

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday, 28 November 2022 at 7.02pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



**Present:** Mayor Councillor B Davidson  
Councillor J Burns  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor P Firman (until 8:02pm)  
Councillor M Marks  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor D Roach  
Councillor L Smith  
Councillor P Hanlon  
Councillor A Stinchcombe  
Councillor D Smith (Vice-Chair)

**Apologies:** Councillor A Luccarini  
Councillor J Mason

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Henry Wilson, REACH

No other members of the public were in attendance.

### Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the meeting was being recorded.

### MINUTES

		ACTION
C22 /140	<b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> The above apologies were noted.	
C22 /141	<b><u>Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation</u></b> None.	
C22 /142	<b><u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022</u></b> It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held 25th October 2022 be agreed as a true record. <b>RESOLVED</b>	

<p><b>C22 /143</b></p>	<p><b><u>Actions arising from the minutes</u></b></p> <p>C22/129 Bee Friendly Towns: The Clerk advised that he had sought guidance on the criteria and rules regarding ‘Bee Friendly’ towns, as they seemed a bit random. This will be added to the next Energy &amp; Sustainability Agenda.</p> <p>C22/097 Estate Walks: It was noted that Highways have taken note of issues raised on previous estate walks whilst on the Clements Estate walk, with them and the Cabinet Member, awaiting their responses. The issues on the Clements Estate were not seen as unique and West Suffolk will be compiling the list. There is a walk scheduled for the Chalkstone Estate this Thursday, organised by Havebury.</p>	
<p><b>C22 /144</b></p>	<p><b><u>REACH</u></b></p> <p>Mr Henry Wilson gave a report on the activities and position of REACH and thanked the Council for its support (<b>See Appendix 1</b>).</p> <p>Many more working families are being seen by the charity, as they fall outside of the Free School Meals regime and extra support for low-income families being offered by Government, so this bracket is now struggling. Universal Credit Top-up being withdrawn is impacting significantly! The Free School Meals programme needs reviewing.</p> <p>Stock levels and food donations are currently doing well, due to people’s generosity. The charity is also steering people towards additional help, “so do not hesitate to steer people our way”.</p> <p>Pensioners are also being seen in higher figures, with some success in helping applications for the Attendance Allowance. The message needs to be pushed to get through to get to those who qualify, “it is not means tested”!</p> <p>It was suggested that fresh fruit &amp; veg needs to be encouraged. A Food Pantry was looked into by REACH, but the investment was too great; they are however working in partnership with the Salvation Army. Education is vital.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Mr Wilson for attending.</p>	
<p><b>C22 /145</b></p>	<p><b><u>Ambulance Response Times</u></b></p> <p>To consider that, given the mean response time for the Haverhill area’s Category 1 (C1) immediately life-threatening ambulance calls in October 2022 was 77% longer than that for the whole EEAST area, and 118% longer than that for all of England, the Council should write again to Marcus Bailey, Chief Operating Officer of EEAST, published with a press release, demanding reinstatement of the emergency vehicle provision for Haverhill, which was reduced in January 2022 and may have led to avoidable harm to, and possibly deaths of residents as a consequence.</p>	

	<p>Councillor Brown advised that he has tried to engage with the Trust and our MP to no avail.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor D Roach to write a letter to the Chief Operating Officer of EEAST, Marcus Bailey and cc. the Chief Executive Tom Able, Matt Hancock MP and the Health Secretary, with a press release to be issued.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>C22 /146</b>	<p><b><u>Reports from District/County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM</u></b></p> <p><b>a) Police Report</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that they had been offered by Area Inspector Ben Hollands attendance by the Community Engagement Officer every 3 months at council meetings, and also regular liaison meetings with the Inspector.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor M Marks, that the Clerk arranges liaison meetings and that Councillors J Burns, P Hanlon and D Roach along with the Clerk attend the liaison meetings.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p><b>b) County Councillors</b></p> <p>Councillor J Mason SCC had submitted a written report (<i>See Appendix 2</i>) Councillor D Roach advised that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Superfast fibre cabling is being laid around the town and this will cause more disruption on the roads, however Highways have no control over this as it is a government scheme using independent contractors.</li> <li>• He visited the anaerobic digester plant on the Euston Estate, which is not close to any settlements, and all vats are covered. No smell was apparent. The planning application for the proposed site at Withersfield is due to be determined by the County Council as waste authority next year. Concerns raised and discussed by members included; deliveries and odour, potential change of use subsequent to the application being approved, and visual impact. It was noted the site is adjacent to a current gas line which makes the site preferable to the applicant.</li> <li>• New Household Waste Hub: the cabinet member is coming to visit next week.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor P Hanlon raised concerns over the state of the Chalkstone Estate and road surfacing, potholes and drains.</p> <p><b>c) District Councillors</b></p> <p>Councillor John Burns had submitted a written report (<i>See Appendix 3</i>) Councillor J Mason had submitted a written report (<i>See Appendix 4</i>) Councillor Roach advised that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Local Plan working group is still in action.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Control are looking at the proposed new West Suffolk hospital site on Wednesday</li> </ul> <p>Councillor D Smith advised that in addition to matters raised by his colleagues he had been fielding many calls about Matthew Hancock MP being absent from parliament.</p> <p><b>d) Public Forum</b> None.</p>	
<b>C22 /147</b>	<b><u>Mayor's Report</u></b> <b>(See Appendix 5)</b>	
<b>C22 /148</b>	<b><u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u></b> At the Board meeting held on 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2022, Ian Gallin from WSDC gave a report on the distribution of government funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund, however much of the 2022/23 tranche has already been allocated. It was suggested at the Board meeting that a new intergenerational mentoring scheme, 'Hands Across Haverhill' be set up under the OHP ( <b>See Appendix 6</b> ).	
<b>C22/ 149</b>	<b><u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u></b> <b>a) Planning Working Party</b> It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe that the minutes of the Planning Working Party meetings held on 18 <sup>th</sup> October, 1 <sup>st</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022, and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted. <b>RESOLVED</b>  <b>b) Leisure &amp; Community Committee</b> It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Marks that the minutes of the Leisure & Community Committee meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted. <b>RESOLVED</b>  It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that an initial budget of £5,000 to obtain professional engagement in the project to build a permanent extension to the side and rear of the Arts Centre, including architect, structural engineer and quantity surveyor be approved. <b>RESOLVED</b>	

C22/ 150	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>a) To authorise the payment list</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="316 241 1278 763"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Payment</th> <th>Value £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>20.10.22</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£12,114.76</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£28,083.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25.10.22</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£28,229.52</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12.10.22</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£47,834.69</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>DD</td> <td>£700.02</td> </tr> <tr> <td>01.11.22</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£42,215.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>DD</td> <td>£1,830.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08.11.22</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£20,877.54</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>DD</td> <td>£1,269.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16.11.22</td> <td>BACS</td> <td>£20,854.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>DD</td> <td>£941.33</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>£204,951.48</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the listed payments totalling £204,951.48 be authorised.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <p><b>b) Insurances</b></p> <p>The meeting noted that the council and Haverhill Community Trust insurances have been renewed as of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022.</p> <p><b>NOTED</b></p> <p><b>c) Local Council Tax Relief Scheme Consultation</b></p> <p>The proposed changes by West Suffolk District Council to the local council tax relief scheme, bringing the relief for the households in most need to 100%, will impact on the Town Council precept amounting to a reduction in precept income of £5,500.00 for financial year 2023/24.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor A Brown, that in light of the current climate and cost of living rises, that the Council support this.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>	Date	Payment	Value £	20.10.22	BACS	£12,114.76		BACS	£28,083.35	25.10.22	BACS	£28,229.52	12.10.22	BACS	£47,834.69		DD	£700.02	01.11.22	BACS	£42,215.36		DD	£1,830.34	08.11.22	BACS	£20,877.54		DD	£1,269.80	16.11.22	BACS	£20,854.77		DD	£941.33			<b>£204,951.48</b>	
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C22/ 151	<p><b><u>To receive urgent correspondence</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>																																								
C22/ 152	<p><b><u>Actions taken under delegated powers</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>																																								
C22/ 153	<p><b><u>Dates of meetings for 2023</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the council approve the draft calendar of dates of meetings for 2023 (<i>See Appendix 7</i>).</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p>																																								

	The Clerk will check on two previously agreed dates that now clash with the District Council meeting schedule.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>C22 /154</b>	<b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b> Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	
<b>C22 /155</b>	<b><u>Exclusion of the press and public</u></b> It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith 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 involving a third party. <b>RESOLVED</b>	
<b>C22 /156</b>	<b><u>Suspension of Standing Order 3x</u></b> It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, that Standing Order 3x be suspended, to allow the meeting to continue beyond 2 hours duration. <b>RESOLVED</b>	
<b>C22/ 157</b>	<b><u>Dates of Events for 2023</u></b> The Clerk referred the meeting to the previously distributed paper proposing draft dates for events in 2023. The Clerk explained the reasoning behind the change of timing to events through the summer, which was to accommodate staff leave and to allow sufficient space and staffing of a potential major event at the Arts Centre, details of which are subject to agreement and will be made public in due course.  The event schedule remains dependent on budget decisions by the council but in an-principle approval of the plans for 2023 would enable initial planning to go ahead.  It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that, subject to budgetary approval, the dates of events for 2023 be approved in principle. <b>RESOLVED</b>	
<b>C22 /158</b>	<b><u>Closure</u></b> The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:25pm	

Signed .....

**Chairman**

Date .....

**Appendices:**

**Appendix 1 REACH Report**

**Appendix 2 County Councillor J Mason Report**

**Appendix 3 District Councillor J Burns Report**

**Appendix 4 District Councillor J Mason Report**

**Appendix 5 Mayors' Report**

**Appendix 6 ONE Haverhill Hands Across Haverhill proposal**

**Appendix 7 Dates of Meetings 2023**

**Appendix 1 REACH Report (see attached Pdf.)**

**Appendix 2 County Councillor J Mason Report:**

**Cinema Loading Area on Ehringhausen Way:** Possible need for a TRO due to cars parked and preventing loading for the business units. No TRO means Civil Parking Enforcement can't Issue tickets

**Lorry Parking TRO on Bypass:** Fewer complaints. So far the TRO seems to be doing its job

**Dropped kerbs:** for Dudderry Hill Petrol Station and Clements Lane turnings now approved hopefully these can now be done

**New Waste Depot, Homefield Road:** No further update from last meeting

**Greenfields Way Bus Stop:** Some movement. SCC officer trying now to resolve. Very disappointing how long this is taking.

**Damaged Bus Stop** at Bus Station is a West Suffolk Council matter and I am pursuing to see if it is being replaced as soon as possible.

**Clements:** Today Robert Everitt Officers and some councillors attending a walk round to identify issues to resolve. Awaiting outcome.

**Buses:**

Attended Scrutiny meeting in Ipswich which focussed on Public Transport – Buses. Underlined the unsatisfactory manner in which the regulatory framework limits the Council's ability to intervene. Presentation from Stevenson was helpful, but the committee is now working on recommendations/actions to take forward possibly to central government. Interesting comments from Cllr Richard Smith about what the Bus Service will look like in the future. Possibly more hybrid including more hopper buses as opposed to empty unprofitable double decker. I suspect this topic will be ongoing for many months to come.

As a side note, I have followed a couple of buses and it is alarming how often there are either no passengers or just a few people on them at times which are not PEAK. The message is clear, we need to be encouraging people to use the buses. There is a real danger if we don't use them, we will lose them.

**SEND**

Tonight there was an update on SEND, sadly I wasn't able to attend, but hope to have some information to share at some point.

## Remembrance.

I laid a Wreath at East Town Park and attended the Sunday remembrance at the memorial

Please check out the headlines from the Suffolk CC News Page

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/>

Specific stories I found of interest and might be to your ward residents.

[Winter Gritting, Thousands more new trees in Suffolk .](#)

[Celebrating Suffolk's Environmental Champions.](#)

[Devolution in Suffolk.](#)

[10.2 Million allocated to help households in Suffolk.](#)

[Funding awarded for projects to stop violence against women and girls.](#)

[£2.5 million saved on energy costs as LED streetlight project nears completion](#)

## Appendix 3 Councillor J Burns Report:

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on phases 1, 2 and 8 albeit believed may have slowed down due to lack of demand for houses following interest rate rises.
- **Castle Hill Site:** [Work continues apace with sales ongoing.](#)
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** Still no further updates.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for October are not yet available nor is any new edition of 'Constables County'.
  - Attended (in Martlesham) the latest Accountability & Performance Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> November.
  - A confirmation panel for the new Chief Constable will take place this Friday in Ipswich which I will be attending. The only candidate is Rachel Kearton – currently acting as Temporary Chief Constable since Steve Jupp moved over to pastures new.
  - I have requested the local policing commander if the Community Engagement Officer (Cheryl Claydon) could attend Town Council meetings (say) every 3 months to brief both Councillors and members of the public with actions taken and any SNT priorities. This I have been told works well in other towns smaller than ours.
- **SCC Highways:** Still no news on restoring the missing signs iwo the High Street following Covid closure - 13 months and counting. I have again chased them recently to get them sorted.
- **Combined Authority:** No further updates.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** Consultation currently underway over proposed “bus improvements” and road charging for Cambridge.
- **Parking:** No answers from WSC regarding either New Croft or Strasbourg Square despite telling them this is a ownership problem and not something for CPE to sort out. CPE itself still is failing to sort out High Street and other areas where illegal parking is a genuine problem instead concentrating on easy pickings in the car parks.
- **Environment:** It is very frustrating how each council or housing association landowner entity will just not take ownership of weeds etc. with each wanting someone else to do the job. Why there is not a central reporting system I do not know. Having Councillors or residents forced to work out who owns what is just not on.



- **Markets:** Still awaiting WSC taking actions from the market review recommendations as nothing still not been done.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still no news from WSC. I am still trying to find the time & energy to take a trip down to Kew for a couple of days.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** No further updates.
- **Strasbourg Square:** Still awaiting plans by WSC for renovation.
- **Market Square:** WSC still not done anything to resolve the dips in the surface.
- **Other work:**
  - Helped (over 3 long days) with setup and clear out of the Halloween Trail. Helped with the organisation and execution of the Remembrance event. In both cases a post-review of the events will be held to understand any problems and how to resolve them.
  - Worked with a local contractor on a deep clean of the Splash Pad.
  - Facilitating broadcast of TC council meetings, and filming of shows at request of artistes, at the Arts Centre.
  - Setting up of laptops for new staff and some disaster recovery planning work for Microsoft 365.
  - Various WSC meetings online and in person including long Local Plan discussions.

Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as TC online and physical meetings.

#### **Appendix 4 Councillor J Mason Report:**

##### **West Suffolk News**

Not an awful lot to share here

I attended Overview & Scrutiny at West Suffolk where the main focus was on Air Quality and vehicle idling. Recommendations are being sent to cabinet for review.

Excellent report from Cllr Marks regarding SCC Health Scrutiny. I would recommend reading [this](#).

As well as the [Future System Programme Update](#)

Persimmon site progressing Phase 3B is being discussed at Development Control on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. Members wishing to comment on infrastructure whilst not material to this application have the opportunity to do so, as this is the reason this application has gone to Dev Control as opposed to the merits of the application for the parcel itself.  
Application Ref: SE/09/1283

At the next full West Suffolk Council, I will be seconding a Motion in support of stopping the use of Glyphosate, in line with Town Council Policy. Hopefully cross party support can get this over the line.

I think this about sums up what has been going on please do email me if there is anything in particular you would like me to look at or report on.

## Appendix 5 Mayors' Report

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue &amp; Event</b>	<b>Attending</b>
1	26/10/22	Blind & Partially Sighted	Mayor & Consort
2	27/10/22	SunSkips	Mayor & Consort
3	29/10/22	Gentlemens Breakfast Club	Mayor
4	29/10/22	Chalkstone Craft Fayre	Mayor & Consort
5	29/10/22	Broad Street Pumpkin Competition	Mayor & Consort
6	01-11-22	Karen Chapple – Youth Skills	Mayor
7	02/11/22	Boutique Cinema	Mayor
8	03/11/22	Chalksters	Mayor & Consort
9	04/11/22	CAB - AGM	Mayor & Consort
10	04/11/22	Martin Impey – Book Illustrator	Mayor & Consort
11	05/11/22	Paul Freeman – Book Launch	Mayor & Consort
12	05/11/22	ITV News Anglia	Mayor
13	06/11/22	BBC Radio Suffolk	Mayor
14	06/11/22	Haverhill Silver Band	Mayor & Consort
15	07/11/22	BBC Radio Cambridge	Mayor
16	07/11/22	Joan Key – Coffee Morning	Mayor & Consort
17	09/11/22	Top Time	Mayor & Consort
18	09/11/22	Heart FM	Mayor
19	10/11/22	Haverhill History Group – Old Independent	Mayor & Consort
20	11/11/22	RBL – Armistice	Mayor & Consort
21	11/11/22	Haverhill Hub - Befriending	Mayor & Consort
22	12/11/22	Rose Garden - Remembrance	Mayor & Consort
23	13/11/22	Bury - Remembrance	Mayor & Consort
24	13/11/22	Haverhill - Remembrance	Mayor & Consort
25	16/11/22	Open Mind	Mayor & Consort
26	18/11/22	Open Space	Mayor & Consort
27	18/11/22	Haverhill Stroke Association	Mayor & Consort
28	19/11/22	Bury Cathedral – Edmund Lecture	Mayor & Consort

## **Appendix 6 ONE Haverhill Partnership ‘Hands Across Haverhill’ proposal Hands Across Haverhill**

Building community across the generations.

Aims of the project

- To build community
- To reduce social isolation
- To increase levels of literacy
- To reduce anti-social behaviour
- To increase wellbeing

Outline of the project

To bring together young and older people in a variety of ways designed to bring mutual benefit

Activities might include but not be limited to

- Visits from younger children (primary phase) to care homes and old people’s homes to share music and drama performances
- Visits from older children (secondary phase or older primary phase) to care homes to read with the elderly people
- Mentoring partnerships to provide opportunities for older people to support older children in making good choices regarding their futures – values etc.
- Closer links between school phases and schools and the elderly to support the service aspect of Duke of Edinburgh Award
- A project to provide social events to potentially isolated elderly people in schools, supported by young people