

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor D Smith
Councillor R André
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor A Cox
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Page
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

In Attendance: Colin Poole Town Clerk
Councillor D Roach Suffolk County Council

3 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

C24 **Apologies for Absence**
/033 There were no apologies.

C24 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/034 Councillor M Martin declared a non-registrable interest in Item 8. It was proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Page that Councillor Martin be given leave to remain for Item 8 on the agenda.

C24 **Co-option for the vacant seat in Haverhill Town West Ward**
/035 Councillors thanked Paula Fox and Alan Stinchcombe for their applications for the vacant seat in Haverhill Town West Ward. It was agreed that both candidates have excellent reputations and strong track records in delivering

ACTION

for Haverhill in their previous roles as Councillors. A vote for the co-option ensued:

Paula Fox	received five votes
Alan Stinchcombe	received ten votes.

The Chair confirmed that Mr Alan Stinchcombe was duly co-opted as a councillor representing Haverhill Town West.

The Chair thanked Paula Fox for her application.

C24 /036 Signing of Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mr Stinchcombe signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

C24 /037 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 19th February 2024

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 19th February 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C24 /038 To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda

There were no actions arising.

C24 /039 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM

a) **Police Report** - No report received. Councillor Burns advised the meeting that PC Jack Oakley would be in Haverhill tomorrow 10am – 12pm to meet local residents. He is organising an event day on the Clements Estate and Councillors should be receiving an invitation. It was noted that Police elections are being held soon.

b) **County Councillors** – see Appendix 1

Councillor J Mason: see report attached (Appendix 1)

Councillor Mason reported there will be an increase in frequency of the 14/15 bus service from Haverhill to West Suffolk Hospital. The bus will stop outside the main building as it will be difficult to navigate the roads to the outreach buildings behind the hospital. While this is not ideal, it is an improvement.

£10m has been allocated to spend on the roads programme across the county. While not every road can be covered, Haverhill has received a significant share of the allocation.

Councillor Mason gave a special thanks to Councillor Brown for his help on Sunday at 'The Great British Spring Clean'. Councillor Brown praised residents who regularly litter-pick in the town.

Parking on grass verges was discussed and Councillor Mason said that while this is not a road traffic offence, it does constitute antisocial behaviour. Councillor Mason suggested that this might be a topic for investigation at a later time with the aim of lobbying West Suffolk Council.

Councillor D Roach informed Councillors that a full night's closure at Sturmer Arches took place but on examination the following morning, it was noted that some of the repairs to the road had failed and not all had been carried out. Further, white markings to show that the junction is a roundabout were missing. He has written to Highways who have said this will be addressed as the repairs fall short of expected standards. Highways stated that full repair and resurfacing will be carried out in June

but Councillor Roach informed them that patching is inappropriate as articulated lorries rip up the surface. Discussion ensued and it is hoped that once the relief road is in place, that heavy traffic will be diverted from smaller roads.

Cllr Burns said that footpaths are in a terrible state, eg sunken and covered in water, some of which is due to vehicles parking on them. Further there are many tripping hazards on the High Street due to paving stones becoming loose.

Cllr Mason asked Councillors to report road and pavement issues that are not picked up by Highways, to their relevant County Councillor.

- c) **District Councillors** – see Appendix 2
Councillor J Burns: see report attached (Appendix 2)

Councillor Brown attended a meeting regarding devolution. Around 60 Councillors attended. The Consultation went live today and the outcome could have a dramatic effect on the running of the county.

- d) **Town Councillors' matters to report**
Councillor L Smith reported that she went on an estate walk during half-term. WSC has said they will be providing bins for dog waste.
- e) **Public Forum**
No members of the public wished to speak.

**C24
/040**

Report on the visit to the EEAST Operations Control Norwich

Councillor Brown and Councillor Stinchcombe reported on their visit EEAST Operations Control room. It was disappointing that the EEAST website had been updated but the data regarding response times was not carried across. Assurance has been made that the data will be populated on the new website although this has not yet happened.

It was acknowledged that staff work hard but that they are lacking in resources. A C1 license is required to drive an ambulance but this is not granted automatically on driving licenses after circa 1990. This means that recruitment usually involves having to include training to drive the ambulance. It is noted that more ambulances are coming on stream and more paramedics are being trained.

It takes twice the national average time for an ambulance to arrive at a call in Haverhill. Councillor Miller-Jones advised that at one time the Fire Service acted as First Responders but this was not practical as fire fighters are trained in basic life support and are ill-equipped to deal with all emergencies. As they do not have a rapid response vehicle, the engine and crew were deployed which was far from ideal and not cost effective. Additionally, there was the issue of the mental health of fire fighters dealing with scenarios for which they are not trained.

Because there are not enough ambulances, ambulance crews do not have downtime to return to their starting base. Instead ambulances get deployed as soon as they transfer their patient at hospital, which for Haverhill means Addenbrookes. Because Cambridge has a much larger population than Haverhill there are more C1 priority calls, which divert ambulances from C2 calls. Ambulances attending Haverhill C2 calls can either be diverted to a

Cambridge incident, or have to come from Addenbrookes to attend a Haverhill incident. Patients are always taken to Addenbrookes unless that hospital declares an emergency – but it can cope with large numbers of ambulances waiting. It may be the case that overall, from leaving an incident to time of transfer of a patient, it would be quicker to turn around a Haverhill-based ambulance if it could go to West Suffolk Hospital, which is less busy. A dynamic system working between the two hospitals would ensure that patients are transferred and ambulances released back on the road more quickly.

The idea of a Rapid Response vehicle ‘tethered’ to Haverhill was discussed. However, this raises the ethical question of it not responding to an emergency in Cambridge even if it is not being utilised in Haverhill.

It was proposed by Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the Town Council write to the CEO of the Eastern Region Ambulance Trust with the Haverhill Town Council’s concerns.

RESOLVED

CP

C24 **Grant Applications over £2,000**

/041 None.

C24 **Mayor’s Report:**

/042 Appendix 3.

C24 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/043 a) The Board meeting this week was deferred and a new meeting date will be arranged.

b) Haverhill Science Festival – promotion went live last week and will begin to be seen on social media. All events are booked and the media is beginning to pick up coverage.

C24 **Financial Matters**

/044 a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the listed payments totalling £107,213.77 be authorised.

RESOLVED

C24 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/045 a) Planning Working Party:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon seconded by Councillor C Cox that the minutes of the Planning Working Party meetings held 27th February 2024 and 12th March 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Leisure and Community Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Page, that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held 4th March 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) To note that the date of the next Leisure and Community Committee meeting has been changed to 30th April 2024 to avoid conflict with West Suffolk Council’s Annual Meeting.

- C24** **Actions taken under delegated powers**
/046 None.
- C24** **To receive urgent correspondence**
/047 None.
- C24** **Date of Next Meeting**
/048 Monday, 29th April 2024 commencing at 7:00pm.
- C24** **Closure**
/049 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:30pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

- Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports**
Appendix 2 – District Councillors’ reports
Appendix 3 – Mayor’s report

APPENDIX 1 – County Councillor’s report
Councillor Joe Mason

County and District Councillor Report, March 2024

Cllr Joe Mason

March has been a generally quiet one at County following the Budget in February. Specifically, I attended the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee. The focus was on Suffolk Youth Justice Services. Child exploitation, drug & substance abuse, and youth offending/criminality remain a concern across the County. I was impressed with the meeting notes/report and the presentations given by Suffolk Youth Justice Services and the police. I recommend all members familiarise themselves with this topic.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/suffolk-youth-justice-service> In this report.

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Haverhill’s New Recycling Centre

3. Highways Update
 4. Persimmon Estate & Relief Road & S106 – Improvement to Ann Suckling Road and Wratting Road
 5. Banking Hub
 6. West Suffolk News
 7. The Great British Spring Clean
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1. Suffolk County Council News

Funding boost for new and existing bus services across Suffolk

Suffolk County Council is to spend £3.6 million of Government funding over the next two years on strengthening and expanding Suffolk's bus network.

The council has been awarded £1.8 million per year for two years – a total of £3.6 million – from the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Fund Phase 2 (BSIP 2, renamed from BSIP+) to deliver improvements to public transport in Suffolk. Suffolk's Enhance Partnership, which represents the county council and local bus operators, has agreed to allocate the first year's funding in three ways.

First, following an open call for suggestions, £1.2 million will be allocated to support operator- and local community-led proposals for new or enhanced services across the county.

Submissions were reviewed against criteria including value for money, the number of passengers that could benefit, how they integrate with existing services, and their likely long-term financial sustainability after the BSIP 2 funding ends.

Schemes awarded funding include:

- Enhancements of the 84 and 753 services connecting Sudbury to Colchester and Bury St Edmunds
- Enhancements of the 521 service connecting Halesworth, Saxmundham and Aldeburgh
- **A re-route of the 14/15 service from Haverhill to Bury St Edmunds to serve West Suffolk Hospital and to increase frequency**
- Enhancements to the Buzzabout community transport service serving villages north of Lowestoft
- New services connecting villages between Stowmarket and Mendlesham and surrounding villages
- Development of a new demand-responsive transport service to connect Brett Valley villages with commercial services in Hadleigh and Lavenham
- New services from Bramford to Ipswich and Stowupland to Stowmarket
- Enhancements to the operation of the Beyton/Thurston/Elmswell/Woolpit taxibus

2. Haverhill's New Recycling Centre

No updates. I will be visiting in April.

3. Highways

Councillors will be familiar with the issues regarding the roundabout on Bumpstead Road/Sturmer Road. Discussions are ongoing about this substandard temporary patching repair. I have challenged Highways with two specific questions.

1. Why was the repair so poorly executed and left in a state destined to fail withing days?
2. What is the timescale for a full resurface for this junction?

Needless to say, I will keep pressing until this temporary patching work is completed to a better standard.

£10m Urban Roads programme

A full list of the successful schemes can be found [here](#). All schemes are expected to commence operations between April 2024 and September 2024.

£10m Urban Roads programme ("Urban Roads" are roads in all Divisions where people live such as cul-de-sacs and estate roads in both towns and villages)

As these programmes are underway some of the work may have already been delivered.

SCC cannot give specific dates at the moment.

The work schedules do not include any carriageways funded by the standard DfT capital programme nor the highways drainage funding.

SCHEME REF.	TYPES OF WORKS	ROAD NAME	TREATMENT TYPE	START LOCATION	END LOCATION	YEAR	STATUS
228455	FOOTWAYS	ABBOTTS ROAD	SLURRY SEAL	CHAPPLE DRIVE JUNCTION	LOOP OUTSIDE NO26 ABBOTTS ROAD	24/25	IN DESIGN
228466	FOOTWAYS	ASH GROVE	SLURRY SEAL	EASTERN AVENUE JUNCTION	WESTERN AVENUE JUNCTION	24/25	IN DESIGN
228478	FOOTWAYS	BEECH GROVE	RECONSTRUCTION	JUNCTION WITH EASTERN AVENUE	WESTERN AVENUE	24/25	IN DESIGN
227876	FOOTWAYS	CAMBRIDGE WAY	SLURRY SEAL	WESTERN AVENUE	END	23/24	IN DESIGN
228408	FOOTWAYS	DUDDERY HILL	SLURRY SEAL	NO1 DUDDERY HILL	JUST PAST JUST PAST JUNCTION TO CLEMENTS CLOSE	24/25	IN DESIGN
235421	FOOTWAYS	GREENFIELDS WAY	RECONSTRUCTION	JUNCTION WITH HARROW	ROUNDAABOUT WITH CLEVES	24/25	IN DESIGN
235859	FOOTWAYS	PARK ROAD	SLURRY SEAL	A1307 JUNCTION	END OF ROAD NEAR SPINDLE RD	24/25	IN DESIGN
239516	ROAD	ALLINGTON WALK	TO BE DECIDED	EASTERN AVENUE	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
238697	ROAD	BEAUMONT VALE	TO BE DECIDED	BUMPSTEAD ROAD	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239584	ROAD	CAMBRIDGE CLOSE	TO BE DECIDED	CAMBRIDGE WAY	WILLIAM BLAKE COURT	24/25	IN DESIGN
239514	ROAD	CHESTNUT CLOSE	TO BE DECIDED	EASTERN AVENUE	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239596	ROAD	CLARENDON ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF CULIN DESIGNDEIN DESIGNSAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
231767	ROAD	CORNWALLIS ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	JUNCTION WITH GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF ROAD, INCLUDING SECTIONS OF LANDSEER COURT, ABERCORN COURT & ARGYLL COURT	24/25	IN DESIGN
239506	ROAD	DUNSEY WOOD LOSE	TO BE DECIDED	SPINDLE ROAD	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239512	ROAD	ELM CLOSE	TO BE DECIDED	EASTERN AVENUE	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239450	ROAD	HARROW ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239515	ROAD	HAZEL CLOSE	TO BE DECIDED	NORTH AVENUE	END OF CULIN DESIGNDEIN DESIGNSAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239520	ROAD	IXWORTH ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF CULIN DESIGNDEIN DESIGNSAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239595	ROAD	LEATHER LANE	TO BE DECIDED	GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF CULIN DESIGNDEIN DESIGNSAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239451	ROAD	NORTON ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239446	ROAD	PARK ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	WHOLE OF CAR PARKING AREA	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN

239517	ROAD	SCHOOL LANE	TO BE DECIDED	BURTON END	HIGHWAY BOUNDARY	24/25	IN DESIGN
239511	ROAD	ST BOTOLPHS WAY	TO BE DECIDED	CASTLE LANE JUNCTION	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
239449	ROAD	YORK ROAD	TO BE DECIDED	GREENFIELDS WAY	END OF CUL-DE-SAC	24/25	IN DESIGN
272406	ROAD	DUDDERY HILL	TO BE DECIDED	FROM HELIONS WALK	TO HELIONS PARK AVENUE	24/25	IN DESIGN

I was disappointed that Downs Crescent is not on the list, despite asking. I will continue to lobby for this area to receive treatments to improve the road surface.

Town Centre Signage

Last week I requested Highways hold a meeting with me regarding the programme for resolving missing signage that was taken down and then lost following COVID as well as resolving long lasting issues. I asked for Cllr John Burns & Parish Clerk Colin Poole to attend. I thought it was a highly productive meeting, and I would like to thank Cllr Burns and Colin Poole for their contributions. Work will be completed in two phases, with hopefully the main missing signage being completed first.

I hope to give the council a more detailed and specific report of what works will be done at a later.

New Suffolk campaign urges drivers to switch their engines off

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/new-suffolk-campaign-urges-drivers-to-switch-theirengines-off>

A new campaign urging Suffolk's drivers to switch off their engines when parked has launched today (1 March 2024). The campaign against Idling particularly focuses on turning off engines outside schools to protect children's growing lungs from unnecessary pollution.

Council to review weed control for roads and pavements

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/council-to-review-weed-control-for-roads-and-pavements>

Suffolk County Council's Cabinet will reconsider how Suffolk Highways uses chemicals to control weed growth.

In February 2022, the council agreed to stop using glyphosate in its routine weed treatment programmes, to find more natural alternatives to help protect the local environment.

However, the alternative products proved unable to meet requirements, which was further exacerbated by exceptional growing conditions. Multiple applications were sometimes needed which could introduce other negative environmental impacts.

It has proved a challenge to reduce high performing treatments, whilst significantly mitigating the environmental impact. Other local authorities locally have experienced a similar situation.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Ipswich, operational highways and flooding, said: "It is important that we trial different methods to maintain weeds on our highway network, and strike a balance between spending taxpayers' money carefully, protecting the environment and considering public safety on our roads and pavements. Part of that balance is making sure that whatever treatment we apply, it is effective – and that includes looking to reintroduce glyphosate to some of our operations for the best possible performance. We've monitored the work that we've done since moving away from glyphosate on our roads and pavements and listened to feedback from residents. Some were pleased that we were using

less chemicals, but others thought that weeds had thrived too much. We agree that the different treatments haven't worked as well as we'd hoped."

Regular weed treatment on our highway network will continue using a variety of methods, with plans for glyphosate being considered only when appropriate – the ambition still remains to reduce the use of glyphosate as far as possible. Teams will continue to monitor and research the different approaches being used to remove weeds on our roads and pavements. Where needed, glyphosate would be used responsibly as it is one of the most cost-effective and long-lasting solutions.

4. Persimmon Estate and Relief Road & S106 – Improvement to Ann

Suckling Road and Wratting Road

Meetings continue regarding delivery of the S106 for a Toucan Crossing on Wratting Road as well as speed mitigation on Ann Suckling.

5. Banking Hub – Cash Access UK

I met with CASH ACCESS UK, who again reaffirmed their commitment to providing a Banking Hub in Haverhill. They are still not in a position to announce the location, but will do on "completion"

Regarding Councillor Crooks' request relating to a CASH point. The Banking Hub will not have a CASH point as CASH Points are provided by CASH ACCESS UK but by LINK. If there was no other Cash Point in the High Street it is something they would organise, but as there was already a cashpoint at the Post Office it was unlikely LINK would provide an addition unit on the High Street. I was not particularly satisfied with this. It was suggested that separate planning permission would be required and could slow the opening of the Hub. Again, I was not convinced of this answer, and I am keen that Link reevaluate the need on the High Street as one Cash Point is likely to result in significant cues at peak times or at events held in the Town Centre. Writing a formal request for an additional Cash Point might be something the Town Council might also want to consider.

6 .West Suffolk Council News

There is little News to report from West Suffolk
For Haverhill North Ward for issues other than listed above

- Locally, I worked with West Suffolk to get fencing repaired at the Anglian Pond near the Railway Track
- I attended Cabinet and called for a review into car parking charges and a request to consider changing to Free for the first hour to increase footfall for the high street.
- I have also placed a Freedom of Information request relating to whether rates are being collected on vacant properties on the high street and whether the practise of "box shifting" – a loophole that permits landlords to not pay business rates on empty units. Avoiding paying business rates disincentivises landlords for seeking new tenants. (Box Shifting <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Box-shifting-loophole-costing-councils-250m-a-year-/58012>)
- I received an update from Persimmon that the allotments will be delivered this year. I have asked West Suffolk to begin the process of supporting the formation of a new allotment association.

7. The Great British Spring Clean

I believe it is worth reporting to the council, as it has an Energy & Sustainability Committee, my community work relating to organising the Great British Spring Clean with the community group Keep Haverhill Tidy. I have tried to widen participation and this year we have Castle Manor Academy, Haverhill Sea Scouts, Saffron Walden Building Society and Haverhill Running Club all taking part in Litter Picking activities as well as the organised Keep Haverhill Tidy Group Litter picks across the Haverhill.

Many thanks to **Cllr Tony Brown** for his involvement for leading a highly successful group pick at the Rugby Club and to resident **Jackie Pedzinski** for leading a group pick starting at Strasbour Square

See below a pic from the Rugby Club pic, and also the upcoming program of group litter picking. Of course, all councillors are invited, should they wish to get involved.



Join the Great British Spring Clean
Be part of the pick in...
Haverhill 15 March to 31 March
#CB9CivicPride #GBSpringClean
keepbritaintidy.org
Haverhill Tidy up is a Registered Charity No. 507702

GROUP LITTER PICKING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date & Time	Area	Meeting Point
Sun 17th March, 10am	Castle Fields & Parkway Estate	School Lane Car Park
Sun 17th March, 10am	Lower Chalkstone Estate	Strasbourg Sq Car Park
Sun 24th March, 10am	Persimmon Estate	Farrant Road Car Park
Sat 30th March, 10am	Upper Chalkstone Estate	New Croft Car Park
Sat 30th March, 10am	Puddlebrook & Clements Estate	Clements Surgery Car Park

KEEP HAVERHILL TIDY.

APPENDIX 2 – District Councillor's report Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues at a slow pace. The local police have been in contact with Westfield School following complaints about illegal and inconsiderate parking by parents during drop-off and pick-up times including issuing fixed penalty notices in way of Donovan Way. Local residents are quite correctly complaining.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for January 2024 were distributed on 4th March. The link to the March edition of Constable's County was distributed on 15th March 2024.

Due to lack of co-operation from WSC, officers have been, when operationally able, monitoring parking along Chalkstone Way including moving on vehicles illegally parked outside Westfield School damaging the verges. I have also reported specific vehicles totally blocking the pavement forcing pedestrians into the road which they have followed up on.

The police have been following up on previously reported illegal drinking in Queen Street as ASB has been reported now by the public.

- **SCC Highways:** Cllr Mason, Town Clerk, a representative of Highways, and myself had (what I thought was) a very productive conference call last week chasing up the lack of action by other persons at SCC in not replacing road signs post-Covid as well as other matters awaiting action. We hope in about 4-8 weeks to have seen some positive action with further feedback as to planned progress on the other TRO-related requests.
- **Parking:** WSC have had to pay out for signs to be installed along the verges outside New Croft which hopefully will reduce/stop the damage to those verges as well as the illegal parking caused by customers of the HCSA. Incidents of near accidents have been noted including one where a driver was stuck in the mud and in their efforts to extract themselves missed me by about a foot at quite a fast rate of knots.

The apparent lack of CPE officers around the town has been reported to me regularly by members of the public. Next month I will be asking for statistics, via a FOI request, as an update to a similar request made in 2022 and, once received, will report back to council.

- **Markets:** Still no real updates or progress on the markets review.
- **Sturmer Arches:** I have received the inspection report from Highways England and much is the same as the previous one in terms of noted problems. WSC seem to be doing nothing to rectify the situation and I am somewhat at a loss at what to do next as National Archives records seem to not be what I expected. I know Suffolk Record Office have records not catalogued sent to them by SEBC many years ago but they are thought to be in a warehouse somewhere on the east coast.
- **Strasbourg Square:** Nothing new to report. There is a Havebury-led Chalkstone estate inspection this Thursday but despite requesting a date change a month ago they have ignored that request meaning many of those who would normally attend are unable due other commitments.
- **Other work:**
 - Continue to regularly approve HTC/HCT invoice payments.
 - Attended various HTC meetings online and in person.
 - Have made a lot of changes to the till system for HAC bar system over past few days as staff decide they want different methods of working than originally advised a year ago. These also include implementing a suggestion I made to process interval drinks through the till directly rather than writing them down and better processing of the "HAC Friends" discount process. It is hoped a final version will be signed off soon so that the installation of the hardware can be made on the front counter of the bar and the system started to be used. This will itself lead to better accounting management as all the other HTC systems use the same systems. A centralised tool to report incomes, sales and usage levels already exists which will be expanded to include this. Other changes made to the Zone's system to help reduce the till roll usage by implementing a process where purchased items that are given out straight away (e.g. a tube of sweets) are no longer printed then thrown away immediately.
 - Awaiting assistance from Tech Team to make internal wiring changes to the digisign as manufacturers believe failure of the non-traffic system is down to a recent Windows update. But to verify that some bypassing of systems is needed first.

APPENDIX 3 – Mayor's report

Mayor's Report to Haverhill Town Council

Monday 18th March, 2024

This report covers the period from the Town Council meeting in January and will pick out some of the highlights.

I was invited to attend a couple of Burn's Night events, and chose to go to the Leader of Babergh's dinner at The Crown in Long Melford. I must admit that I'd never tasted haggis before, but I can definitely recommend it. Just don't ask for the recipe!

Continuing on a theme, I was honoured to be invited to the second Haverhill Veterans' Breakfast Club at Nine Jars. This was the first time this venue has been used as the event has already become so popular as to outgrow its previous home. This club has been set up to bring people together to combat loneliness and mental health issues. It is not just for veterans and was attended by around 40 people aged from 11 to 100. They have just become members of the national Veterans' Breakfast network, and I would ask that you raise awareness of this activity with anyone who might benefit.

I received a delegation from Felixstowe Town Council, including Mayor Seamus Bennett, for a visit to the Puddlebrook Pump Track. They are interested in creating a similar facility in their town, and I was able to gather together some of the group that brought the project to fruition to offer advice. A visit and tour of the Arts Centre followed, which they were very impressed with. Thank you, Vicky, for showing them around.

With many of our residents working at HMP Highpoint, I accepted an invitation from the developers to hear a presentation to residents of the Highpoint estate on the next stages of the expansion of the prison. A temporary access for construction traffic is being provided opposite the entrance to Highpoint North so that heavy plant doesn't have to use estate roads.

At the request of Haverhill and District Town Twinning Association, I was delighted to welcome, in my rudimentary French, a group of students from one of our twin towns Pont St Esprit at the Arts Centre, where they were treated to a showing of movie Wonka.

I had the honour of presenting 90 year old Gordon Adams with honorary life time membership of the Friends of St Mary's at their recent Craft Fair. Gordon has raised individually over £2,500 for the cause.

Unfortunately, I had to miss the Babergh Civic Service at Holy Trinity, Long Melford due to ill health. Having passed this church on countless occasions I was eager to have a peep inside. Last Friday I was at St Felix church's charity quiz. Proceeds were to be given over to Reach. At the time of writing this report I am expecting to attend the Suffolk Justice Service at St Edmundsbury Cathedral at the request of the High Sheriff of Suffolk.

Appointments in the coming weeks include Haverhill Singers production of St John's Passion and the presentation of Suffolk Police Cadets at Finborough School. Also coming up on Sunday 14th April is our Civic Service at St Felix Church. More details will follow.

Best wishes.

David