

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday, 25th March 2025 at 7:00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill



Present: Mayor Councillor D Smith
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor Q Cox
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini (from 7.09pm)
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Page
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor R André
County Councillor D Roach
County Councillor H Sowa

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

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**
/030 The above apologies were noted.

ACTION

**C25
/031 Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**

Councillor J Mason declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in C25/038biii, Castle Manor's grant application, as it is his employer. It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor L Smith that, under the Localism Act 2011 s33 (2e), a partial dispensation to stay, but not vote, be granted on the grounds that it is appropriate to do so.

RESOLVED

**C25
/032 Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 24th February 2025**

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Q Cox, that the minutes of the meeting held 24th February 2025 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

**C25
/033 Actions arising from the minutes not covered on the agenda**

C24/170 s106 obligations in Haverhill – we await the explanation, which is understood to be being compiled by both ICB and West Suffolk officers.

C25/006c CPE performance in Haverhill – the Town Clerk is awaiting a response from Councillor David Taylor, portfolio holder at West Suffolk Council.

C25/020c Toilet facilities at Haverhill Library – fundraising has not been sufficient to provide an accessible toilet, and the status of that project was under question, following SCC's decision to take libraires back in-house. Councillor Mason has lobbied Suffolk County Council to take on the project as this is their building. He awaits an official response.

C25/020f Widdington recycling – the Town Clerk wrote to Suffolk County Council regarding planning enforcement and was informed that the enforcement action has been stopped as the business had made a retrospective planning application to regularise the work they are carrying out on the site. The Town Clerk asked SCC that the enforcement action should still continue as the unlawful waste processing has not stopped and is impacting negatively on neighbours.

Councillor Mason met with the planning officer and he intends to speak at the Development and Regulation meeting when the plans are presented.

Councillor Brown has spoken to the Environmental Health officer. Environment Health are taking a keen interest and any issues should be referred to them.

**C25
/034 Reports from District/County Councillors on issues pertinent to HAVERHILL and the PUBLIC FORUM**

a) **Police Report** – nothing to report.

b) **Ambulance Report** – Following February's meeting, it is noted that data presented in the Suffolk News is different to data presented at February's meeting. While the ambulance service accepts that response times for Haverhill are unacceptable, there is no agreed way forward to a resolution. Surprisingly, there was a dramatic improvement in response times in February and it would be interesting to ascertain the rationale

behind this. It is disheartening that the ambulance service is unwilling to consider tethering a rapid response vehicle to Haverhill and instead put an over-emphasis on using the fire service to provide community-responder type attendance. Whilst this would be helpful, it is not a solution to C1 and C2 ambulance response times. The next meeting between the council and EEAST is at the end of June.

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

Councillor J Mason: see report attached (Appendix 1)

Councillor Mason there has been an increase of a number of antisocial behaviour acts across the town, notably motorbikes in Downs Crescent and Saxon Close. Councillor Mason has spoken with local police.

Further to Councillor Mason's report Item 6, West Suffolk Budget and Free Parking, there was a robust discussion about offering the first hour free for car parking in the town to help local businesses. The availability of the accessibility of detailed data was debated. New systems will be in place from 1st April which will allow easy extraction of specific data.

Councillor Hanlon reported that The Lounge has applied to place tables and chairs on Market Square which will hopefully increase footfall. The Town Clerk reported that he is working with the portfolio holder for Growth on proposals for outdoor street cafes.

d) **District Councillors**

Councillor Brown reported that S106 issues will be an agenda item at the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting or the one after.

e) **Town Councillors' matters to report** – see Appendix 2

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

Councillor Burns reported incidences of youths clambering onto the roofs of buildings in the High Street. He will be speaking with landlords and occupiers. The hoarding at the Vixen Pub has been broken and youths accessed the roof. Councillor Burns has contacted the owners.

Councillor Q Cox attended a meeting about swifts and their decline in numbers and the efforts to reverse this trend. He explained the value of including 'swift bricks' in new builds, in which swifts can nest.

f) **Members of the public** – the member of public did not wish to speak.

C25 **Mayor's Report**

/035 The mayor reported that this is his penultimate report as Mayor of Haverhill.

C25 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

a) **Report from the Clerk and Wellbeing Hub update:** The Operations Group meeting did not take place in March. In April the key focus will be on the Wellbeing Hub as to how to get the plans for this important project back on track. Financial challenges have resulted in missing the June target

date, and it is likely that it will be more driven locally now. The Board meeting will give a focus to this in April.

C25 /037 Establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority across Norfolk and Suffolk

Thanks were given to the Town Clerk for this thorough piece of work.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor A Brown that Haverhill Town Council's response to the government consultation on creating a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Combined Authority be submitted with the following amendment: Item 1.4 to reflect travel time to Ipswich by public transport.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

C25 /038 Financial Matters

a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the listed payments totalling £91,231.17 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) Grant applications over £2,000

i. Corrected grant expenditure list: The Town Clerk explained that earmarked funds for the Wellbeing Hub had been noted twice. This has now been corrected.

ii. Families Together Suffolk

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that Families Together Suffolk be awarded £4,951.50 for Haverhill Chill, Chat and Play.

RESOLVED

Deputy Clerk

iii. Castle Manor Academy

It was proposed by Councillor Luccarini, seconded by Councillor L Smith that Castle Manor Academy be awarded £1,460.44 which represents the sum requested excluding the budget for fireworks. Councillor Crooks proposed an amendment to grant the full amount of £1,960.44, Councillor Luccarini accepted the amendment, seconded by Councillor Cox.

LOST

It was proposed by Councillor Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to award a sum to Castle Manor Academy equal to that given to Samuel Ward Academy for their Year 11 Prom, up to the sum of £1,960.44.

LOST

It was proposed by Councillor Luccarini, seconded by Councillor Burns that Castle Manor Academy be awarded £1,460.44 which represents the sum requested excluding the budget for fireworks.

RESOLVED

Deputy Clerk

C25 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/039

a) Personnel Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor D Page, seconded by Councillor A Luccarini that the redacted minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held 10th February 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

b) Planning Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 17th February 2025 and 10th March 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

c) Leisure and Community Committee:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor L Smith that the minutes of the Leisure and Community Committee meeting held 4th March 2025 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.

RESOLVED

d) Arts Centre Development Group:

It was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the updated terms of reference be adopted with the following amendments:

Item 1: Membership to be increased from 4 to 5 Councillors.

Item 5b: Authorised expenditure within relevant expenditure codes to be no more than £5,000.

Item 5d: Full Council to be regularly briefed and to be presented with Committee reports for adoption.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor J Crooks that Councillor J Burns, Councillor A Luccarini and Councillor L Miller-Jones be appointed to the Arts Centre Development Committee.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

C25

Policy Review

/040

a) Equality and Diversity

The Equality and Diversity Policy was discussed and it was noted that a document needs to be drawn up and publicly displayed illustrating compliance to this policy. This should be updated on an annual basis.

HR Manager

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the reviewed Equality and Diversity policy be adopted with an amendment to Item 5.3 to read: 'Appoint an Equality Champion'.

Town Clerk

RESOLVED

b) Sustainability

The wording for Item 6.4 was discussed and it was agreed that the policy will be forwarded to the Energy and Sustainability Working Party for scrutiny.

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor J Burns that the reviewed Sustainability policy be adopted and scrutinised by the Energy and Sustainability Committee with the possibility of further amendments.

RESOLVED

Town Clerk

C25 **Actions taken under delegated powers**
/041 None.

C25 **Date of next meeting**
/042 The next meeting will be held on Monday, 28th April 2025.

C25 **Closure**
/043 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

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, March 2025

Cllr Joe Mason

March, like February continues to be dominated by Local Government Reorganisation at both Suffolk County Council & West Suffolk Council. Both District and the County Council have approved and sent to the Government their interim plans for Local Government Reorganisation. This month I have attended Cabinet at SCC, Sat on Scrutiny, Education & Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee and Development and Regulation Committee as well as numerous meetings with residents, local organisations and officers to seek improvements to issues around the Town. Only some of which I feel I can report on this month. I won’t report and provide detailed commentary on these separately but instead provide the following.

In short:

- **West Suffolk Council are proposing a 2 or 3 Unitary Model for Suffolk**
<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/Council/devolution/upload/Interim-plan-for-Suffolk-Local-GovernmentReorganisation-March-2025.pdf>
- **Suffolk County Council are proposing a single “One Suffolk” Unitary Model**
<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/2025-03-21-suffolkcc-lgr-interim-plan-final.pdf>

What I would say, is that we are still early in the process. The lack of information/data available is still concerning, but both councils have at least now set their stalls out for their preferred model(s). In the months ahead I am sure there will be more workshops and consultations that take place before final submissions are made to the Government in September. It is worth remembering that whilst all parties will make their best case for a model to be adopted, it is ultimately in the hands of the Government to determine which one is selected. So, I encourage everyone to continue to try and have an open mind, read both interim statements, be analytical of everything and not hold back on asking questions of your representatives at these councils. We also await more details on what further public consultations will take place.

In this report.

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Highways Update
3. Active Travel, Cyclists Pedestrians and Rights of Way
4. Persimmon Estate, Relief Road & S106 & Related
5. Anaerobic Biodigester & Widdington Recycling Limited (MRF Application)
6. West Suffolk Council News & Updates
7. Community

Suffolk County Council News

Three motions were submitted for full council.

Motion 1: Conservative Motion

Supporting the “One Suffolk Model” interim plan for local government reorganisation **passed.**

Motion 2: Labour Motion

Asking for additional support for refugees **not passed**

Motion 3: Cross party Amended Motion

Calling for action on violence against Women and Girls (& Children) **passed**

- **Cabinet – Suffolk Libraries**

I attended SCC Cabinet where representations were made by the Public and County Councillors of all parties about the decision to take back control of the Library Service. Much has been reported on this and I would urge members to read

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/opinion-a-new-chapter-for-suffolkslibraries>

Also please read <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/suffolk-county-councilconfirms-decision-to-bring-library-services-back-in-house>

Cabinet unanimously voted to take back control of the library service. Currently a 'Call in' for Scrutiny is being considered by the monitoring Officer.

- **Taxi Drivers in Suffolk reveal their opinion on switching to electric vehicles**

Suffolk councils conducted a survey to find out how they could support drivers to make this transition. Taxi and private hire fleet drivers were asked to provide their views and opinions on electric vehicles, including the barriers that are stopping them from making the switch.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/taxi-drivers-in-suffolk-reveal-their-opinion-onswitching-to-electric-vehicles>

- **200 new specialist SEND places for Suffolk**

The creation of 200 new specialist places across the county for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is set to be considered by Suffolk County Council's cabinet.

An extra 100 places could open this year, and another 100 new places by September 2026, with future plans being drawn up. These places will be spread across Suffolk and tailored to meet need and demand.

The plan to be presented to cabinet next Tuesday <April 1> outlines how £18.6million could best be spent to support the growing population of SEND children and young people who need specialist education. Over the last five years, Suffolk pupils accessing special schools and units attached to mainstream schools has increased by over 40%. The proposal includes £3million to be spent on small groups and units in mainstream schools from September 2025 and £12million to be spent on developing satellite units linked to existing special schools across Suffolk from September 2026. The remaining £3.6million is earmarked for further SEND provision.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/200-new-specialist-send-places-for-suffolk>

Highways Update

- **Winter, Potholes, Repairs and Resurfacing**

After a somewhat ridiculous state of affairs, with a seemingly excessive amount of Utility Works being Carried out across the town, this have seemed to calm down somewhat. It was particularly good to see Norton Road's resurfacing finished. This was mostly done in October, but due to vehicles causing obstruction, these works have only just been completed.

I continue to lobby for roads across my District in need of Highways TLC, but of course severity, priority and available funding means not all works can be carried out as quick as we would all like.

I am particularly concerned about the state of sections along Withersfield Road particularly the sections between Bradnam's Roundabout and Park Rd and between Eastern Avenue and the Woolpack.

I continue to make further representations for residents about other roads/areas that need attention.

Winter has been relatively kind to the roads which has been welcome. Patching work continues where it meets intervention criteria but, 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.

- **Bollards**

The bollard numbered 762 at 9 Pakenham Place is scheduled for replacement as soon as possible. I have been told the team are out this week assessing works and cleaning to take place.

Latest information regarding Bollards from the SCC Street Lighting Team:

- UK regulations state, only the blue section with the white arrow on a bollard is required to be illuminated. The entire bollard does not need to be well lit.
- The new bollards are designed to be more reflective, ensuring better visibility and safety. Non-illuminated bollards are significantly more reflective, enhancing visibility for road users.
- Bollards located in well-lit areas do not require additional illumination. Some previously lit bollards in well-lit areas will be replaced with highly reflective bollards to optimise visibility without unnecessary lighting
- All bollards are cleaned twice a year to maintain their reflective properties and overall condition.

Thank you to all members who have reported bollards in need of repair or cleaning. When submitting reports, please keep the above information in mind. If any bollards or streetlights remain unresolved within a reasonable timeframe, notify your local county councillor. When emailing, provide specific details rather than a general statement about submitted reports, as we may not be able to reference them.

Haverhill Town Centre Signs & Ehringhausen Way

I have asked for an update about the consolidation TRO that should come into force in May. It has been explained to me that once the TRO is in place, it shouldn't take long to put signage up and lineage down.

Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way

This is a new item for me to more formally report on and will become a standing item in my reports for the foreseeable future. As a County Councillor I have been engaged in looking for improvements/works to paths, the underfunded S106 for the Persimmon Cycle Lane infrastructure along Ann Suckling Road, a new Pelican Crossing on Wratting Road and of course Quakers Lane. I now think the latest work I have been doing on the Haverhill Local

Transport plan and other smaller related projects, necessitates more reporting of progress made or works that are in the pipeline.

- **Haverhill Local Transport Plan**

I would like to thank Town Cllrs: **Tony Brown, Aaron Luccarini, John Burns, Bruce Davidson and Alan Stinchcombe** for their submissions. The Active Travel Team at SCC have received my comments, as have Local County Councillors David Roach & Heike Sowa. SCC Officers will be arranging a SCC member workshop at which we can contribute further, in the hope that a more precise and representative plan can be submitted. My understanding is that there is money available for works to improve Cyclist & Pedestrian Ways. Clearly there will not be enough for all our asks, but at least there will be a Working Document that will be more reflective of what is needed across the Town.

I am under no illusion that the next iteration won't still have some flaws, but I have been reassured of its status as a working document that can always be further amended.

- **Forgotten Persimmon Path linking Phase 6 – Youngs Way to Gurlings Close**

Persimmon had forgotten to install a path linking the Persimmon Development to the Boyton Hall and Chapple Drive estates. Credit to Persimmon who responded quickly and installed this making life much easier and less muddy for residents.

- **Missing dropped Kerb installed on Ann Suckling Way**

It has taken me nearly 2 years of chasing, but Freshwater have now installed the missing dropped kerb that should have been installed before the estate got signed off. This was an essential piece of work that I have not had to fund out of my Highways Locality Budget. It now means that Push Chairs, Wheelchairs and Mobility Scooters will no longer be seen going up Ann Suckling Road due to a lack of crossing.

- **New Pelican Crossing on Wratting Road**

I had hoped I would have more to report this month. Engineers have been on site and I am awaiting confirmation that works will start soon on this essential infrastructure that will improve safety for pedestrians (students) wanting to cross the road having come from the Boyton Hall Estate or Persimmon Estate on their way to Samuel Ward Academy.

- **Greenfields Way dropped Kerbs**

I have requested an update. This will get done in the weeks or months ahead, but I will continue to monitor this much need infrastructure to make accessing Unity Healthcare easier and Safer.

- **Public Footpath between Orford Road and Homefield Road**

This Public Footpath has been in quite a state, and I received a request from a resident about the need for both ends of the path needing works. Following discussions with the Rights of Way, they have since been out to the site and are now looking at potential works with contractors in the new financial year. Perhaps by my April report I will have positive news to share on this. Nothing can be done about the fields but works can be done to make the entrances/exits safer and less of a quagmire.

Persimmon Estate and Relief Road, S106 & Related (Not already listed above)

There are multiple issues projects I am engaged with on this site - too many to list here.

The NW Haverhill Relief Road

I am meeting West Suffolk Planners and Suffolk County Council Highways team again soon and I am still planning to visit the Relief Road. Work is clearly taking place, but it is hard to gauge visually as to whether it is likely to be finished by the end of May. I continue to be assured by Persimmon that the Relief Road is still on target for a Spring 2025 opening. We will see.

As previously reported, this is now no longer under control of Persimmon. Road Constructors KATO are now onsite and will be the ones determining whether that Spring deadline is met. The breach of condition notice is still in effect.

- **Phase 3A & Local Centre**

Phase 3A has been given approval and I am expecting work to begin on building the local centre in the months ahead. Persimmon are close to announcing the Supermarket chain that will be taking up the main retail unit. This should be announced before the next Town Council meeting.

- **Primary School & Community Space**

I am meeting SCC, West Suffolk Officers and Town Clerk, Colin Poole about the proposed Primary School. Its delivery is not imminent and is projected to be built in 2028 as there is a current surplus of Primary School places. It has been a while since those involved in earlier meetings have met and so a 'catch up' meeting is long overdue. I will report back to members anything substantive from this meeting.

I will continue to make representations in support of the need for school drop off areas, a concern previously shared by a number of Town Councillors.

Anaerobic Biodigester & Widdington Recycling Limited (MRF Application)

I met the planning officer about these two applications. We continue to wait for a date for the Spring Grove Farm site to go to the Development & Regulation Committee and although not formally confirmed June looks most likely. The Widdington MRF application has no date yet for determination, and I will keep members up to date with any news. My intent is to attend and speak at both when they finally go to committee.

West Suffolk Council News and Updates

I am engaged with officers on a number of projects of which there are three I feel are ready for me to provide a report on.

- **West Suffolk Budget & Free Parking**

At the February meeting West Suffolk Council's budget was approved with a majority but not unanimous vote. An amendment to support the High Street with Free Parking for the first hour and a reduction in Pavement Licences to support small coffee shops/tea rooms was defeated.

Many thanks to the few local members who supported this at a time when cost of living pressures are still being felt, and business are facing increased costs. I have been very vocal in the chamber at West Suffolk and in the press about the need for measures to support residents and the High Street. I have deep concerns relating to the impact Government Policy will have on local businesses when the changes to NI insurance Employers Contributions and reductions in business rate relief take effect.

Many thanks to Town Council Cllrs: Tony Brown, Aaron Luccarini, Paul Firman and West Suffolk Cllr Margaret Marks who also wanted to support this measure that would have benefited both residents of the town and surrounding villages and of course local businesses. It was a shame other local Haverhill councillors they could not support this.

- **Suffolk councils deliver report to Government: Best for democracy, delivery of services and meeting diverse demands of county**

In a report submitted to government today, Suffolk's five district and borough councils have united to present an interim plan

<https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20250321ws01.cfm> (See Addendum)

Other local updates

- **Anti-Social behaviour near Chapple Drive** No further update.

- **Woolpack Planting Project**

I continue to work with the Landlord of the Woolpack Brian Walford and the Parks Team regarding the planting in the raised brick border outside the Wool Pack. The planter seems to have been planted. I'm not sure with what, but I look forward to seeing how this matures in the months, years ahead.

- **Burton Centre Court**

This work is still progressing, and I am hopeful that more can be shared publicly in the April meeting. As stated last month, "Contracts are being agreed with a local community group, but it is hoped this amenity will be again provide a community purpose as opposed to being left derelict for the last 10 years or more."

- **Market & High Street**

I was contacted by the Buildings Team at West Suffolk and given an update regarding the Argos Building, the ground floor of which has been identified as a location of interest by 'The Lounge" of which a somewhat controversial licence proposal has been submitted that includes seating outside on the pavement but also on the Peas Market Square. It seems like progress has been made regarding repairs, but I will leave it for Cllr Luccarini to report more fully on this valued and important building that contributes to the Historical nature of our Town's identity.

I have asked Cash Access Uk for an update on when the Cash Point will be installed. I am awaiting a response.

Community

- **Sunflower SEND Hub – Haverhill SEND Support Group**

I met with local resident Tina Scott who is keen to see improved provision for SEND children in Haverhill. Following a lengthy discussion I am pleased to now see that a "Sunflower Send Hub" event is now being held on Thursday 27th March @ Haverhill Arts Centre starting at 6:30, which will likely be of interest to members for more go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/551812851245826/permalink/575082878918823/>

- **The Great British Spring Clean**

Many thanks to Haverhill Town Council promoting the [Keep Haverhill Tidy 2025 Campaign](#). Thanks go to local members Cllrs: Tony Brown, Bruce Davidson and Margaret Marks for offering their support in leading some group litter picks. If other members wish to get involved in some positive community action caring for our community shared and green spaces, please note the information below:



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 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 District.

APPENDIX 2 – Town Councillor's report

Councillor John Burns

- **Great Wilsey Park:** It would appear that another tranche of GWP has been sold to a new developer running from the back of Green Road southeast towards the location of the planned country park. It is essential that the same cooperation, design and respect for the masterplan is held by them.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for January 2025 were distributed on 13th March. From a police tweet and data provided I was able to ascertain that Roads SafeCam only visit Haverhill every other month to check up on speeding infringements with some small villages receiving at least once a month visits. That is patently unfair on the 4th largest town in Suffolk.
- **SCC Highways:** As per Cllr Mason's report, still waiting for proposed road signage schematics for the town centre. Still waiting for repairs to several unlit bollards I have reported last year (including 2 in the resurfaced area) and many of the lit bollards across town are now being totally obscured as they need cleaning.
- **Combined Authority:** No further updates.
- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further updates.
- **Parking:** No obvious changes to parking enforcement. I had a chat to a CPE officer last week and seems there is at least a 4 staff deficit meaning that 100% coverage, as per the stated agreement with SCC, is impossible with no obvious sign of being resolved.
- **Markets:** No further updates to report but with less inclement weather hopefully around the corner more stalls are coming back as/when they want to.
- **Sturmer Arches:** Still nothing to report.
- **Fox PH (Wrapping Road):** No further update.
- **Vixen PH (Millfields Way):** No further update.
- **Strasbourg Square:** No further update.

- **Other work:**

- Have been working with tech staff on digisign problems related to the light sensor in the unit and Wi-Fi connectivity problems. Currently working but further work needed to resolve a niggling connectivity problem.
- Have organised splashpad pump repair and commissioning for April 28th. Meeting soon with Operations Manager and potential cleaning company to work on a strategy for cleaning over the open period. As agreed, Splashpad and Kiosk will reopen on 23rd May until 31st August (Friday, Sat & Sun only in term time) unless we see a heat wave.
- Usual IT related tasks for HTC. Working on Windows 11 upgrade requirements. Working with tech staff on problem with phones occasionally cutting out (which I think is external, but the suppliers think in HAC) by moving cabling around to bypass the internal network. Did some work on One Haverhill website to use a modern feature allowing management of OHP board members via a simple database system rather than having to amend the web page for each person.
- Provided usual weekly financial stats for Zone, Coffee Bar and HTC Bar to HTC management plus attending various HTC meetings.
- Working with others on planning for VE80 & VJ80 commemoration events. Plans now in place for VE80 and these are on the HTC website/social media. I'm audio recording the Silver Band this Weds to provide a musical overlay for the events to be held in St Mary's Church on 8th May (7pm) and 21st August (1pm). Raising of Union flags at 9am on 8th May and 15th August now arranged. All welcome to all the events.
- Currently setting up 4 x new Windows laptops for the "On The Spot" van to replace the Apple Mac Notebooks which are well past their sell by dates by several years. These have been funded by an external grant.

APPENDIX 3 – Mayor's report

Mayor's Report to Haverhill Town Council

Tuesday 25th March 2025

This will be my last report to council before the Annual Town Meeting in May where I hand the reins to the incoming mayor. I will probably have more to say then, so will keep this report short.

I was pleased to accept the invitation to attend the Chair of Babergh's Civic Service at Holy Trinity Church in Long Melford. I have often passed this magnificent church and wanted to visit it. I missed last year's event due to work commitments and wasn't disappointed, but couldn't help wondering how much more spectacular it must have looked before the Reformation. Babergh's Chair, Liz Malvisi, has also had a two year term of office and we have attended many of the same events over that time.

It was also a pleasure to support the Chair of West Suffolk Council, our very own Pat Hanlon, at his Annual Dinner to raise money for his charities Reach and Accessible Learning Foundation. Musical Entertainment was provided by Karmel Stannard, who sang two beautiful arias. Karmel was instrumental with Pat in the setting up of Churchill's school.

Another enjoyable event was the Haverhill and District Town Twinning Association Quiz Night, where Liz and I were joined by Deputy Mayor Quinn Cox in the appropriately named Night Mayors team. Third place was a reasonable effort I feel.

I would like take this opportunity to thank Quinn for stepping in for me a number of events recently where I have been unable to attend, thereby ensuring that the town is represented, including the installation of Rev Kemshell as the new minister of the Old Independent church on Saturday.

That same Saturday evening we attended the Haverhill Singers' performance of Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man, A Mass for Peace, at St Mary's Church. They were accompanied by an orchestra of local musicians and students from Bury. It was a fantastic rendition of this provocative, thought-provoking masterpiece. This group of local amateur singers continue to impress with the range of pieces they perform, and the bravery of their selection of some of the most challenges examples of choral music.

Lastly, I would like to remind you that our Civic Service is being held at St Felix church on Sunday 6th April at 3pm. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

David