

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 25th March 2023 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor B Davidson
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Marks
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Smith

Apologies: Councillor D Roach
Councillor A Stinchcombe

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator
Mr Quinn Cox

0 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

		ACTION
C23 /046	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted.	
C23 /047	<u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u> None.	
C23 /048	<u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday 20th February 2023</u> It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 28 th March 2023 be agreed as a true record. RESOLVED	

C23 /049	<p><u>To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda</u></p> <p>a) None.</p>	
C23 /050	<p><u>Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM</u></p> <p>a) Police Report The Town Clerk reported that PC Cheryl Claydon has agreed to attend the Full Council meeting on 26th June.</p> <p>b) County Councillors – see Appendix 1 Councillor J Mason: see report attached (Appendix 1) Queen Street (Swan Lane and High Street junction) – Anglian Water’s 60-day work notice has expired. This is being reviewed. Missing signs – These cannot be found at the depots. Suffolk County Council will begin work on replacing the signs next week. It was agreed that this is a priority as missing signs are dangerous to pedestrians and motorists. Regarding the missing tourist sign, Councillor Mason will find out who is responsible for this.</p> <p>c) District Councillors – see Appendix 2 Councillor J Burns: see report attached (Appendix 2) Great Wilsey Park – the laying of underground power lines is starting from 6th June. Redrow are finishing houses that are required to be completed by the end of June. After this day, they will be building to demand as sales are poor due to the cost of living crisis and the rise in interest rates. Some of the houses currently in progress will be affordable housing. The housing association is not local, and Councillor Burns advised Redrow to be mindful of ensuring that tenants are provided with adequate support. Councillor J Mason reported that Persimmon are also slowing down building new homes. Traffic lights at the end of Chalkstone Way – as Redrow are not progressing with building as planned, this has not progressed. Councillor Burns stressed to Redrow that this is important. County Highways reported that damage to the road outside the leisure centre has affected the sensor loops under the road; consequently the traffic lights are now out of synch. Work will not commence until September at the earliest. Councillor D Smith reported that the New Croft application went through, although parking is still a concern. Councillor B Davidson reported that recently he noted 26 cars parked on the grass. A solution to the parking issue should be discussed with the new administration. Councillor D Roach has said he would use the locality budget to have posts put in place. Councillor P Hanlon offered to email Councillor Roach to ascertain progress. Councillor D Smith has withdrawn his objection to Euroapi, as HTC withdrew theirs. Discussion ensued about a complaint received by Councillor L Smith regarding another incidence of ambulance delay. Councillor A Brown reported that meetings have been planned with the new administration regarding ambulance provision. Councillor M Marks reported that she has been a member of a scrutinising panel for the last eight years. The panel robustly looked at the ambulance service last month. She will circulate her report to Councillors.</p>	<p>Cllr JM</p> <p>Cllr P Hanlon</p> <p>Cllr MM</p>

	<p>Councillor Marks reported that the play area at Lowry Road was planned to be moved. After a consultation with residents, who did not want it moved, the play area will be updated later this year and remain in situ.</p> <p>Councillor Burns reported that the underpass at Westfield School will not be reopened. County will take the steps that are too steep and create a ramp. He has asked for their transport plan so he can look at the provision for parking, but this has not yet been received.</p> <p>d) Public Forum There were no members of public present.</p>	
C23 /051	<p><u>Mayor's Report:</u> a) Mayor's report – see appendix 3</p>	
C23 /052	<p><u>ONE Haverhill Partnership</u> The Town Clerk advised that the ONE Haverhill Board minutes from the meeting on 30th March are being sense-checked by speakers. Some task groups are beginning to restart. The Town Clerk confirmed that new task group memberships and Board representation from the Town Council will be confirmed after the election results. Councillor Burns advised that the website needs updating.</p>	
C23 /053	<p><u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u> a) <u>Energy & Sustainability Working Party:</u> Minutes of 3rd April 2023, item ES23/016: Councillor D Smith asked if there is any progress on the provision of solar panels. The Town Clerk reported that Gary Wilson, HTC Operations Manager, will attend the next meeting of the Working Party to provide a full update. In essence, solar panels are prohibited due to Listed Building status and solar tiles are not really a practical solution, being very expensive and potentially introducing structural problems on an old roof. Coupled with the sub-optimal orientation of the building and pitch of the roof, solar energy generation on the existing roof of the Arts Centre is effectively ruled out. It is proposed that solar panels are added to the new extension at the back of the building as the orientation and pitch are more favourable. The Zone property is owned by the landlord, and permission must be requested.</p> <p>Councillor J Miller asked if Gary Smith has authority to make decisions. The Town Clerk clarified that as this is likely to be a large investment, it is prudent to have a recorded vote on making that investment. Councillor L Miller-Jones asked if it is possible to speed up the process for applying for Salix funding. The Town Clerk confirmed that the process is lengthy and will take some time.</p> <p>It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the minutes of the Energy & Sustainability Working Party meeting held 3rd April 2023 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted. RESOLVED</p> <p>b) <u>Planning Working Party:</u> It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the Planning Working Party meetings held 4th April</p>	

	<p>2023 and 18th April 2023 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>c) <u>Finance Working Party:</u> It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the Finance Working Party meeting held 24th April 2023 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
C23 /054	<p><u>Financial Matters</u> <u>Authorisation of payments:</u> It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the listed payments totalling £145,399.47 be authorised.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>	
C23 /055	<p><u>To receive urgent correspondence</u> None.</p>	
C23 /056	<p><u>Actions taken under delegated powers</u> None.</p>	
C23 /057	<p><u>Date of next Meeting:</u></p> <p>a) This is the last meeting of the full council formed in 2019 and Councillor B Davidson thanked all the elected members for their services to the town.</p> <p>b) The next meeting is the induction session for the new council elected on 4th May, which will take place on Tuesday, 9th May 2023, 7pm. This is a closed session to allow councillors to sign necessary paperwork, consider formal nominations for Mayor, discuss committee allocations and, for newly elected councillors to meet the management team.</p> <p>c) The next full town council meeting is the Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 15th May, 7.15pm where the new Mayor will be elected, and will be held immediately following the Annual Town meeting.</p>	
C23 /058	<p><u>Closure</u> The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7:36pm.</p>	

Signed

Date.....

Chairman

Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports

Appendix 2 – District Councillors’ reports

Appendix 3 – Mayor’s Report

APPENDIX 1 – County Councillor’s report Councillor Joe Mason

I have little to report from Suffolk County Council or West Suffolk this month other than ongoing correspondence with WS Planning relating to the Persimmon site and correspondence with residents relating to grounds and maintenance on West Suffolk land as well as other correspondence covering a wide range of issues including numerous requests for support relating to housing and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

- **Suffolk County Council meetings** – Full Council not held in April.
- **Potholes and Patching**
Many thanks to members and residents who continue to use the Suffolk Highways reporting tool. I have had ongoing discussions with highways regarding road surface damage issues, particularly along Withersfield Road. Currently there are five particularly bad defects all within 300 metres of each other. Highways are aware and have told me that they will be sending a team down ‘soon’ to access and action. Other areas are still not good and need urgent attention e.g. Queensway.
- **Delivery Drop Off Bay – Ehringhausen Way12**
TRO process continues can take between 12 and 18 months. There is no quick solution and I am discussing this regularly with the Highways Team ensuring that this is being progressed.
- **Persimmon estate**
 - Phase 2B is well advanced and nearing completion of the building phase. Some occupancy. Keen to see the allotments developed.
 - Playing fields between 1B & 2A – grass sown, and trees planted. Concerned about the proliferation of weeds and thistles in the area, as well as the health of some of the trees that already look dead. (Conversations with West Suffolk are ongoing.)
 - Phase 6 is well underway, though Persimmon have indicated that they will slow down due to a current lack of demand for housing.
- **Acorn Anaerobic Biodigester.** Whilst not in the Cangle District it is of particular interest to residents in North and West Wards. Still waiting for a Planning application to be submitted.
- **Relief Road.**
Significant works have been taking place. Water and gas mains now secured under concrete and soil. Sub layers of road surface beginning to be put down. Will monitor over the coming months and ask for updates from Highways to ensure timescales are kept.

and finally,

Doesn’t four years go by quickly! Many thanks to all members who have worked with me on issues that have arisen around the North Ward, Cangle District and beyond and have needed action, I hope you have found me supportive and keen to resolve issues of concern. I look forward to returning as County Councillor, even if not a District Councillor after this current administration. Good luck and best wishes to all.

Cllr Joe Mason

APPENDIX 2 – District Councillor’s report Councillor John Burns

Great Wilsey Park: Work continues. Hoping for an update on future phases soon.

Police Matters: Crime stats for February 2023 were distributed on 8th April. March edition of ‘Constables County’ was distributed on 18th April.

SCC Highways: Still no news on restoring the missing town centre signs. I have escalated to WSC senior management to see if they can manage to convince SCC.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: Work starts next week on Dean Road crossroad closure (from the south) and installation of new roundabout at Bartlow Crossroads. This will cause a lot of delays on this road for the next 10 months.

Parking: I continue to work on this including lack of action over the Strasbourg Square problems.

Environment: Still no feedback from Havebury on outcome of the Chalkstone walkabout last December.

Markets: No progress with WSC over the market review. Appears the Operations Team have appointed their own Market Manager but have not resolved which department runs the markets. Something to resolve post-elections.

Fox PH (Wrattling Road): WSC responded this week to my suggestion that this would make a good investment. They are now saying the “rules have changed” and any commercial investment can no longer be used to earn money but must benefit the area. I would have said it did this.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way): As advised to Councillors, the company that owned this has gone into receivership and the receivers are looking to sell the site. They have now been told no lawfulness certificate was issued for the site and if they want the planning application to remain extant, they will need to apply for it at which time it will be assessed as to whether knocking down one small wall constitutes the start of the development.

Strasbourg Square: Awaiting start of the redevelopment of the “triangles” and planting next month. My suggestion about more seating is being looked into although not that of installing artificial grass.

Market Square: Still no work done to resolve the dips in the surface.

Other work:

- Continue to facilitate broadcast of TC council meetings at the Arts Centre.
- Continue to fix the occasional IT problems and supporting staff requests. Installed till hardware and software for the Kiosk which opened on 3rd April. Currently working with staff on the till software for the HAC bar as well as testing code changes for the Zone (and elsewhere) to allow payment of an order by both cash and card. A voucher/gift card system for the Zone is currently being designed.
- Facilitated reopening of the Splash Pad delayed a tad by having to wait for the water testing report to be completed.
- Continue to regularly approve HTC/HCT invoice payments.
- Attended various HTC & WSC meetings both physically and online.
- Filmed the Easter Panto and produced dance routine footage for other theatres as it went on tour afterwards.

This is my last report of the current administration. I wish all those standing for election best wishes in their endeavours and thank my fellow members for their cooperation. Special thanks to the HTC team for their support.

Cllr J Burns

APPENDIX 3
Mayor's Report

	Date	Venue & Event	Attending
1	23/03/23	West Suffolk Chairs Concert	Mayor & Consort
2	25/03/23	Halstead Choral & Haverhill Singers	Mayor & Consort
3	26/03/23	Suffolk Justice Service	Mayor & Consort
4	05/04/23	Tait Opening Ceremony	Mayor & Consort
5	05/04/23	Tait Exhibition - HAC	Mayor & Consort
6	13/04/23	Haverhill ATC	Mayor & Consort
7	15/04/23	HTTA Dinner Dance	Mayor & Consort
8	16/04/23	Police Cadet Parade - Stowmarket	Mayor & Consort