

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 25 October 2022 at 7.02pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

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

Apologies: Councillor P Firman

In Attendance: Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Ms Suzanne Stephenson
Ms Nan Eshelby

No other members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Mayor B Davidson welcomed everyone and advised the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

C22 **Apologies for Absence**

/125 The above apology was noted.

C22 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**

/126 None.

C22 **Minutes of the Town Council meeting held 26th September 2022**

/127 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the meeting held 26th September 2022 be adopted as a true record.

RESOLVED

ACTION

C22 **Get Suffolk Reading**

/128

- a) Ms Suzanne Stevenson, Project Manager for Get Suffolk Reading, presented her report on the first year of activity in Haverhill.
- b) Councillors congratulated her on the amount of work she had done and how many events she had attended. Over 16,000 books have been distributed and 150 people have become literacy champions.
- c) Ms Stevenson thanked local District and County councillors for their support in establishing reading benches for story-telling circles.
- d) The council noted the considerable involvement of the Town Council, particularly the Zone, in supporting this work to boost literacy levels.
- e) For Christmas Get Suffolk Reading will be giving away ready-wrapped books for parents to give children as gifts.
- f) The Mayor thanked Ms Stevenson for her presentation and the work she has been doing in town.

C22 **Greening of Roundabouts**

/129

Councillor J Mason presented his thoughts on greening of roundabouts and making Haverhill a bee-friendly town. Ms Nan Eshelby suggested some “quick wins” towards this goal,

- a) Mapping actual planting for pollinators and potential spaces when more planting could be made.
- b) Explore what steps are required to become an official bee-friendly town.
- c) Promote steps people can take in their own private gardens.
- d) Stop the spraying of Glyphosate weedkiller locally.

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor M Marks that the council invite West Suffolk to send a representative to talk to HTC about biodiversity projects in Haverhill and opportunities for additional projects, and that the process of becoming a Bee-Friendly Town be explored.

RESOLVED

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

/130

C22/097: Following on from the meeting we organised on behalf of the residents of the Clements Estate to highlight issues of concern, Havebury Housing have announced a programme of estate walks for the Clements, Chalkstone, Parkway, Cambridge Way, Chimswell and Old Haverhill. Councillors D Smith and M Marks advised they had booked to join the Clements estate walk on November 2nd.

C22/113b: The Clerk confirmed he has written to the Chief Operating Officer of EEAST regarding response times for Haverhill.

C22 **Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

/131

- 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

Clerk

C22 **Mayor's Report:**

/132 a) Mayor's report – see appendix 5

C22 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/133 A discussion between the Town Clerk, Mr Andy Hunter, chair of the Partnership and Mr Ian Gallin, Chief Executive of West Suffolk District Council took place on Wednesday 28th to discuss how ONE Haverhill can find meaningful direction, particularly how it can be supported to maintain its role in ensuring different strands of work pull in the same direction, for the benefit of Haverhill. The Clerk is awaiting a paper from Mr Gallin, which will be the main topic of discussion at the November Board meeting scheduled for 24th November.

C22 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/134 a) Planning Working Party

It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 6th September and 4th October 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure & Community Committee

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meeting held 3rd October 2022 be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) Finance Working Party

It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the meeting held 11th October 2022 and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

RESOLVED

C22 **Financial Matters**

/135 a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the listed payments totalling £74,984.48 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) External Auditor Report: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the External Audit Report be accepted.

RESOLVED

The Clerk confirmed that the notice of conclusion of audit has been posted on the website and notice board.

C22 **To receive urgent correspondence**

/136 None.

C22 **Actions taken under delegated powers**

/137 Repairs to roof of Arts Centre: The Clerk advised that a quote for £14,640, being the most competitive quote received, was accepted to expedite urgent repairs to the roof of the Arts Centre and clean out the guttering, following water ingress into the building.

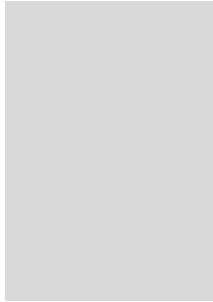
NOTED

C22 **Date of next Meeting:**

/138 The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 28 November 2022,
venue to be advised.

C22 **Closure**

/139 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:35.



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

None

APPENDIX 2 – County Councillors’ reports

Councillor J Mason

Specific Highways Issues/Concerns

Piperell Way: Possible need for a TRO due to cars parked opposite entrance to DBS Sheetmetals.

Burton End Primary School Parking: Concerns raised regards dangerous parking on yellow lines. Suffolk Highways meeting Held, West Suffolk Council Civil Parking Enforcement Contacted. Email sent to school to encourage engagement with the Suffolk Road Safety Partnership – this is a combined group set up between various groups, including Suffolk Highways and Suffolk Police to address road safety in general. They can then arrange a visit from one of our School Safety Officers to assess the problem and suggest any resolution.

Lorry Parking TRO on Bypass: TRO Signs have been installed and are still there, but are being ignored by some lorry drivers, thus causing disruption to nearby houses. West Suffolk enforcement has been contacted to see if some routine visits can be added to the schedule.

Dropped kerbs: for Duddery Hill Petrol Station and Clements Lane turnings: On order, estimated time 4 months till installation.

New Waste Depot, Homefield Road: No further update from last meeting. Construction is being held up by legal over contractual arrangements with landowner. Have been reassured that there is a lot of work going in to resolving outstanding issues. The funding is secured and in place. Just waiting for contacts to be finalised.

Greenfields Way Bus Stop: No movement. New team have picked up the case. Seems to be stuck on the desks of the legal departments regarding landownership. Disappointing that after a year of chasing the bus stop is no nearer.

Stagecoach: I received email correspondence from Simon Bartlett (Integrated Transport & Enhanced Partnership Manager) who made it clear that “Stagecoach (and Stephenson’s) services are not under contract to anybody. They are operated commercially under the provisions of the 1985 Transport Act (and subsequent updates) and as such Suffolk CC, as the local transport authority, have no powers to tell them where to run.

In this instance, Stagecoach have recognised that the variations on service 13 are not attractive to a lot of the passengers who just want a fast trip to Cambridge without running around assorted parts of the town on the way. They are therefore taking the 13 out of the estates to run directly back and forth and bringing in service 131 to cover those instead. I have not seen a route map for that yet, just the timetable which only shows defined timing points and not other stops, so can’t fully confirm which bits of the town may miss out.

However, note that the Stagecoach routes do not currently serve the stops at Lidl and the other services that do are not affected by these changes.”

In a follow up conversation Simon reinforced the point that operators make changes with a 70-day notice and that the council are working on a lobbying paper to review Bus Company Regulation.

As regards the bust stops at Lidl, these will remain visited by other bus routes and of course can be used by any Hopper Service.

Motion at Suffolk County Council

October Motion which passed with 100% cross party support:

Suffolk County Council



Agenda

Thursday, 20 October 2022

For further information on any of the agenda items listed, please contact:
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7. Motions to Council

In accordance with Rule 3.1, the following Motions have been received.

Motion 1 – Proposed by Councillor Richard Smith and seconded by Councillor Joe Mason.

'This Council recognises that, over the last decade, we have demonstrated a strong track record on waste disposal. A consistently high-performing service each year has reduced the cost to Suffolk's Council Tax payers. This has been achieved through careful and effective procurement, alongside adroit contract and commercial management expertise, with timely investment in key infrastructure and, of course, strong collaborative working with our District and Borough colleagues through the Suffolk Waste Partnership.

The Council welcomes all government proposals designed to reduce waste and increase the proportion and types of waste recycled. The Council congratulates His Majesty's Government for continuing to improve waste disposal in the United Kingdom through the Environment Act 2021 but recognises that the proposed major changes to waste services may increase the financial burden on this authority.

Therefore, the Council resolves to write to The Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to ask that any additional responsibilities for local authorities come with a sufficient uplift in funding so that Suffolk County Council can commit to adopting the same proven approach to waste disposal in the years ahead.'

Suffolk County Council news that can be shared with residents

- [Being prepared for winter matters to Suffolk County Council](#)
- [Suffolk Trading Standards: Don't be tricked this Halloween](#)
- [Next round of new SEND places agreed by Cabinet](#)
- [Suffolk proposes already-planned developments for Investment Zone status](#)

Suffolk County Council, in partnership with the district and borough councils, has submitted an Investment Zone expression of interest to Government based around sites which are already in existing local plans or have otherwise been identified for development.

The proposal will seek Investment Zone status for sites along Suffolk's key transport corridors of the A14, A12 and A11 and near the gateways to the county in Lowestoft, Sudbury and Mildenhall. No new greenfield sites and no new sites adjacent to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been brought forward.

The Government launched the process in early October to invite councils to submit their bids by 14th October. Since then, Suffolk Councils have been working in partnership with landowners, the LEP, Chamber of Commerce and key local stakeholders to identify sites that meet the Government's criteria. All the sites submitted in this bid are supported by Suffolk's MPs.

Cllr Matthew Hicks, Leader of Suffolk County Council, said: "Suffolk has significant potential to contribute to national and international economic growth, but we need to strike a balance between that and protecting and enhancing our environment. These considerations were uppermost in our minds as we developed our proposal.

"That's why we have submitted an ambitious bid around sites already earmarked for development, which will take advantage of the opportunities that Investment Zones will bring, while maintaining our natural environment.

"Unlocking these sites will provide regeneration and growth that will benefit local communities and businesses, as well as demonstrate that Suffolk is a place that can fundamentally deliver on the Government's Growth policy."

The 12 sites, which will provide a mix of commercial and residential development, are:

- Western Gateway Cluster
 - Suffolk Business Park
 - West Mildenhall
 - Haverhill town centre
 - Ipswich Cluster
 - Land adjacent to Copdock Interchange
 - Eastern Gateway
 - Europa Way
 - Hadleigh Road
 - Seven Hills
 - Lowestoft Cluster
 - Lowestoft Inner & Outer Harbour
 - Sudbury Cluster
 - Delphi Site
 - Hamilton Road Quarter
 - Chilton Woods
- Cllr John Griffiths, Leader of West Suffolk Council, said:

“The package of sites, including those in West Suffolk, meet the Government’s ambitions and criteria for Investment Zones which are focused at accelerating planned growth. Fundamentally these proposals demonstrate that we are an area that can deliver on the national growth policy and West Suffolk is a great location for business.

“These Investment Zone proposals are going forward as they meet the Government’s guidance. But at the same time, we of course continue to pursue the delivery of a pipeline of additional initiatives and sites in West Suffolk that will help meet our strategic aims of economic prosperity and wellbeing for our communities.

“Once again we are taking every opportunity to further grow our local economy, including creating the right business environment to encourage investment, skills, infrastructure improvements, jobs and wider benefits for our communities as well as best value for our own assets.”

Persimmon NW Haverhill Site

The Relief Road: West Suffolk Officers have been out on site to check on the progress of the relief road. They met with road constructors 'Kauto' and SCC officers. They have advised that they (Kauto) believe they are on track to meet the deadline. I am requesting further updates to monitor progress towards to the March 2023 deadline.

Dead Trees, Planting & the Park: Persimmon is being challenged regarding the state of the green spaces on Phase 1 and the need for more planting and replacing of dead trees.

As regards the park, it is my understanding that it is to be completed in the early part of next year. (Really important for the many families who have now moved into phases 1 & 2.) I will continue to chase and monitor.

Phase 3B & Infrastructure & Local Centre:

I have not objected to these particular plans as they are considerably less contentious than phases 2B and phase 6, but I am most concerned that commitments to infrastructure are fulfilled as the site grows, and not added as an afterthought or worse still forgotten about and not delivered at all. This includes the proposed cycle path along Ann Suckling, traffic calming measures and the Toucan Crossing on Wratting road - Vital for the safe movement of students wishing to get safely to Samuel Ward.

I will be meeting with planners and SCC again in the coming months to ensure the delivery of a hireable community space as part of the new school build on the Persimmon site. (Planning not yet public) It will be an indoor community space attached to but separate from the school with a separate Kitchen, Toilets and store room suitable for children's parties, a yoga class, coffee morning etc.

Still no date for the public consultation for the local centre - As soon as I have it, I'll share it with you all. Persimmon have said they want to spend a bit more time on getting the plans right - first time (Sounds encouraging, fingers crossed)

I continue to press for improved health facilities and access to services in the town and ensure that any S106 Health money is spent in the area.

Councillor D Roach

Councillor Roach updated the council on recruitment to bolster the SEND family support. The Scrutiny committee are looking at care recruitment. The plans for the Anaerobic digester have been the topic of meetings and an environmental impact assessment will be required.

APPENDIX 3 – District Councillors' reports

Councillor D Roach

Local Plan Working Group will be looking at final site selection and policy development. He will also attend the Sunnica solar farm meetings.

Councillor M Marks

Sits on health overview & scrutiny. Understand proposals to government regarding dentistry are not fit for purpose. NSFT: Struggling to retain mental health staff after training, so focussing on retention. Councillor Marks outlined issues around this and steps that are being taken. Attended a conference on Community Catalysts, which is coming to Suffolk. Delayed transfer of care is the issue that undermines much of the rest of the system. Councillor Marks gave an overview of what may be achieved by Community Catalysts. She also updated work on end-of-life care. The hospice is looking for volunteers who can support people at night.

Councillor D Smith

The Dentaaid 'bus' came to Haverhill, funded by Councillor Smith and Councillor Hanlon's district locality budgets. Very important, but a shame that it is needed and 40 people were grateful to be treated. Thanks to the church for providing space and to the town council for providing gazebos. Another day in the New Year is booked. It is illustrative of a creaking health infrastructure desperately needing more funding. Councillor Smith will pass contact details to the Clerk to send a thank you letter. **Action: Cllr D Smith**

Councillor A Brown

Reminded the meeting he has some locality budget available if a good cause approaches the council.

Councillor J Burns

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues. Haverhill FHS are working on additional road naming suggestions.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on phases 1, 2 and 8. SCC are discussing with WSC the s278 parts that are in the outline planning permission for outside of the site. There may be changes as some may no longer be required with the monies better spent making sure they meet the need of all residents. This includes reviewing crossing points in Wratting Road and better visibility exiting Manor Road onto Ehringshausen Way.
- **Castle Hill Site:** Work continues apace with sales ongoing.
- **Police Matters:** July & August crime stats were distributed 11th October with 'Constables County'. Attended (in Ipswich) the Police & Crime Panel on 7th October. A confirmation panel for the new Chief Constable will take place in December – I understand that there were two candidates.
- **SCC Highways:** Still no news on restoring the missing signs iwo the High Street following Covid closure - 12 months and counting.
- **Combined Authority:** No further news other than they seem to be supporting the latest GCP's bus proposals.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further news other than work has started on expanding the Babraham Road P&R and adding solar panels to many of the parking bays.
- **Parking:** Formally complained about parking outside New Croft as well as Strasbourg Square. The responses I have received seem to indicate that think this is a CPE problem rather than looking at the

root causes. I have now told them they need to sort it out as a council initiative, but I will not hold my breath.

- **Markets:** Started to chase actions from the market review recommendations as little seems to have been done.
- **Strasbourg Square:** Still awaiting plans by WSC for renovation.
- **Market Square:** WSC told me 12 months ago they would “inspect and fix” but nothing has been done. This time WSC have said they will fix the bits on “their land”. SCC are stating the dips (that flood) around the edge are “not a tripping hazard” and do not meet the HMOP intervention standards which just shows how questionable those standards are.
- **Remembrance 2022:** Planning for this continues with formal invites having gone out.
- **Other work:**
 - Helped with the winter shut down of the Kiosk and opening of the Coffee Bar.
 - Currently working with a contractor on a deep clean of the Splash Pad which should be finished this week. The rubberised surface seems to have attracted some deep-rooted staining of the colours, but it is not thought it is dirt as such. This may be a result of the very high surface temperatures we had this summer combined with suntan oils, etc.
 - Facilitating broadcast of TC council meetings, and filming of shows at request of artistes, at the Arts Centre.
 - Various WSC meetings continue online and in person.
 - Will be working on setup for Halloween Trail starting Tuesday this week.
 - Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as many online and occasional physical meetings.

APPENDIX 4 – Public Speaking

Mr D Wendell updated the council on the activities of the Terrific Tuesday Dementia Group. TT: 24 attendees last week. Good to see numbers building after the pandemic with new members. Alzheimer’s Society are coming to visit 6th December. Met a new employee at Abbeycroft Leisure and hope to obtain exercise sessions from there for the group. Looking forward to the dementia-friendly screenings restarting monthly. Also the possibility of some live music. He has 6x volunteers supporting the group and financially well-placed.

The Mayor thanked Mr Wendell for his report.

APPENDIX 5 – Mayor’s Report

Mayor Bruce Davidson

18th September 2022 – 17th October 2022

Only 9 engagements over the last month – see attachment. Once again managed to sneak in a 7-day Holiday! But paying the price now – as caught the dreaded Covid, again!!

The three main events worthy of a mention have to be:-

- 1 British Ugandan Asians at 50
- 2 Charity Race Night
- 3 Haverhill Silver Band at the Royal Albert Hall

A really informative display was put together by Wickhambrook Local History charting what happened when Idi Amin kicked them out of Uganda 50 years ago.

On the same day – I held my first Mayoral Fundraising event in the evening – a Charity Race Night. Delighted to inform you that a total of £1016 was raised for the Voluntary Network.

On the 15th October I was honoured to travel with a small group to support our Haverhill Silver Band – competing in the National Brass Band Finals at the Royal Albert Hall. The competition was very tough – but we should all be extremely proud of the fact that they represented not only Haverhill, but the county of Suffolk and indeed London and the Southern Counties. Fantastic achievement to reach the finals.

On the 25th November – my second fund raising event will take place – a joint St Andrews and Christmas Dinner Dance in conjunction with the Haverhill & District Twin Town Association. Let me know how many tickets you and your friends will require?

Bruce Davidson
Haverhill Mayor 2022/23

	Date	Venue & Event	Attending
1	22-09-22	Linda McEnhill CEO St Nicholas Hospice	Mayor & Consort
2	24-09-22	BUA50 Wickhambrook	Mayor & Consort
3	24-09-22	Get Suffolk Reading – 1 st Anniversary	Mayor & Consort
4	24-09-22	Mayor Charity Race Night	Mayor & Consort
5	27-09-22	U3A Open Day	Mayor & Consort
6	29-09-22	Patrick Chung – Bury St Edmunds	Mayor & Consort
7	03-10-22	Community Action Suffolk	Mayor & Consort
8	15-10-22	Haverhill Silver Band at Royal Albert Hall	Mayor & Consort
9	16-10-22	Ipswich Civic Service	Mayor & Consort