

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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

**Apologies:** Councillor P Firman  
Councillor P Fox  
Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor L Miller-Jones

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole (Town Clerk)  
Steven Marsh (Tech Team Member)

One member of the public was present.

### Welcome:

Mayor Liz Smith welcomed everyone and advised the meeting was being livestreamed on YouTube.

### MINUTES

**C22 /032** Apologies for Absence  
The above apologies were noted.

**C22 /033** Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation  
None.

**C22 /034** The minutes of the Town Council meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022  
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor E McManus that the minutes of the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be adopted as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

**C22 /035** **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

C22/022: West Suffolk Taxi Policy – The Clerk has submitted the views of the council and received an acknowledgement.

**C22 /036** **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 – see appendix 4

**C22 /037** **Mayor's Report:**

- a) Mayor's report – see appendix 5

**C22 /038** **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

- a) The Clerk advised that the only activity he was aware of was the planning for the health event on 7<sup>th</sup> April and the Ops group discussing potential sources of funding for a facilitator to work on the business plan. Councillor J Mason thanked the Clerk for distributing the minutes of the last Board meeting.
- b) Health Event 7<sup>th</sup> April: Councillors fed back that the health event was very useful and very positive to hear how decisions on provision are based on future need and that there was a willingness to listen. It was particularly noted that the hospital will house acute services, so non-acute services will be located elsewhere. It is important that they are accessible to the people of Haverhill. It was encouraging that the commissioners appreciated that only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Haverhill people use West Suffolk Hospital, and they need to get data from Addenbrookes.

**C22 /039** **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 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

Personnel Working Party

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor E McManus that the minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

b) Finance Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Roach that the minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C22 Civility and Respect**

**/040** It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP be asked to support Early Day Motion 691 asking for more appropriate sanctions against councillors who breach the code of conduct, but that the EDM be amended to refer to any breach as opposed to bullying of staff, as bullying of, or by, any person should not be tolerated.

**RESOLVED**

**C22 Financial Matters**

**/041** a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor B Davidson, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the listed payments totalling £29,312.74 be authorised.

**RESOLVED**

**C22 Actions taken under delegated powers**

**/042** None.

**C22 To receive urgent correspondence**

**/043** None.

**C22 Dates of next Meeting:**

**/044** The meeting noted that the Annual Meeting of the Town Council will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7:15pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, following the Annual Town Meeting.

**C22 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

**/045** It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Mason, 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 free flow of debate and discussion.

**RESOLVED**

**C22 Arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Town Council**

**/046** Councillors considered arrangements for the annual meeting including the successor to the Mayor, which will be announced at the meeting. It was agreed to invite the Mayor's chosen charities to receive their cheques.

**C22 Closure**

**/047** The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:02pm.

Signed .....

**Chairman**

Date.....

**Appendix 1 – Police**

**Appendix 2 – County Councillors' reports**

**Appendix 3 – District Councillors' reports**

**Appendix 4 – Public Speaking**

**Appendix 5 – Mayor's Report**

## **APPENDIX 1 – Police**

Councillor J Burns had circulated what information he had. It was agreed to invite Inspector Matt Paisley to the June meeting.

## **APPENDIX 2 – County Councillors' reports**

### **Councillor D Roach:**

Councillor Roach advised that the county had been relatively quiet with little to report. There was a new Head of Service at Highways. It was noted that the ongoing problem of the surface breaking up on tarmac-covered concrete roads was a problem across Suffolk and there was no easy or affordable solution to this engineering challenge.

### **Councillor J Mason:**

Councillor Mason advised that it was important reports on road defects are submitted through the SCC reporting tool on their website. Even if this appeared futile, it will at least reflect the demand for repairs. Councillor M Marks highlighted the ongoing issue of poor quality repairs and the failure of Highways Inspectors to commission the repair of minor potholes that lay within the road closure initiated to repair a major pothole.

Following a wide-ranging discussion on Highways repairs, it was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that a policymaker from Highways should be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the issues raised.

**RESOLVED: Action: Clerk**

## **APPENDIX 3 – District Councillors' reports**

### **Councillor D Roach:**

The work on the new Local Plan is progressing towards the next round of consultation. Major development sites have now been identified and the LPA would be seeking only windfall sites going forward. Councillor Roach took the opportunity to thank Councillors J Burns and D Smith for their input on the Local Plan Working Group.

### **Councillor D Smith:**

Councillor D Smith reported that West Suffolk Council had not applied for funding from the Changing Spaces grant round, but is looking to apply in a future round.

### **Councillor J Burns:**

**NW Haverhill:** Work continues, and further phase applications have been registered.

**Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on the Chalkstone Way roundabout/new footpath until early July.

A pre-application (not on Redrow land) by Mrs Pelley is being discussed for a large-scale tree plantation near to the Great Wilsey farm.

**Railway walk resurface:** WSC awaiting results of formal tender process but looks like the sole contractor who previously tendered may well receive the work in lieu of anybody else tendering.

Castle Hill Site: Work continues apace with sales ongoing.

**Atterton & Ellis site:** Still no updates but this was raised at a recent meeting with WSC, and the appropriate officers will be encouraged to step up their work on this.

**Police Matters:** February crime stats were distributed on 14<sup>th</sup> April as was the March edition of “Constables County”.

Changes to the Police & Crime Panel (PCP) meetings is being proposed to align them to respond to the Accountability & Performance Panel (APP) meetings where the PCC questions the Constabulary. The PCP can then question the PCC on the contents of the APP meetings asking for more detailed information to be provided, if deemed necessary, for the PCP meetings.

There will be a local meet with the police on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May from 1100-1300 on the Market Square.

**SCC Highways / High Street Closures:** SCC have still not completed the replacement of signs post-Covid that I have reported on here every month despite numerous reminders.

I see that SCC have announced a load of work to dress roads. The cynic in me suggests they will not include Chalkstone and Millfields Way.

**Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further news other than the work they are doing at Hildersham Crossroads continues to create a crossing point and a permanent 40mph zone.

**Parking:** I have asked WSC why they have not been reporting statistics since Dec 2021 and await an answer. This was again subject of the discussions recently with WSC CEO as to the lack of response to requests.

**Markets:** The West Suffolk review is nearing completion and we are currently working on the final recommendations for presentation to the O&S committee. This may be delayed to ensure we get it right as there is no rush to meet any sort of legal deadline.

The market itself still suffers from a lack of stall holders with large gaps in the market not helped by any formal Market Inspector for the town for past 4 years.

**Sturmer Arches:** I recently found a news article from 1986 stating that SEBC paid £34K for repairs to the structure despite their now telling us they don't own it. Needless to say, I have sent this to WSC for “clarification”.

**Strasbourg Square:** Still awaiting plans by WSC for renovation of the planting areas and have, again, reminded WSC of their commitment last year to carry this work out by the Spring. It is extremely frustrating that WSC officers continue to ignore emails from members.

**Market Square:** Still nothing been done on this regarding the dips and dirty areas.

**Queen's Jubilee/AFD & Remembrance 2022:** Plans for the Jubilee celebrations, AFD and Remembrance continue.

**Other work:**

- Assisted with interviews for new Arts Manager post.
- Setup Broadband, CCTV and till systems for the Kiosk.
- Monitored use of the Splash Pad opening and suggested changes that appear to have resulted in a large drop in water consumption whilst at same time allowing the users to have access to the water for a longer time.
- Filmed the Easter Panto for the HAC/That's Entertainment co-production in both Haverhill and Southwold helping also with scenery rig/derig.
- Continue to support the Clerk and others working from home/office with IT.
- Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as many online and occasional physical meetings.
- Facilitating broadcast of TC council meeting (tonight) at the Arts Centre.
- WSC Local Plan meetings continue.

## **APPENDIX 4 – Public Speaking**

Mr Dennis Wendell updated the council on his groups, but also informed the Council that he was concerned about healthcare services generally. The lift at the Burtin Centre is now able to be used. He has been advised his group will be charged by St Nicholas Hospice for use of the room from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Terrific Tuesdays and the Mens's Group should not find this unaffordable, but the Thursday Group will not restart there and move to a new location.

He has contacted the Alzheimer Group which has taken over the Sue Ryder contract in Suffolk but is struggling to find any local representation – the contacts all appear to be in Norfolk, for Suffolk, at the moment, as they are recruiting.

Suffolk Family Carers are working with the Alzheimer Society and may be their representative in Suffolk, doing home visits and assessments for them.

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor J Mason, that the Clerk writes to West Suffolk CCG to establish the position in Haverhill

**RESOLVED**

## **APPENDIX 5 – Mayor's Report**

Mayor's Report April 2022

I hope you all had a good Easter. There has been little happening in the few weeks since my last report as there have been a number of cancellations. Unfortunately, Covid still seems to be having an impact. However, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April I attended the Annual St John Ambulance awards which actually covered a couple of years due to the pandemic. This was held at St Mary Le Tower in Ipswich and was a lovely occasion to appreciate the hard work and commitment of these wonderful volunteers. One lady was awarded a bar to her service medal for 70 years of service.

Yesterday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, I attended the Haverhill Silver Band concert at the Arts Centre. It's easy to see how they won the championship for the London and South region in recent weeks and will be going forward to the finals of the National Brass Bands Championship at The Royal Albert Hall in October. Well done to them all and we wish them every success for the future. Only a few more events to go before I hand over the reins to the next Mayor. My own Charity Dinner will be held on this Wednesday, then a Thanksgiving service at St Felix on the 8<sup>th</sup> May as well as a final visit to Bury St Edmunds on the 13<sup>th</sup> for the Chair of West Suffolk's civic dinner.

Thanks for your support  
Mayor Liz Smith