less robust, well-considered or effective policies.

**RESOLVED**

**C21** **Extension of meeting**

/159 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns that Standing Order 3W be suspended, to enable the next item to be concluded.

**C21** **Budget priorities**

/160 Councillors discussed potential priorities for the 2022/23 financial year. Proposals were:

- a) Reinstatement of the churchyard archway
- b) Extension of the Railway Walk seating project to encourage walking around the western edge of the town, including puddlebrook.
- c) Review working methods to look for opportunities to lower costs
- d) Review the capacity of the council to deliver services.

**C21** **Closure**

/161 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.24pm.

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date.....

**Appendix 1 – Police**  
**Appendix 2 – County Councillors’ reports**  
**Appendix 3 – District Councillors’ reports**  
**Appendix 4 – Mayor’s Report**

**APPENDIX 1 – Police**

Inspector Peter Ferrie joined the meeting to give a final report before retiring from the Police Force after 30 years, half of which was spent in Haverhill. He thanked the Town Council for the support and help given to him and his fellow officers over the years.

Some crime stats for Haverhill have shown a reduction over the last four years:

Burglaries monthly average has gone down in:

2018 average 13 per month

2021 average 6 per month

This may reflect people home-working reducing opportunity to commit this crime.

Shoplifting monthly average has gone down in:

2018 average 18 per month

2021 average 6 per month

This may be because there are less people in shops, so it is easier to keep an eye on them. There is also better security at the door.

Some crime statistics have stayed static.

Drug-related crime has remained the same with the average of 9 per month.

Weapon-related crime has remained the same with the average of 2 per month.

Vehicle related crime has increased in Haverhill:

2018 average 9 per month

2021 average 23 per month

This is a relatively low-tec opportunistic crime with lots of choice for a criminal and a relatively simple one to commit. There have been some more sophisticated vehicle-related crimes, but the majority are smash and grab belongings left on view.

Councillors requested whether road policing and on foot policing could increase in the town.

Councillors raised the following matters:

There appears to be an increase in cars driving around with defective headlights.

On the way to the council meeting tonight there was drug dealing opening taking place in the High Street.

Shop security don't always report shoplifting due to a perception of how long it takes the police to arrive and that no further consequences happen for the culprit. Inspector Ferrie advised that if people don't report crimes, the police won't be aware of them. People need to report crimes.

It was asked what reassurance could be given to car owners regarding the increase in vehicle crime? Are the stats likely to continue increasing?

Inspector Peter Ferrie advised that further patrols are taking place around various estates in Haverhill to catch the culprits and car owners are being asked to report the crime and make sure that no personal belongings and valuables are left in sight.

## APPENDIX 2 – County Councillors’ reports

### Councillor D Roach:

Continuing to chase for the time plates to be replaced on a layby on the Haverhill Bypass. Councillor M Marks proposed to close the layby until signage is provided. The Clerk to add this as an item to the next Full Council meeting. **ACTION**

Suffolk County Council has released a lorry route survey for parishes.

### Councillor J Mason:

Since the last full council meeting I have attended SCC Scrutiny Committee which primarily focused on the provision of support for staff and the analysis of wellbeing and the impact of COVID 19 on SCC Staff Mental Health Wellbeing.

I thought it might be of some interest to members regarding October’s SCC Full Council meeting which had the following motions.

- 1) Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Matthew Hicks and seconded by Councillor Richard Rout. ‘This Council is committed to achieving its 2030 net zero target and working with partners across the county to deliver on the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. We condemn the recent action of Insulate Britain on our nation’s roads and the current and historic vandalism of local authority property in Ipswich and elsewhere by other campaign groups. The Council absolutely supports the right to peaceful protest and welcomes engagement on environmental issues. However, it is our firm belief that protests - such as those by Insulate Britain - must not disrupt the lives, or damage the livelihoods, of other people; put undue pressure on our emergency services; or damage property. The Council calls on all campaign groups to adhere to these standards as we work together to achieve our net zero goals.’

I delivered my maiden speech at Council in support of the motion condemning the behaviour of Insulate Britain e.g. stopping ambulances getting through and causing damage to property. I summary stated the importance of the right to peaceful protest, but emphasized that this should always be within the confines of the law.

The motion passed.

- 2) Motion 2 – Proposed by Councillor Andrew Stringer and seconded by Councillor Robert Lindsay ‘This Council:-
  - (i) Acknowledges the efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
  - (ii) Further recognises:
    - that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local 4 customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so;
    - that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
    - that revenues received by such local companies, community groups or councils that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve resilience in the local economy, local services and facilities and also reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;
  - (iii) Notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this;
  - (iv) Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 264 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company; and (v) Further resolves to write to Suffolk’s MPs, asking them to support the Local Electricity Bill.

The motion passed

## **Lorry Routes**

Suffolk County Council is undertaking a review of recommended lorry routes across the county, the first major review of the network since 2011.

They will be commencing the Community Review on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October with Parish and Town Councils. This will run for eight weeks to the 17<sup>th</sup> December.

The online survey will ask each Parish or Town Council to provide up to three routes or locations where they feel HGV traffic has the highest impact on their community. The information sought includes the location, type of issue, the type of vehicle including light goods vehicles and how often and when the issue occurs.

They will be emailing this to all clerks with supporting information on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October. We will not be promoting this as a full-scale public consultation. Any members of the public that wish to participate should be directed to their local council if they wish for their concerns to be included.

Within the survey the councils are asked to name their county councillor to confirm that they have made the county councillor aware of the issues that they will raise in the survey. The limit on three issues ensures that each parish council has an equal chance of responding and not just hearing those who try to make the most representation.

Collating the data through the survey will ensure that the process is fair and no important feedback is sent elsewhere.

The main objective is to collect data to gain a wider understanding of how HGVs and the lorry routes affect parishes across Suffolk.

## **Highways**

Locally, I have been acting on behalf of residents on a number of concerns regarding a range of issues relating to Highways. Paths, Drains (including flooding concerns on Mill Hill and Hilltop Crescent).

Surface complaints are being dealt with on a case by case basis.

I am currently seeking a project cost for patch repairing Downs Crescent

I have identified many areas where dropped curbs would be needed. I welcome contributions/viewpoints from Town council members for locations for dropped curbs, that if installed would be particularly impactful for wheel chair users or mobility scooters accessing the town centre and or key service centres (i.e.) Unity HealthCare.

Ongoing concerns from residents living on Crowlands Road.

## **APPENDIX 2 - District Councillors' reports**

### **Councillor D Roach:**

Members of the working plan group are going to host a session where they will be looking at site allocations for the next plan.

### **Councillor M Marks:**

The Camps Road site is looking hard at the co-location of their services, including the use of the Swan Lane Surgery, further updates to follow.

### **Councillor D Smith:**

Next week's West Suffolk Full Council Meeting has been cancelled.

**Councillor J Burns reported:**

**NW Haverhill:** Work continues, and Councillors were updated with progress by developer recently. The sport pitches and infrastructure applications are still currently going through the planning process.

**Great Wilsey Park:** The first show homes opened at the weekend, and I took the opportunity of a nose around. Work has started on the drainage and roundabout at Chalkstone Way. Chase up of SCC Strategic Highways over the 30mph area on A143 and Chalkstone Way interface has been made.

**Manor Road School Site:** This is effectively has now been all but completed. I have again chased WSC what has happened to the £33K s106 monies for the railway walk as we want to say what needs to be done, not WSC.

**Castle Hill Site:** Work continues.

**Chapelwent Road Site:** Chased up where the £25K promised from TW for the railway walk upgrade is. Again we need to have the say.

**Police Matters:** August Crime Stats were sent out on 5<sup>th</sup> Oct as was the Oct edition of "Constables County". Attended the Police & Crime Panel meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October in Ipswich. Consultation out on the next Police & Crime Plan, which we have already commented on in earlier PCP meeting, with an emphasis much more on local policing. Please ensure you comment on this as covers the next 3 years. I continue to attend meetings of the ASB OHP Task Group particularly concentrating on Drug & Alcohol support as well as Domestic Abuse support – or lack of them.

**Covid-19 SCC Highways / High Street Closures:** Road reopened Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. A WSC survey is now underway, and everybody requested to complete as important that views from all sides of the fence are heard.

**Combined Authority:** The CAM appears to have been officially cancelled by the new Mayor. The Cambridge/Wisbech line has been stated as being downgraded from a heavy rail to light rail system and a slight indication that the light rail option to Haverhill may well be back on the map.

**Parking:** WSC enforcement still ineffective and will be interesting to see whether they bother enforcing the High Street/Queen Street now it is open. They have stated they have no real intention of doing so and, depending on what we see, may need more forceable action by all Councillors if we want to protect our residents from injury and our pavements etc. from damage. 150 vehicles a day were, on average, illegally entering the TRO area from Camps Road.

**Markets:** A West Suffolk market survey is currently underway to traders, businesses, parish councils and WSC members. The survey for the public is only being carried out on a one-to-one basis because WSC don't want to many (sic) "adverse reactions". I am not at all happy about this and have asked for daily feedback figures of how many surveys have been completed because they may think a 1% return is wonderful; which I do not.

**Sturmer Arches:** I recently chased up the WSC Leader on his statement a report would be ready at the end of May and now nearly 5 months late. The CEO came back and stated they had never promised this which I rebutted with the email sent by the Leader at the time. He came back with "Commissioning of the report took longer than expected. I appreciated we could have kept Members updated on process. As I said we have now received the report and it is being considered but only deals with condition and not the issue of ownership." The Director of Property has now reported "We are separately interrogating the planning system and looking at pre-74 planning plotting plans to see if we can establish any additional information that will help us determine ownership of the Arches. As you can imagine this task is taking a bit of time. My plan is working to the beginning of November to present to Cllr Sarah Broughton so I would anticipate I will be in a position to come back to yourself mid-November with some form of update. I'm conscious of us entering into the winter period when I know the Arches provide some local challenges, so we are trying to bear that in mind as we work this through."



**Strasbourg Square:** We await plans by WSC over removing old planting, renovating the sleepers and a replanting plan.

**Market Square:** This has again been raised with the Parks Manager about the slabs that have subsided and lack of planting maintenance as well as the maintenance needed to the War Memorial for Remembrance.

**Other work:** Continue to support Clerk and others working from home. Upgraded more laptops for staff to increase their performance. Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as many online and occasional physical meetings. Due to help facilitate next TC council meeting to YouTube and carrying out the planning for Remembrance Day service in the Cemetery.

## **APPENDIX 4 – Mayor’s Report**

### **Mayor’s Report Sept/Oct 21**

October for me began with the lead up to the Women’s Tour. On Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> I joined Julie Clark and the Heart of Haverhill stand on the market which had volunteers riding exercise bikes, collectively aiming to reach the 155 Km that the real race would take. The stall also raised funds for 2 local charities, The Joshua Tarrant Trust and My Blue Heart.

The next day on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October I joined the Reading Event in town that saw volunteers reading to children at points/benches around the town and there were plenty of freebies also given away by the National Literacy Trust. A very enjoyable day, despite the weather being a little iffy. Other Councillors and Town Council staff were among those giving their time.

On the evening of Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> October I attended the opening of the Family History Centre’s exhibition called “Who Lived Here” with some great stories about the people that lived in some of our older and more prestigious buildings.

The next morning I had to rise at 5 am to get to town at 6:20am to speak to Radio Suffolk about the Women’s Tour due to descend upon our town the next morning. It now started to appear real and the anticipation was rising. That Friday evening I and my consort attended the Mayor’s Civic Reception at Thetford. Sadly, the entertainment for the evening had gone down with Covid but there were plenty of people to speak to and the evening went quite quick with interesting conversation. The big event arrived on the Saturday morning (9<sup>th</sup> October) and I was overwhelmed at how well this had been organised and I found very it uplifting. After welcoming the Tour to our town and all the visitors I started the Community Ride Out just before the main race. I then got cornered by ITV Anglia for an impromptu interview and appeared briefly on the ITV Anglia news that evening. Stardom at last!

Then, that same evening Dave and I attended the Haverhill Youth and Community band concert at St. Mary’s church. It was fantastic to see so many young people taking part alongside some veterans. They all did very well and we won something on the raffle. The following evening we went to the Art Centre to see the Haverhill Silver Band. Another enjoyable evening meeting some friends we hadn’t seen since lockdown.

Lastly, on the 16<sup>th</sup> October we had been invited to join the Haverhill Town Twinning Association for their annual quiz night. Our team was fantastic and we won joint third prize. A very friendly evening and again seeing people we hadn’t seen for some time.

Invites have now gone out for the Town Carol Service on the 8<sup>th</sup> December and I hope to see many of you there.

Mayor Liz Smith