

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

FULL COUNCIL

Held on Monday 27th October 2025 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: Mayor Councillor Q Cox
 Councillor L Miller-Jones, Deputy Mayor
 Councillor A Brown
 Councillor J Burns
 Councillor J Crooks
 Councillor B Davidson
 Councillor P Firman
 Councillor P Hanlon
 Councillor M Martin
 Councillor D Smith
 Councillor L Smith
 Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor A Luccarini
 Councillor J Mason
 Councillor D Page
 Councillor J Teixeira

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
 Vicky Phillips, Deputy Clerk
 David Roach Suffolk County Councillor

There was one member of the public present.

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

MINUTES

C25 /134	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> The above apologies were noted.
C25 /135	<u>Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation</u> There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.
C25 /136	<u>Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 29th September 2025</u> It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held 29 th September 2025 be agreed as a true record. RESOLVED
C25 /137	<u>To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda</u> None

ACTION

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

a) Police Report:

Councillor J Burns circulated the latest Crime Statistics prior to the meeting.

b) Ambulance Report: Councillor Stinchcombe circulated the ambulance response times statistics (appendix 4). Members raised concerns that the current strategy with the Ambulance Trust has made little progress over the past 25 years. Response times vary significantly depending on proximity to hospitals, with rural areas experiencing much longer waits. The latest data in the report showed an anomaly compared to previous figures, prompting the need to investigate whether this indicates a trend change. Ambulances remain delayed at hospitals, although this could be attributed to winter pressures.

It was proposed by Councillor Miller Jones and seconded by Councillor Hanlon that the clerk :

- i. Write to Nick Timothy MP to raise our concerns about response times
- ii. Arrange a meeting of the working party to review strategy and next steps.
- iii. Chase the East Anglian Ambulance Trust for explanations regarding the data anomaly and ongoing delays.
- iv. Arrange meeting with other towns to coordinate on shared issues.

RESOLVED

Councillor Brown will attend SCC Health & Scrutiny public forum to raise the matter.

- a. Cllr Roach to speak to the Chairman ahead of the meeting.
- b. Clerk to send supporting data to Cllr Roach and follow up on all actions.

c) County Councillors: see Appendix 1

Councillor Mason had circulated his report ahead of the meeting. Councillor Roach reported that he and Councillor Mason had recently accompanied representatives from Highways on a visit around the town. During the visit, they highlighted the overgrown vegetation along the bypass, the poor condition of the roundabouts, and raised questions regarding town centre signage.

He also informed members that electric vehicle charging points are being installed in Haverhill and that a public consultation will be held in due course.

Data on the effect of the new relief road on Withersfield Road had been delayed due to road works.

d) District Councillors:

Councillor Brown provided an update on HMOs in Haverhill. West Suffolk Council is developing an Article 4 Direction, that will require smaller properties to obtain planning permission. Following the discussion on the Tax Base and the impact of HMO's reported at the Finance Committee, Councillor Hanlon has also written to the West Suffolk Council Port Folio Holder and Councillor O'Driscoll.

Councillor Firman reported that he will be attending a meeting at West Suffolk regarding Haverhill Markets, he will report back.

Councillor Crooks asked when the High Street Working Group would begin public consultation. Councillor Cox explained that some projects, such as lighting and signage, will proceed to consultation imminently,

Clerk

TB

Clerk

PF

while medium-term initiatives remain in development. Councillor D Smith added that there is strong commitment to making change happen.

As an aside, SCC Councillor Roach reported that Haverhill in Bloom were in the process of organising the winter planting. Summer planting, which in his view had been amazing this year, have now finished and been cleared ready for winter planting. Unfortunately, the group were having to find another source for planting, the current supplier having retired.

e) Town Councillors: See Appendix 2

Councillor Burns had circulated his report, he added that in the new year the official naming of Suffolk Regiment Way will take place. Councillor Brown suggested that an information board on why it was name Suffolk Regiment Way should be placed along the relief road.

f) Public Forum: None.

C25 **Mayor's Report**

/139 Mayor Cox had submitted his report for both August to September and October (appendix 3). Mayor Cox added that he had attend the Centre Stage performance of All Shook Up, which was outstanding.

C25 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/140 a) The Clerk reported that the Board Meeting had been rescheduled to two separate online meetings, with Nicola Beach and Ian Gallin providing briefings on Local Government Reorganisation proposals.

C25 **Financial Matters**

/141 a) Authorisation of payments: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon and seconded by Councillor J Burns that the listed payments totalling £103,614.07 be authorised.

RESOLVED

b) Members noted the completion of the external audit and that there had been no matters raised.

C25 **Grant Applications**

/142 None.

C25 **Adoption of Committee Reports**

/143 a) Leisure: It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held 9th September 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

b) Energy & Sustainability: It was proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones, that the minutes of the meeting held 16th September 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

c) Planning Committee: It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the minutes of the meetings held 6th and 20th October 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

d) Finance: It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the minutes of the meeting held 21st October 2025 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

C25 Membership of Committees

/144 Members reviewed the current committee membership. It was Proposed by Councillor A Stinchcombe, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the following Councillors be appointed as follows:

Tendering Committee: Councillor D Smith

Finance Committee: Councillor James Teixeria

Leisure and Community Committee: Councillor James Teixeria

It was agreed that the terms of reference for the Leisure and Community committee be reviewed to increase membership to nine.

Appointment to Outside Bodies

Disability Action Group: Councillor L Miller Jones

RESOLVED

C25 Provision meetings calendar for 2026

/145 It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded Councillor M Martin that the provisional dates circulated for meetings in 2026 be approved.

RESOLVED

C25 Register of Interests

/146 The Clerk advised that Members should regularly check their town council register of interests held by West Suffolk to ensure it is up to date.

NOTED

C25 Date of Next Meeting

/147 The next meeting will be held on Monday, 24th November 2025.

C25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

/148 It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted – Third-party confidential information.

RESOLVED

C25 Health and Wellbeing Hub

/149 The Clerk circulated a briefing with updated figures following meetings with partners. The report highlighted an offer of a more regular income stream and noted strong interest from other parties, both of which have significantly reduced the project's risk to the Town Council. Following a long discussion, it was proposed by Councillor L Miller-Jones and seconded by Councillor D Smith that the Council proceed with the project and commence staff recruitment.

RESOLVED

C25 Closure

/150 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm

ALL

Clerk

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Appendix 1 - County Councillors' reports
Appendix 2 – Town Councillors' reports
Appendix 3 – Mayor's report
Appendix 4 – Ambulance Response times

Appendix 1 – County Councillors' reports

County and District Councillor Report, September 2025 Cllr Joe Mason

EV Charging Projects

David and I met with officers and agreed on a programme of works. The initial plan for around 10 sites has now expanded to approximately 30 locations. The first phase (about 15 sites) is expected to be delivered by Spring/Summer. District Councillors will be informed when resident letters are issued.

High Street Signs

The process is nearing completion — we're now awaiting installation news.

Relief Road Signage

Missing New Relief Road signage is due for installation week commencing 10th November. We're still awaiting speed data, but all lampposts are now operational.

Highways Visit

Cllr David Roach and I joined Highways officers for a site visit regarding vegetation cutbacks and signage issues. We continue to lobby hard for action and remain hopeful for progress soon.

Cash Access / Post Office

I am maintaining pressure on Post Office Counters and Cash Access UK to secure installation of a cash point in town. Latest news is that the installation is expected in the New Year.

Town Council Wardens

I'd like to publicly thank the Town Council Wardens for their recent hard work on a number of projects around Town — it's greatly appreciated and is making a big difference.

Other Updates

- Cadent is currently using the Withersfield Road compound for bin storage – awaiting a response from West Suffolk.
- Waddington Recycling has still not been put before the Development and Regulation Committee.
- Continued progress on the Blue Light Hub for Haverhill – stakeholders include all emergency services, PCC Tim Passmore, and Nick Timothy MP. West Suffolk are now engaged and there's growing momentum. While early days, I remain positive and realistic given the scale of the project.

Highways Reporting Reminder

As winter approaches, please help by reporting any significant potholes or road defects using the Suffolk Highways reporting tool. If it's not reported, Highways won't know about it.

SCC News: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news>

Appendix 2

Town Councillor Report:

Councillor John Burns, October 2025

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Have found out that there are plans to change application for phase 8 (next to Chalkstone Way) to make the majority of the homes affordable. I have said this would not be good to accumulate too many of the same type of housing in the same location just because other phases should be “more private”. Some changes to the crossing near Westfield School are in the early stages of consideration to accommodate a pedestrian and cycle route plus progress continues on replacement traffic lights at Chalkstone Way junction.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for August 2025 were distributed on 7th October. Not much else to say.
- **SCC Highways:** We are of course still waiting (4-year anniversary this month) for the agreed signs in the town centre to be sorted.
- **Combined Authority:** Nothing to report.

Greater Cambridge Partnership: No further updates.

Parking: I am still disturbed about the length of time vehicles are parking illegally, including the town centre, despite claims from WSC that enhanced action is being taken. I observed 4 vehicles on just one day last week parked in the High Street for well over 4 hours with no reason to be there, one of which was on the pavement. No sort of action was taken nor any visible enforcement.

Markets: Still awaiting another meeting.

Sturmer Arches: Nothing to report.

Fox PH (Wratting Road): Nothing to report.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way): The planning application went out for consultation. I have submitted my objections based on local knowledge and views of the local businesses & residents.

Strasbourg Square: See above.

Other work:

Spent a bit of time fixing two (new) refurbished Win11 desktops where both SSD failed in a week. The vendor has supplied different make of SSD, and they now appear to be working normally. Set up new laptop for the new Creative & Participation Officer. Awaiting details of tech office requirements so can complete this part of the project before moving onto server replacement.

Splashpad decommissioned on 15th September. It will be recommissioned on 24th March 2026 followed by a deep clean ready for the scheduled opening on 22nd May 2026. Some minor repairs and changes expected then to facilitate compressed air blow through and possible electrical fix to a pressure pad.

Worked for 2 days and night on bunting & banner removal ready for the Xmas light installation.

Organised replacement advertising TV for the box office and new monitor for Box Office PC. Both installed on the 13th.

Met with others to discuss the plans for Remembrance and then with the highways company carrying out road closures.

Installed updated till system in HAC bar to cater for more than one interval during a show where drinks are pre-ordered.

Met with others over the next stage of the Town Centre Masterplan project at which I expressed some reservations.

Rendered video for Big Deal Comedy shows filmed at HAC.

Due to work all day on Halloween Trail.

Due to facilitate loan of barriers for New Croft on 7th November for their firework display.

Due to work all day on Remembrance 9th November including facilitating the live stream of the event.

Provided usual weekly financial income stats from the till system for the various sites to HTC management plus attending various HTC meetings.

END

Appendix 3

Cllr Quinn Cox Mayors Report July/August/September 2025

My apologies for not getting this to you before but a brief run down for August and September. Unfortunately, due to health issues I didn't manage to get to all events. I would like to thank all those that stepped in and were supportive to the organisations and Town Council.

July 29th and 30th

Parkway and Clements Fun Days

I am so pleased to have been able to attend these events. Thank to all the town council staff well attended and hope we can look at funding to help with providing more next year to alleviate long queues.

August 21st

VJ Day 80th Commemoration

To those that put this together, it was a real credit to those who had served for this country. A huge effort and a great honour to be asked to read as part of this event. Between videos, readings and roll calls it provided with an emotional journey. An amazing time to reflect on those that served as part of our community and those that gave their lives.

An event I shall remember for many years to come and if you missed it, please go to you tube and find it. I am sure John Burns would be happy to provide the link.

Friday 29th August

Haverhill Malayalee Association Inauguration and Onam Celebration.

I was an absolute pleasure and honour to be invited and included in this celebration and inauguration event. This is Hindu Association with 300 families in and around Haverhill. The event was vibrant, colourful and full of energy. They couldn't do enough for you as a guest and anyone that was from the local community they offered food and involvement.

I hope the group goes from strength to strength and would love to see them become more involved in our town.

September 7th

Opening Rep Rack Fitness –

Honoured to be asked to open a new venture on the High Street, a new gym focused on providing purely personal trainer sessions. My first cutting of a ribbon so that was great but even more so to be able to support local business and wish them every success.

23rd of September

SALC Awards

Even though I wasn't at this event due to ill health I have included it and thank Cllr John Burns being able to go at short notice. This was a big deal as our town won two awards, the first was Clerk of the Year, which was won by our very own Colin Poole. I am so pleased and well deserved so thank you Colin for everything you do for the town.

The second award was for Town Council of the year and so our amazing Town Council Staff have also been recognised which is incredible. Well done to all of them and once again thank you for everything you do that makes Haverhill a better place to live in.

Amazing, a round of applause for Colin and the whole team.

As said at the start, more events were in the calendar but did miss a number due to ill health. We have an amazing town and the more I am seeing the more certain that that statement is true.

Cllr Quinn Cox - Mayors Report October 2025

We have arrived in October and the Civic Services are coming thick and fast. The Haverhill Civic Carol Service is on the 3rd of December and hope you are able to make it. Not much has happened in the way of events but November and December's diary dates are getting busy.

Sunday 12th of October

Stowmarket Civic Service - Cllr David Child- Mayor of Stowmarket

I have met David on a number of occasions since May, a lovely chap and with the Stowmarket Civic service was a showcase of local groups providing singing, dancing and some sketches. Lovely to see the effort made to provide a lovely afternoon.



Tuesday the 14th of October

Haverhill Art Group 70th Anniversary

An amazing achievement for a group to be going for 70 years and was a real pleasure to be asked to attend their celebration, say a few words and cut their celebratory cake. I had the opportunity to see the art work created for the celebration. A worth while trip to the arts centre to have a look. Using one still life image they created many versions using a variety of mediums. It was great to see the outstanding results.

The group has gone through its challenges and its new committee is working hard to ensure the group continues its journey. They had a number of people to thank that have been giving them support. Lets continue to support this group and its wonderful members.

Saturday the 18th of October



Babergh District Council Civic Service – Chair Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi

The service was held at Holy Trinity Church in Long Melford. A lovely service held a beautiful church. A good representation from Haverhill in support of the event. A pleasure to support Cllr Malvisi who was a very welcoming and gracious host.

The Church has some interesting history with rare original stained glass that people come to see as lots over many centuries had been destroyed. A place well worth visiting



Sunday 19th of October

Ipswich Civic Service – Cllr Stefan Long – Mayor of Ipswich

A very well attended event with a procession from the Town Hall to Church. Those on the high street were clearly very intrigued by the spectacle with every phone out taking videos and photos. A beautiful Choir and a fabulous guest speaker and honoured guests with Sikh, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish representation.

It was an honour to represent our Town at this event.



Friday 24th October

Chair of Babergh Charity Quiz - Chair Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi

I am awful at quizzes but attend them anyway, something I am sure Cllr Liz and David Smith support in my dismal effort as a quiz during Cllr D Smith time as Mayor.

It was a well-run and attended event, it was fun with a warm atmosphere, raising money for a worthy charity 'Compassion'. A charity supporting those who have been through domestic abuse. Our team was a variety of Mayors and Chairs and our name was aptly chosen as the Chain Gang. The setting at the Bull Hotel in Long Melford was lovely to add to a wonderful evening in great company.



Sunday 26th of October

Mid Suffolk Civic Service – Chair, Cllr Keth Scarff

The service was held the Salvation Army Hall in Stowmarket with a number of dignitaries attending. A short procession into the service. The Salvation Army band supported the service incredibly well with a host of food after with positive Suffolk feeling and support for each other.



It as it has always been an honour to represent our town, I have been continually surprised by how warm and supportive our follow councillors are and look forward to continuing the years journey.

Appendix 4

5b.

Ambulance response times statistics report

	Averages of monthly C1 response times over last 12 months		
	Cambridge	Haverhill	Proportion by which Haverhill exceeds Cambridge
C1 Mean	00:06:38	00:12:37	90%
C1 90 th Percentile	00:11:19	00:24:23	115%

As of 27th October, October's C1 times are better than those of October 2024, but still well into the red. After an unexpectedly large improvement in August, times are rising again:

Year Month	C1 Mean	C1 90th PCTL	C2 Mean	C2 90th PCTL	C3 Mean	C3 90th PCTL	C4 Mean	C4 90th PCTL
October 2024	00:15:23	00:25:23	00:53:46	01:42:45	04:39:25	11:07:41	12:28:42	18:45:00
November 2024	00:15:24	00:24:53	00:59:43	01:59:36	03:39:52	08:42:17	03:37:49	03:37:49
December 2024	00:14:00	00:27:03	01:06:46	02:11:06	03:39:29	08:10:14	06:32:56	10:24:08
January 2025	00:14:40	00:27:00	00:48:37	01:39:06	02:24:21	05:08:01	03:34:13	04:35:48
February 2025	00:10:22	00:20:15	00:47:26	01:31:19	02:35:29	07:14:31	03:28:32	04:46:04
March 2025	00:14:17	00:24:23	00:36:38	01:11:15	01:45:47	03:46:07	06:06:49	06:06:49
April 2025	00:11:05	00:22:56	00:37:19	01:05:53	01:52:09	05:00:15	07:10:21	12:10:57
May 2025	00:11:11	00:22:39	00:31:35	01:00:33	01:33:16	03:22:25	01:12:59	01:12:59
June 2025	00:12:09	00:23:27	00:32:02	01:06:13	01:26:58	03:38:12	02:02:26	02:07:15
July 2025	00:11:51	00:24:19	00:31:04	00:59:44	01:39:20	04:00:02	04:19:43	06:39:26
August 2025	00:08:57	00:22:28	00:31:44	01:02:05	01:46:48	04:03:37	04:25:35	10:59:18
September 2025	00:12:05	00:23:00	00:36:03	01:06:08	01:36:22	03:05:38	03:19:58	04:22:28
October 2025	00:13:39	00:25:14	00:38:02	01:21:53	02:41:30	05:45:33		

As of 3rd October, bearing in mind that it's unlikely that more than about five C1 incidents would have occurred in Haverhill, it was disturbing to see the website displaying the following very red figures:

October 2025	00:19:20	00:33:36
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One or more patients would have had to wait at least 33.6 minutes.
The average wait was 19.3 minutes, against the target for EEAST as a whole of 7 minutes.

I have lost confidence in EEAST's willingness or ability to improve our C1 response times. As yet, it has made no effort to schedule another meeting after our last meeting in mid-July.