

# Haverhill Town Council

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

### FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 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 Q Cox  
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

County Councillors: County Councillor D Roach

**Apologies:** County Councillor H Sowa

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator  
Sarah Hedges, West Suffolk Community and Integrated Services  
Saffron Carter, REACH Haverhill

1 member of the public was present.

### Welcome:

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

### MINUTES

**C25**    **Apologies for Absence**  
**/001**    The above apology was noted.

**ACTION**

**C25 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**

**/002** None.

**C25 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

**/003**

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the minutes of the meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> November be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**C25 Actions arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda**

**/004**

**C24/170 Haverhill Future Healthcare Provision:** It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the Town Clerk draft a letter on behalf of Haverhill Town Council to West Suffolk District Council regarding pursuit of the land option in regard to s106 obligations for Haverhill.

**RESOLVED**

**C24/172c** – action completed. Devolution briefing white paper circulated by Councillor J Mason.

**C24/172e** – Councillor J Mason reported that Highways responded that there is no data to support changes to Crowland Road. This is covered in detail in his report (Appendix 1).

**C25 Bollards for Quakers Lane**

**/005**

Councillors discussed the practicalities of providing bollards for the protection of the newly resurfaced bridlepath leading from Helions Park Avenue to the top of Quakers Lane adjacent to the ex-servicemen's club. It was generally felt that risks outweighed benefits. It was proposed by Councillor Q Cox, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the implementation of Bollards for Quakers Lane will not be pursued.

**RESOLVED**

**C25 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

**/006**

**a) Police Report** – Councillor J Burns circulated a document illustrating crime statistics before the meeting. A meeting of the Police and Crime Commission is being held on Friday to discuss the precept.

**b) Ambulance Report** – a provisional meeting has been arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> March, pending confirmation of a representative from Nick Timothy, MP's office being able to attend.

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

**Councillor J Mason:** see report attached (Appendix 1)

Councillor J Mason advised that further to his report, resurfacing work in Clarendon Road is scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> February.

It has been reported that £11m has been allocated for road surfacing, however in real terms this equates to an extra £3m to our allocation and is not just for road surfacing but for everything in Highways' portfolio.

**Town Clerk**

Discussion arose around street parking in Councillor J Mason's report and the performance of CPE in Haverhill compared to other towns. It was agreed that the Town Clerk will write to the portfolio holder on behalf of Haverhill Town Council, highlighting Councillors' concerns.

**Councillor D Roach** reported that a decision is expected by the government on Friday as to whether Suffolk will be in the devolution and local government reorganisation.

- d) **District Councillors** – nothing further to report.
- e) **Town Councillors' matters to report** – see Appendix 2

**Councillor J Burns:** see report attached (Appendix 2).

**Councillor R André** informed the meeting that George Eady's funeral will be held at 3pm on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February at West Suffolk Crematorium. The family has requested that people wear colourful clothes and in place of flowers, donations to Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

- f) **Members of the public** – no members of the public wished to speak.

Town Clerk

**C25** **Mayor's Report**

**/007** Councillors joined the Mayor in expressing their deep sadness for the passing of our staff member, George Eady. See Appendix 3 for full report.

**C25** **Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England**

**/008**

It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the response to the consultation strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England, prepared by the Town Clerk on behalf of Haverhill Town Council, be submitted.

**RESOLVED**

Town Clerk

**C25** **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

**/009**

- a) Board meeting 16<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The board meeting heard presentations about the Wellbeing Hub and the Cradle to Career project. Cradle to Career aims to begin supporting children from under-resourced families at a very early age to try and ensure all youngsters have a good start in life, with support continuing into adulthood. In answer to a question, the Clerk advised that partner attendance at the ONE Haverhill Partnership Board is generally good and it is anticipated there will be further interest once the new business plan is completed.

- b) Wellbeing Hub

Sarah Hedges and Saffron Carter presented a business case for a Wellbeing Hub in Haverhill. Research shows lower numbers of people in Haverhill whose health and wellbeing needs are being met, compared to other areas in West Suffolk. This initiative aspires to provide a 'one stop shop' for wellbeing and support for residents of Haverhill, free at the point of access. It is envisaged there will be a hub manager, 3-4 hub host groups, topic days, rent-a-space, a resource hub, and community café.

The locality partnership and the mental health action group have voted in to use £20,000 of the community arm of the health equity fund to support the development of the health and wellbeing hub. The locality partnership has access to up to £10,000 to support joint developments towards the collective priorities of transport, communication, and mental health for which this business case fits. Haverhill Town Council was asked if they would take on the role of head leaseholder and lead responsibility for running the building. Councillors discussed this proposal. It was noted this is still in the early stages of planning, offers from other partners are still being negotiated and therefore much more detail is still to be added to the business plan. Firm expressions of commitment from decision-makers is now needed.

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor D Page that the Town Council offers support in-principle for the Wellbeing Hub and agrees to its involvement as described, subject to the business plan being acceptable when presented. **RESOLVED**

**C25** **Financial Matters**

**/010**

a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the listed payments totalling £131,353.70 be authorised. **RESOLVED**

b) Grant applications over £2,000

i. Catch 22 (Positive Futures)

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor R André, that Catch 22 (Positive Futures) be awarded £4,426 towards free football sessions at Abbeycroft Leisure. **RESOLVED**

**Deputy Clerk**

ii. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor R André, that Explore Outdoors be awarded a grant balance of £1,919.29 for May half-term activities. **RESOLVED**

**Deputy Clerk**

iii. It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that £5,000 of the £10,379 unspent grant fund be earmarked towards the Wellbeing Hub. **RESOLVED**

**Town Clerk**

**C25** **Budget and Precept 2025/26**

**/011**

a) The Clerk presented the 2025/26 budget and the recommendations from the Finance Working Party for the following budget:

Net Expenditure:	£2,423,937
Net Income:	£827,923
From Reserves:	£38,000
<b>Balance:</b>	<b>£1,558,014</b>

It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that the proposed budget for 2025/26 be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

- b) **Suspension of Standing Order 3x:** It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor J Burns, that SO3x be suspended, to allow the meeting to conclude the business to hand.

**RESOLVED**

- c) It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that a precept for 2025/26 of £1,561,364 be adopted. This represents an increase of 6%, or 21p/week on a Band D property, meaning the Town Council contribution by Band D council taxpayers would be £193.27 per year. Band B council tax, representing 48.23% of dwellings in Haverhill, would rise to £150.32, an increase of 16p/week.

**RESOLVED**

- d) It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe, to authorise the Chairman and Clerk to serve the precept demand upon the District Council.

**RESOLVED**

Town Clerk

**C25 Adoption of Committee Reports**

**/012 a) Energy & Sustainability Working Party:**

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes of the Energy & Sustainability working party meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**b) Planning Committee:**

It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor R André, that the minutes of the meetings held 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**c) Leisure and Community Committee:**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**d) Finance Working Party:**

It was proposed by Councillor R André, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that the minutes of the Finance Working Party held 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

**RESOLVED**

**C25 Actions taken under delegated powers**

**/013** None.

**C25 Date of next meeting**

**/014** The next meeting will be held on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**C25**    **Closure**

**/015**    The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.03pm.



Signed .....                      Date.....  
**Chairman**

**Appendix 1 – County Councillors’ reports**

**Appendix 2 – Town Councillors’ reports**

**Appendix 3 – Mayor’s report**

## **APPENDIX 1 – County and District Councillor’s report Councillor Joe Mason**

### **County and District Councillor Report, January 2025**

#### **CLr Joe Mason**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of January an extraordinary meeting of Suffolk County Council Full Council was held to debate Local Government reorganisation and whether to respond to the opportunity the Government presented to the Council as to whether Suffolk should be considered for inclusion in the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) and in doing so also request that elections be cancelled for the May 2025 elections to facilitate the work necessary to carry out the actions required for local government reorganisation to take place.

A debate was held, followed by a vote which was in favour of requesting that Suffolk join the DPP with the results being: For 43 and Against 15. Later that day Cabinet met, ratified the vote and resolved to inform the Government of the decision.

As of writing this report, we still await a response from Jim McMahon, the Secretary of State for Local Government and English Devolution in the United Kingdom, to confirm whether Suffolk has been included in the DPP and whether the May Elections have been cancelled.

I refer Town Council members to consider the text from Council Leader Matthew Hicks:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/politics-should-be-put-aside-to-make-the-most-of-devolution>

There are plenty of press pieces available if members wish to seek some of the other viewpoints shared that day e.g. <https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/24846240.suffolk-county-council-makes-devolution-fast-track-bid/> <https://www.suffolknews.co.uk/ipswich/news/anti-democratic-or-ambitious-fiery-debate-as-suffolk-vo-9399401/>

There will be much opportunity for discussion and debate before a business case is submitted to the Government this Autumn, from Suffolk County Council or indeed District Council’s should they decide to. There is still much to find out, from Government, about the process and what engagement will look like and as such whilst we will all have many questions and concerns, we must recognise that we are in the very early stages of this process. Indeed, as of today (26.01.25) officially we still do not even know whether Suffolk has been accepted on the DPP and whether the May elections have been cancelled. If this request is accepted, I look forward to hearing from Town Council members and indeed other members of the community regarding their thoughts and concerns in the weeks and months ahead.

I continue to sit on Scrutiny & Education and Children Services Scrutiny Committees at Suffolk County Council, as well as Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee at West Suffolk Council. Please do email me if you have an enquiry relating to any of these.

#### **In this report.**

1. Other Suffolk County Council News
2. Highways Update
3. Street Parking
4. Persimmon Estate, Relief Road & S106 & Related
5. Anaerobic Biodigester
6. Market & High Street
7. West Suffolk News

#### **Other Suffolk County Council News**

[Council making net zero gains, but still work to do](#)

Suffolk County Council continues to bring down its carbon emissions, with significant reductions from council-owned street lighting, vehicles and buildings, but there is still work to do to reach its ambitious target of net zero by 2030

[Detailed report provides blueprint for changes to Suffolk's SEND services](#)

A report has been published that provides the most detailed assessment of need for SEND services in Suffolk and will be used as a blueprint for immediate change. The forensic 177-page document delves into current arrangements, future anticipated need and looks at gaps and challenges in SEND provision. This assessment highlights the increasing demand for SEND services, the challenges faced by families and professionals, and the importance of improving service provision to ensure equitable outcomes for all.

## Highways

### **Parking and traffic in Crowland Road** (Item 4 C24/172e of the Town Council Agenda)

I continue to receive correspondence from residents concerned about Crowlands Road. I have spoken with Highways frequently and repeatedly over the last 4 years regarding exploring how things could be improved. Please note below the responses to queries I received two weeks ago.

*Complaints fall into the following categories:*

***Fear of incident.*** *We cannot take action just for "fear of an incident" – in the same way we cannot take action because a location "is an accident waiting to happen" etc. I've checked the accident data for Crowlands Road and the only recorded incidents have been on Withersfield Road or on the roundabout at the Camps Road/Burton End junctions.*

***Speed of traffic:*** *There is no recent survey data for Crowlands Road. The previous data was pre-Covid and showed that there was no particular issue with speeding with average vehicle speeds of 28mph. A source of funding would need to be identified to carry out any further surveys in this location. In addition to this, I can recommend that Haverhill Town Council request additional visits from Suffolk Police to carry out speed checks/enforcement etc.*

***Blockages with oncoming traffic at the pinch point at the lower part close to Withersfield Rd:*** *It has been previously noted that this 'pinch point' offers something of a natural traffic calming effect and serves to slow the overall speed of traffic on Crowlands Road.*

***Lorries and Large Vans blocking the road:*** *As above, to a certain extent, this will serve lessen the impact of speeding traffic.*

***Cars turning right into Crowland Road from Witherfield road:*** *There is a sign but it's not observed. Non-compliance with this "No Right Turn" sign should be reported to Suffolk Police as they are responsible for Enforcement for moving traffic.*

***One Way System:*** *We would not accept a one-way system on Crowlands Road as this would result in a displacement of traffic to Eastern Avenue and we cannot look to resolve an issue in one location at the expense of another. In addition to this, one-way traffic in the direction of Withersfield Road would exacerbate the issues at the junction between Withersfield Road and Crowlands Road.*

*A lower cost suggestion in the first instance would be to carry out a combined speed and traffic survey to ascertain the volume and speed of vehicles and also the number of HGVs, lorries and other vehicles. While these surveys do not guarantee any changes would be supported, it will show the extent of the issue.*

*We've had discussions previously about the Sturmer Arches roundabout, creating a 7.5 ton access restriction onto Bumpstead Rd. This [Crowlands Road] would be included in the review of vehicle movements around town – as to create a 7.5t restriction of the town centre (access*



*excepted) would need to take in all through roads in town. I cannot say how likely this is to be accepted as this is very much a long-term issue.*

This is most frustrating, as I would dearly like to find a positive outcome, but there just doesn't seem to be any 'wriggle room' for changing Crowland Rd in a way to resolve issues raised by residents.

### **Winter & Potholes**

As reported in my December report Winter is obviously here, which can see road surfaces deteriorate. I again kindly ask all ward members and members of the public to report road defects using the [Suffolk Highways Reporting Tool](#) for all defects to be assessed. Clearly Highways Maintenance Operational Plan will prioritise due to severity, but any help, particularly with the more serious road defects will help immensely.

### **Resurfacing work £10m Road Improvement project**

Both Harrow Rd and Clarendon Rd are scheduled for Resurfacing – subject to weather, work continues.

### **[Suffolk set for £11 million boost to tackle potholes and improve roads?](#)**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> December the Government announced a further £11m for Suffolk relating to the issue of potholes. I have already lobbied portfolio holder Cllr Paul West for additional projects in Town including e.g. Downs Crescent. However, despite the announcement, there has been little information provided by the Government about this additional investment, whether it includes the existing £10m promised by the previous Government and if it is additional, how the Government would like it spent/prioritised. E.g. the existing £10m was targeted for Estate roads and paths and until more information is provided about this latest announcement, it is not a given the same criteria will be applied when County Councillors lobby for improvements to roads and paths in their Districts.

### **Haverhill Town Centre Signs & Ehringhausen Way**

I refer members to my December report. We are awaiting the TRO to be updated and all I have is a Spring 2025 timescale which could take up to the end of May.

### **Greenfields Way Bus Stop & dropped kerbs**

The bus shelter has now been installed and as reported in my December report, the dropped kerbs funded by Cllr Roach are now with Milestone to schedule. Members will be aware that this is a project I have been working on getting completed for the 4 years I have been a County Councillor. The project was beset with significant legal difficulties regarding land ownership and agreements between parties that nearly prevented it from happening at all I have been contacted by residents with mobility needs and this project, is without doubt a significant and important upgrade. Once the dropped kerbs are installed accessibility to the pharmacy and Doctors surgery will be dramatically improved.



### **Street Parking**

I have received increased correspondence from residents across the District regarding pavement parking and pavements blocked or inaccessible for residents using wheel chairs or for parents pushing buggies. West Suffolk Council Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) appears to be only focussed on the Car Parks, whilst anti-social and illegal parking is commonplace across our estates, even where there are double yellow lines. E.g. On the Parkway Estate. I intend to

lobby, behind the scenes, for more action from the CPE team and a commitment to monitor all problematic areas and not just specific places in the town centre.

Please note Item 62 of On-Street Intervention Codes, on page 47 of West Suffolk Council Civil Parking Enforcement Procedures April 2020 states

“Parked with one or more wheels on or over a footpath or any part of a road other than a carriageway.” <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/parking/cpe/upload/civil-parking-enforcement-procedures-October-2022.pdf> Whilst I acknowledge that a high level of enforcement is expensive and can lead to compliance with people not contravening the parking restrictions resulting in little revenue raised. A balance needs to be struck between the cost of enforcement and the amount of revenue received from Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs). Currently I do not believe there is a balance, with a ‘looking the other way’ approach leaving communities unsupported. I would favour some monitoring of issues around town over what appears to be no monitoring.

### **Persimmon Estate and Relief Road, S106 & Related**

I am meeting West Suffolk Planners and Suffolk County Council Highways team this Thursday. There are multiple issues relating to the site I continue to work on and on which I am seeking progress. Otherwise please refer to my December report. I have been assured again, this last week, that the Relief Road is still on target for a Spring 2025 opening.

Cllr Brown recently asked me about a Pedestrian Island near the Withersfield Roundabout (Bradnam’s Roundabout) for pedestrians crossing the road from where the Railway Walk path terminates.

(location <https://w3w.co/once.dusters.polo> )

Apparently this was promised by Highways back in 2015 in response to then Councillors’ concerns regarding increased traffic flows once the Relief Road opens. This is the first I have heard of this sensible and, I believe, necessary pedestrian safety measure. I am awaiting an update from officers this week and will provide an update when I know more. Many thanks to Cllr Brown for raising this with me.

### **Anaerobic Biodigester**

Documentation has now been submitted by Acorn which responds to questions raised from their initial application. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> local farmer Neville Haylock gave me a tour of the area and his farm raising particular concerns relating to flooding and Eutrophication. On Friday 31<sup>st</sup> I am meeting planning officers to go through the documentation in detail. I also have other meetings planned with concerned residents. There is no date yet for the Development and Regulation committee to decide the outcome of the planning application. This new period of consultation probably means this will not be done before April of this year. I will update members when a date has been announced.

### **Market & High Street**

I remain concerned regarding the weekly Friday and Saturday markets, although individual events seem well attended. Clearly winter weather is going to affect markets and footfall, but as we approach Spring I am expecting far more evidence of intervention by West Suffolk Council to support and grow both the Friday and Saturday markets, and not just focus on the monthly Makers Market and one off events.

It is important/essential we can begin to see the benefits from the investment promised by West Suffolk Council to build and grow the markets and in doing so increase footfall even only on market days. Of course, West Suffolk Council do not have any control on the decisions made by retail businesses, but promises regarding the market have been made and we must now start seeing these fulfilled.

## West Suffolk Council News

### **Continuation of Council Tax reduction for those on low incomes agreed**

West Suffolk Council held a Full Council meeting on Tuesday 17th Dec and will not meet again until February 25th. Of significance in the December meeting was a vote on the Continuation of Council Tax reduction for those on low incomes. In the chamber this was agreed on a cross party basis with a near unanimous vote. Therefore, families in West Suffolk on low incomes, including those in work, suffering from economic hardship will benefit for another year from a 100 per cent discount in Council Tax.

The other debate centred on Weed Treatments. Cllrs voted, again with cross party support, in favour of a return to using Glyphosate, reinstating the controlled use of a weed treatment in limited areas to help reduce unwanted growth in hard landscaped areas and deterioration to structures.

### [Framework set to help deliver balanced budget](#)

Councillors are due to discuss the framework to set West Suffolk Council's budget to invest in the prosperity of local communities and businesses while meeting tough financial challenges.

West Suffolk Council's Performance and Scrutiny Committee (PASC) is due to meet on 30 January to look at plans on how the framework for the Council's £75.0 million budget will be prepared. This includes their crucial role in scrutinising the key assumptions in the budget such as areas of income and pressures.

### [Grants scheme opens to reduce food poverty and boost nutrition](#)

A grant scheme which will invest in activities to try to help people out of food poverty, improve health and nutrition and reduce food waste, has launched in West Suffolk.

### [How does your home affect how you feel?](#)

Private tenants and landlords in Suffolk are being asked to share their experiences as part of research into the affect housing has on health and wellbeing.

Suffolk's district and borough councils work to support landlords in improving living standards in the private rented sector for tenants. They have now partnered with the University of Suffolk for the Health and Housing Research Project.

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Please note this report does not include all the work I am undertaking at the moment or projects I am engaged with and trying to move forward for the betterment of the community. Where I have stated 'no further updates' or 'ongoing', please refer back to my previous month's reports.

Members are always welcome to contact me should they need any information or assistance relating to issues across the Cangle Division.

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## APPENDIX 2 – Town Councillor’s report Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** A revised TRO consultation has been taking place for the Chalkstone Way and internal roads with the expectation it will be implemented, and more importantly enforced by CPE, in the very near future. The roundabout on Chalkstone Way recently had some minor changes made to bring it up to the latest Suffolk CC standards and should be adopted soon. As a matter of interest, the new local centre (of two) is still going through planning with Highways commenting on parking for the “proposed health centre”. Not sure they have read the application! The new area will be called Pelly Square for obvious reasons.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for November 2024 were distributed on 15<sup>th</sup> January. The end of the year stats should be published next week. Nothing further to report other than what has been reported in the press and social media.
- **SCC Highways:** I managed to find an old photo showing the road closed sign for the High Street on a Saturday and passed to Highways and Cllr Mason. Like him I am eagerly awaiting to see what Highways come up with in terms of proposed new signage. Still waiting for repairs to several unlit bollards I have reported.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further updates other than they have started the process to build the new Park & Ride next to the M11 at Trumpington as well as the controversial P&R at Fourwentways.
- **Parking:** Attached to this report are the CPE PCN stats for 2020-2024 clearly showing where emphasis is placed enforcement. I am working on the same stats for BSE but the Newmarket stats, also collated, show that there were 2.4 times as many enforcement notices given there compared to our town despite the 40% difference in population.
- **Markets:** We await a WSC review meeting.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still nothing to report. I am not convinced my research will ever find anything out now all the archives have gone to a warehouse somewhere in the east of the County. Until they are catalogued, we may never know where they are.
- **Strasbourg Square:** The lights on the shops and alleyways were finally fixed.
- **Other work:**
  - Filmed the HAC pantomime several times with multiple cameras and currently editing final versions.
  - Organising splashpad pump repair, cleaning and decommissioning for later in the year.
  - Carried out several IT related tasks at HAC including most recently a new calendar feed of HTC meetings from Outlook to the HTC website reducing the need for staff to update multiple calendars. This is the same calendar that Councillors have access to via Outlook.
  - Provided usual weekly financial stats for Zone, Coffee Bar and HTC Bar to HTC management plus attending various meetings.
  - Attended town centre masterplan and One Haverhill board meeting.
  - Working with others on planning for VE80 & VJ80 commemoration events due to take place in May and August respectively.
  - Scheduled to help with barriers and cones at the ATC parade event this coming Sunday (2<sup>nd</sup> Feb).

## **APPENDIX 3 – Mayor’s report**

### **Mayor’s Report to Haverhill Town Council**

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Firstly, I would like to offer, once again, my sincerest condolences to the family of our friend and colleague, George Eady, who died so tragically young at Christmas. May he rest in peace.

Following a flurry of activity in the weeks leading up to Christmas, mayoral engagements eased off over the holiday period. But there was still one event I was delighted to attend, and that was the annual Carols for All concert at the Old Independent church featuring, among others, Haverhill Silver Band and Haverhill Singers. It was the first time that Liz and I had visited the church and what a magnificent setting it was for the concert that followed. The programme itself was top class, with plenty of opportunity for us “amateurs” to participate.

Early in January I went with some of the members of our Energy and Sustainability Committee to see the Waste Incinerator facility at Great Blakenham. It was an interesting experience, with representatives from both SUEZ (the operators of the site) and FCC (who run the recycling centres) on hand to answer our questions. And we had many!

There was another lull before a trio of events this last weekend, commencing with the Chair of Babergh’s Burns Supper in Long Melford. Her charity, like mine is the local Men’s Shed.

On Sunday I was invited to attend the Needham Market Civic Service. The weather wasn’t kind, and those who took part in the procession from the council offices to the church got caught in a sudden downpour. Fortunately for us we went straight to the church. A rare occasion when I was grateful for my mobility issues.

Yesterday I was honoured to represent our town at the Holocaust Memorial service in the Abbey Gardens. It was a very poignant and moving ceremony, and a reminder if ever we needed it that we cannot let our guards down in challenging discrimination and hatred in all its forms around the world.

Cllr David Smith