

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday, 19 December 2022 at 7pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill



Present: Mayor Councillor B Davidson
Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Brown
Councillor M Marks
Councillor D Roach
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor J Mason
Councillor A Stinchcombe
Councillor D Smith (Vice-Chair)

Apologies: Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor P Firman
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor L Smith

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk

One member of the public was in attendance.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

		ACTION
C22 /159	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted.	
C22 /160	<u>Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation</u> None.	
C22 /161	<u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday 28th November 2022</u> It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the minutes of the meeting held 28th November 2022 be agreed as a true record.	

	RESOLVED	
C22 /162	<p><u>To note progress of actions arising from the minutes</u></p> <p>a) C22/145 Ambulance Response Times</p> <p>The Clerk advised that he had submitted a letter to the Chief Operating Officer of EEAST and had cc'd the Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board and the Secretary of State for Health.</p> <p>The Clerk informed the Council he had met with Matthew Hancock MP, and Matt would try to arrange a meeting with the Department of Health. The Head of the EEAST Chief Executive's Office and Public Affairs had replied that he was trying to arrange for the Head of Operations for the Sector to be available to meet.</p>	
C22 /163	<p><u>Reports from District/County Councillors and the PUBLIC FORUM</u></p> <p>a) Police Report</p> <p>No meetings have been held yet, awaiting dates to be arranged.</p> <p>b) County Councillors</p> <p>Cllr. J Mason see report attached (<i>Appendix 1</i>)</p> <p>Cllr Mason also raised concerns that the County Council's grit bin policy being not fit for purpose in relation to towns. The Clerk agreed that the policy is unworkable within a town. Councillors considered a broad range of issues in connection with gritting in the recent wintry conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTC should issue a statement regarding grit bins and ask people to look after each other in these conditions. It was noted SCC Highways do not allow the use of grit from grit bins on private driveways and paths. • Sites to be considered and sorted. • Can the SCC policy be reviewed to improve the situation? • 90 bins on the HTC list, some being filled and some not. The Town Council should be informed if bins are not going to be filled, but this didn't happen this time and the response when reported to SCC Highways was that many bins were no longer on the SCC database. SCC have sent across a list of bins on their database, and this has already been cross referenced by the Clerk, who will liaise in the springtime with SCC to establish the status of bins no longer on their database. Some bins will need relocating if they are not going to be filled. • It is not possible to provide new grit bins quickly, the new process requirements are almost impossible to fulfil, and would take months anyway. • Pavements are not generally salted, except by residents and businesses addressing the pavement outside their premises. Residents have to take care in wintry conditions. • The Clerk to talk to SALC to put this on the agenda to speak to county council to ask for a policy rethink ahead of winter 2023. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

C22/164	<u>Mayor's Report</u> (See Appendix 4)																									
C22/165	<u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u> No meetings have been held since the last meeting.																									
C22/166	<u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u> a) Planning Working Party It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown that the minutes of the Planning Working Party meeting held on 6th December 2022, and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted. RESOLVED b) Energy & Sustainability Working Party The Clerk advised that the resolution to adopt the Minutes of the Working Party meeting of 12 th December 2022 and the recommendations contained therein cannot be agreed tonight, as the Minutes are to follow. i. It was proposed by Councillor D Roach, seconded by Councillor J Burns to amend the terms of reference for the Energy & Sustainability Working Party in respect of membership to 6 Councillors + Mayor and to appoint Councillor J Mason to the Working Party. RESOLVED																									
C22/167	<u>Financial Matters</u> a) To authorise the payment list <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Payment</th><th>Value £</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23.11.22</td><td>BACS</td><td>£71,174.15</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>DD</td><td>£357.38</td></tr> <tr> <td>29.11.22</td><td>BACS</td><td>£15,681.06</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>DD</td><td>£2,006.29</td></tr> <tr> <td>06.12.22</td><td>BACS</td><td>£34,050.24</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>DD</td><td>£488.73</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td>£123,757.85</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Roach, that the listed payments totalling £123,757.85 be authorised. RESOLVED</p> <p>b) Budget 2023/24 The Clerk confirmed that the proposed budget briefing had been circulated to all members before the meeting, this is a draft, and the final figures will go to Finance Committee in January and then to Full Council for formal approval and adoption.</p> <p>Councillors considered a broad range of issues including Cllr Luccarini's proposals in his email of 19th December and discussed the figures in relation to the current economic climate and cost of living and that it was</p>	Date	Payment	Value £	23.11.22	BACS	£71,174.15		DD	£357.38	29.11.22	BACS	£15,681.06		DD	£2,006.29	06.12.22	BACS	£34,050.24		DD	£488.73			£123,757.85	
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	essential the Council be seen to be making savings where possible, whilst still providing essential services and events to keep community spirits up. The Mayor advised that members give further thought before the Finance meeting on 24 th January 2023, and for final proposals to be agreed on the Full Council agenda for the 30 th of January 2023. Cllr. J Burns offered thanks to the Clerk for his work on the draft budget proposals.	
C22/168	<u>To receive urgent correspondence</u> None.	
C22/169	<u>Actions taken under delegated powers</u> None.	
C22/170	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Monday 30 th January 2023	
C22/171	<u>Closure</u> The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:25pm	

Signed

Date

Chairman

Appendices:

Appendix 1 County Councillor J Mason Report

Appendix 2 District Councillor J Mason Report

Appendix 3 District Councillor J Burns Report

Appendix 4 Mayors' Report

Appendix 1 SCC County Councillor J Mason Report

No further news on the Waste Depot on Homefield Road. Will be requesting an update in the new year.

S.E.N. - Nothing further to report this month – still ongoing concerns regarding provision and the challenge County has on meeting its statutory commitments.

Details of cost-of-living support available for Suffolk residents and organisations can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/costofliving

An interesting read about devolution in Suffolk and the desire not to have an elected Mayor ["Why plans for devolution are a big deal for Suffolk"](#)

Suffolk County Council have a new and improved website – hopefully more reliable and more accessible

Full Council in December saw 1 motion pass (In summary)

1) The Council recognising and thanking families in Suffolk for offering accommodation to Ukrainian Refugees.

Other than that, quite a quiet time at County.

Coming up soon at Full Council will be the debate on increases to Council tax for next year.

Warning after children seen playing on frozen pond

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is reminding the public of the dangers of icy water following children recently seen playing on a frozen pond in the county.

The advice comes after a tragic incident on Sunday, 11 December, in which four young boys died after falling into an icy lake at Babbs Mill Park near Solihull.

Since then, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has increased patrols at ponds, lakes, and reservoirs across the county to help highlight how dangerous icy water can be.

Despite recent safety messages from the service, firefighters have still seen children playing on a frozen pond at a park in Lowestoft, with members of the public reporting that they had also witnessed children testing the ice near the water's edge.

Keeping Suffolk Warm this Winter

A new project offering warm items to Suffolk residents has been launched across Suffolk.

"Suffolk Winter Warmth" provides items such as hats, gloves, scarves, blankets, duvets, baby sleep bags, hot water bottles, LED bulbs, draughtproofing and more, to households in need.

Following a successful pilot in November, Suffolk Winter Warmth launched this week. The project provides support for any household experiencing hardship and in need of support to prevent ill health and keep warm. Residents can be referred by professional or voluntary sector organisations supporting residents who are struggling to heat their homes. These organisations include District and Borough Councils, Health Professionals, Citizens Advice and Community Groups, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Rural Coffee Caravan and more.

The project is backed by £50,000 of funding from Suffolk's Collaborative Communities Board and is co-ordinated on behalf of the whole county by East Suffolk Council.

Professional and voluntary organisations can refer residents to the scheme by visiting: [Winter warmth referral » East Suffolk Council](#).

There are also more than 250 voluntary warm spaces across Suffolk, where residents can meet up with members of the community in a warm, safe space, at no charge. A map of warm spaces in Suffolk can be found on the Rural Coffee Caravan website:

<https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/map/>

Alongside this, all Suffolk Libraries will act as warm, safe spaces this winter. Information and opening times for Suffolk Libraries can be found at <https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/>

If your community would like to set up its own Warm Space to support local residents this winter, guidance is available from Rural Coffee Caravan and Community Action Suffolk at:

<https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/winter-warmth/#warmspaces>

Further details of cost-of-living support available for Suffolk residents and organisations can be found at www.suffolk.gov.uk/costofliving

Appendix 2 WSC District Councillor J Mason Report

New leisure centre at Western Way moves to next stage

I welcome the revised plans for the ambitious new development (Leisure Centre) in Bury St Edmunds. I also look forward to presentations from West Suffolk officers to see how investment in the High Street delivers improvements for the community and what progress has been made on the Haverhill Hub project.

Persimmon – NW Haverhill

- I continue to liaise with Persimmon and West Suffolk regarding infrastructure and timescales. It is anticipated that the relief road will be completed in March, and I have asked for updates if this timeline starts to slip.
- I have requested a meeting with WS planners, SCC and other stakeholders in the new year to further explore funding and delivery of the Community space, I have been lobbying for, as part of the new school that is being planned. It is essential bookable community space for daytime and evening is provided for this large development.
- I have also requested a further update on a date for the public consultation for the Local Centre on the Persimmon site. This is obviously now going to be in the new year, but I am hopeful this will take place in January. It is essential the Local Centre is a success providing facility not just to the Persimmon site but also the Arrendene and Boyton Hall Estates
- I am currently working with Planning officers and Persimmon on determining a location for recycling units for Glass on Clothing on the new site, hopefully on the yet to be shared Local Centre phase (3A)
- **Glyphosate and other Pesticides and herbicides**
On the 13th December I at the West Suffolk Full Council Meeting I seconded a spoke on a cross-party motion I have been working collaboratively and somewhat controversially on, banning the use of Glyphosate and other Harmful chemicals that have a negative impact on biodiversity. I also, and unusually, seconded the amended motion which actually went a little further than the initial motion and which I was happy to support. The amended motion was proposed by Cllr Hood. The full text that was passed almost unanimously by West Suffolk District Council read:

“Council is asked to note:

- 1. That there is growing evidence that glyphosate is a higher health risk than previously assumed. In 2015 the World Health Organisation identified it as ‘probably carcinogenic to humans’. A 2019 study found the use of Roundup increased the risk of Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma by 41 percent.**
- 2. A 2018 study found that glyphosate, the most used agricultural chemical ever, may be contributing to the global decline in bees and other pollinators, both by poisoning them and through loss of habitat.**
- 3. Glyphosate, and other pesticides, impact on the environment more generally by decreasing biodiversity**
- 4. Council should also acknowledge the work of the Environment and Climate Change Task Force in this connection. However, over 30 local authorities in Britain have already decided to ban the use of glyphosate from all their own operations and this Council should take immediate steps to do likewise.**

In light of this, Council is asked to note the following action is already committed to by the Portfolio Holder and Cabinet:

1. Pledge to stop the use of glyphosate completely from all its in-house operations (including in Parks and the street scene) by April 2023 without increasing the use of other chemical weedkillers. If thought absolutely necessary, an exception could be granted regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other specified invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available.

However, in this case glyphosate will be sparingly sprayed in the case of young soft growth and otherwise it will be stem injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment. A Register, open to Members, shall be kept of all areas where glyphosate or other harmful chemicals that have a potential to negatively impact biodiversity are used and this will be reported on in the annual Environmental Statement.

2. Officers are instructed not to spray round trees and in other public areas in spring and autumn 2023. If thought absolutely necessary, then weeds round trees could be removed by other, non-chemical, means but ideally they should be left to promote biodiversity.

3. Early in 2023, officers will embark upon a publicity and awareness campaign explaining why the spring and autumn sprays will not take place and highlighting the benefits to human health and biodiversity of not spraying. Officers will provide template responses for councillors to respond to residents to assist this campaign."

This change of policy, in line with all other Suffolk councils and many more across the country, will undoubtedly lead to a continuance of unsightly growth, but I want to make clear the full WS council supported this motion and with the support of all parties. Similarly, this is something we will need to work on together – cross party.

District Members have been assured materials will be provided for members and I recommend the Town Council request these for Town Councillors, should they be approached by members of the public on this topic .

Manual and non-chemical methods do work but are not as effective, more labour intensive and more costly. These methods also mean that weeds will likely grow back. I made clear in my speech however, that I did not believe it ethical to prioritise aesthetics, convenience and cost over public health and the harmful effects of the chemicals to biodiversity and public health.

I hope this motion also has the support of Haverhill Town Council who already have in the environment policy a commitment to not using harmful chemicals such as Glyphosate that effect biodiversity.

This is likely now going to be an ongoing discussion point as the council and communities come to terms with this change in policy.

Grit Bins

I have spent a significant amount of time reading and responding to correspondence on the topic of Grit Bins and there is a lot of concern and frustration. I have had discussions with Highways and overall I am dissatisfied with what has happened this year regarding the filling of grit boxes.

I do believe Haverhill Town Council should now ensure all existing grit boxes which qualify are placed on the Suffolk Highways system and are filled in preparation for the next snow fall. It is important the register the Town Council has matches that of Suffolk County Council. There is a clear need that this situation is resolved. I am most concerned about the quantity of reports of people injuring themselves, particularly in the town centre - along the path behind St Mary's and a number of passageways leading to Jubilee Car Park. Councils needs to work together in the interests of the wider community, however frustrating or challenging that process might be.

Regarding new estates. I have spoken with Persimmon and Planning regarding the placement of Grit Bins on the new NW development. The applicant in this case should be West Suffolk Council and be done at the planning stage. I recommend that the Haverhill town Council Planning working party should consider future applications from Persimmons and indeed other developers with a view to predicting the Highways need for these estate. I also believe the own Council should consider locations not on Highways land that would be placed in necessary locations, filled and maintained by Haverhill Town Council.

My latest correspondence brought this good news from Stuart McAdam of Persimmon:
"I am pleased to advise you that we ordered 2 x grit bins and 10 bags of salt to be delivered to Haverhill to help address concerns. They may have already arrived in Haverhill but if not should be delivered tomorrow. If you could liaise with the Town Council (or suggest where you would like the bins to be located) we can arrange this." (Stuart McAdam)

Refilling a grit bin

Registered grit bins will be filled ahead of a Winter Season. Town Councils should now use the highways reporting tool and monitor stock levels.

Requesting a new grit bin

Suffolk Highways, on behalf of Suffolk County Council, will only accept requests for new grit bins from a parish, town, borough or district council (the 'Applicant').

A grit bin costs between £150 and £450 depending on the type. It must be funded by a county councillor, town or parish council.

Salt will be supplied and replenished by Suffolk Highways for free.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/highway-maintenance/check-which-roads-are-gritted/grit-bins/#tab2>

If the Town Council needs assistance with the purchase of Grit Boxes for locations in the Cangle District and do not have an earmarked budget for this I am prepared to provide some funds for Grit Boxes on sites agreed with Suffolk County Council, subject to Local Highways Budget approval. I am also willing to work collaboratively with other councillors/officers who are willing to process applications.

Areas of concern highlighted to me and of which I am agreement of include:

- the slope on Ann Suckling Road to where it joins the new 6B phase of the Persimmon Site

- the significant slope of Copellis Close on the Boyton Hall estate
- the steep slope of Dovehouse Road
- the slope of Langham Way on the Hanchett Estate (Though I am minded one large grit box for the estate should be located at the entrance (Junction) of Notley Drive and Hopton Rise and also at the entrance (Junction) Hollesley Avenue and Flatford Road
- Numerous locations around the town centre
- Highways currently do not routinely grit the road from the Bradnams Roundabout up to the Meadowlands estate – Leading to Hales Barn Road. Whilst this will be done routinely when it becomes a through road. I do believe Haverhill Town Council should flag this as an area to be included for the gritting lorry schedule. It would also benefit from a Grit Bin at the brow of the rise.

Regardless of the places I have identified/sited, I am minded to request that Haverhill Town Council consider a full review of grit bins across Haverhill to ensure reasonable and realistic provision of Grit for our communities.

Appendix 3 WSC District Councillor J Burns Report

- **NW Haverhill:** Work continues. Phase 3b was approved despite Haverhill Councillors on Development Control voting against because of the lack of obvious progress on the local centre and primary school. Occupations are now up to at least 270 properties with the Relief Road progressing. I keep commenting on the lack of a cumulative impact statement.
- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues on phases 1, 2 and 8. I understand the developer is in discussions with WSC planning for the next phases of the development.
- **Castle Hill Site:** [Work is now complete with the adoption process of the adjacent open space by WSC from SCC underway.](#)
- **Atterton & Ellis site:** Still no further updates.
- **Police Matters:** The crime stats for October were distributed on the 9th December. The November edition of 'Constables County' is being distributed with this report.
 - I attended the confirmation panel for the new Chief Constable in Ipswich on 2nd December where we confirmed the appointment of Rachel Kearton.
 - I asked the office of the PCC why police officers have to now drive to BSE to examine CCTV evidence whereas it used to be something that WSC provided to the local police station. I received an unsatisfactory answer (apparently WSC stopped due to the "cost") and raised this with the new Chief Constable at the confirmation hearing. I hope to raise this more formally once she has settled down in the new post.
 - I also took the opportunity of asking whether more detailed information could be forthcoming on crime statistics rather than those dictated to us by the Home Office. Again, something to be followed up in the New Year.
- **SCC Highways:** Still no news on restoring the missing signs iwo the High Street following Covid closure - 14 months and counting. Despite chasing them yet again still no progress.
- **Combined Authority:** No further updates.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** I asked why no event was held in Haverhill over their "Making Connections" consultation (which finishes on 23rd December) and they claimed they had been in

the High Street and the Leisure Centre. Nobody seems to have known about that considering the number of people that use the #13 service and drive to Addenbrookes.

- **Parking:** Still no answer from WSC regarding either New Croft or Strasbourg Square parking problems and since raised again with the CEO. I managed to get two large trucks removed from the latter as their MOTs had expired and being used as a courier drop-off point. All that happened is they moved to an adjacent road so I have now reported them to the police. With the recent bad weather, was made even worse in Strasbourg Square as the car park was full at all times as residents decided they did not want to try parking near their properties.

At WSC full council last week I have asked for a written answer as to how WSC have considered CPE has helped Haverhill in “tackling congestion, illegal parking, emergency vehicle access and helping businesses”.

- **Environment:** We had a walkabout on the Chalkstone with Havebury, the police and other parties. It is shameful that SCC did not attend as usual, but Havebury have promised to pass everything that they manage to them. From previous experience every excuse will be made that does not meet HMOP.
- **Markets:** Still awaiting WSC management taking actions from the market review recommendations as nothing still not been done. I have diarised to formally request a meeting in the New Year as I know officers who manage the markets are equally frustrated about the lack of changes let alone the traders who expected some action.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still no news from WSC. It is hoped the meeting with the CEO now planned for January may bring some more news.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** No further updates. Nobody seems to know what is going on with the existing owners not answering emails.
- **Strasbourg Square:** Still awaiting plans by WSC for renovation that were promised for last Spring. I raised this up yet again during the walkabout with WSC Families & Communities.
- **Market Square:** WSC still not done anything to resolve the dips in the surface despite promises they would sort it out.
- **Other work:**
 - Arranged with WSC to fix the gates on the Recreation Ground.
 - Helped (a small bit) with delivery and collection of barriers for the Xmas events plus helping tidy up after the fireworks event.
 - Facilitated broadcast of TC council meetings at the Arts Centre.
 - Currently filming the panto for the production company.
 - Fixing laptops for Youth Skills and setting up systems for new staff.
 - Various WSC meetings online/in person including long Local Plan & Grant Working party meetings.
 - Usual ton of emails and questions answered as well as TC online and physical meetings.

Appendix 4 Mayors Report

Although a short month of only 21 days – nevertheless still a busy one – mainly due to the lead up to Christmas.

The three main events were:-

- 1 Christmas Light Switch on and Late-Night Shopping – very cold and damp but still a really good night.
- 2 Fireworks – there was concern that this stand-alone event would not work – the crowds that came out proved otherwise!
- 3 Mayor's Carol Service – again very well attended – special thanks to Vicky for putting up with all my changes.

My thanks to the councillors that were able to join me at these events!

And of course, none of these events could take place without the involvement of Haverhill Town Council & Arts Centre staff.

	Date	Venue & Event	Attending
1	25/11/22	Joint St Andrews Night Dinner Dance with HTTA	Mayor & Consort
2	28/11/22	All Day Disability Access Course – Leisure Centre	Mayor
3	29/11/22	All Day Disability Access Course – Leisure Centre	Mayor
4	30/11/22	Braveheart – Boutique Cinema	Mayor
5	30/11/22	Maestro Music – Haverhill Arts Centre	Mayor & Consort
6	01/12/22	St Marys – Experience Advent - Burton End Y1	Mayor & Consort
7	01/12/22	St Marys – Experience Advent – Place Farm Y1	Mayor & Consort
8	01/12/22	Nan Eshelby – Christmas Lights switch on	Mayor & Consort
9	02/12/22	Carol Eagles – Citizens Advice Bureau	Mayor & Consort
10	02/12/22	Haverhill Christmas Lights Switch On	Mayor & Consort
11	03/12/22	Walking Nativity	Mayor & Consort
12	03/12/22	Haverhill Fireworks	Mayor & Consort
13	03/12/22	Linton Jazz @ Castle Manor	Mayor & Consort
14	04/12/22	Toy Service – Methodist Church	Mayor & Consort
15	04/12/22	Haverhill Silver Band – Family Xmas Concert Arts Centre	Mayor & Consort
16	05/12/22	West Suffolk Carol Service – Bury Cathedral	Mayor & Consort
17	07/12/22	BBC Radio Suffolk Interview	Mayor
18	07/12/22	Mayor's Carol Service – St Mary's	Mayor & Consort
19	08/12/22	Heart FM Interview	Mayor
20	08/12/22	Veterans Brass Band – Methodist Church	Mayor & Consort
21	09/12/22	Castle Manor – Employer Day	Mayor & Consort
22	10/12/22	Haverhill Singers – Methodist Church	Mayor & Consort
23	12/12/22	St Marys – Carol Service – Clements (Cancelled due to the Snow)	Mayor & Consort