

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's



FULL COUNCIL

Held on **Monday, 23 March 2026** 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: Mayor Councillor Q Cox
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor J Crooks
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe
Councillor J Teixeira

Apologies: Deputy Mayor L Miller-Jones
Councillor D Page

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Vicky Phillips, Deputy Clerk
Suffolk County Councillor D Roach (until 8.10pm)

There were two members of the public present.

Welcome:

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

MINUTES

C26 **Apologies for Absence**
/032 The above apologies were noted.

C26 **Declaration of Interests and requests for dispensation**
/033 There were no declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

C26 **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held Monday, 23 February**
/034 **2026**

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown seconded by Councillor P Hanlon that the minutes of the meeting held Monday, 23 February 2026 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

Cllr Luccarini Arrived 19:06

C26 /035 **To note progress of actions arising from the minutes not covered by this Agenda**

- a) C26/020 – Fraud Training – The Clerk reported that training was now free of charge. The Clerk to arrange for the training to be offered out more widely; staff, schools, housing association representatives and community leaders in the town.
- b) C26/025 – Rural bus review – response has been acknowledged.
- c) C26/026 – West Suffolk Space Protection Order – views have been submitted.

Town Clerk

C26 /036 **Grant Applications**

Mr Peter Betts explained to members the distinction between the Haverhill Community Sports Association and The New Croft Foundation. Members asked if the applicants had applied for alternative funding as well as applying to the town council? Mr Betts confirmed that there had been fund raising carried out. County and District Councillors advised that they would have their locality funding available from April 2026 and that Mr Betts could apply.

Grant Applications over £2,000.

a) Haverhill Community Sports Association

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown and seconded by Councillor J Mason that the Town Council would fund 6 benches. The benches will be purchased by the council and donated.

RESOLVED

Mr Betts to provide details to the Clerk as to whether VAT was included in the cost.

b) New Croft Foundation

It was proposed by Councillor A Brown and seconded by Councillor J Mason that the amount of £950 be awarded.

RESOLVED

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

a) Police Report:

Members thanked Councillor J Burns for his usual report circulated prior to the meeting.

b) Ambulance Report (Appendix i)

Councillor A Stinchcombe submitted a report ahead of the meeting which showed a year-on-year improvement in performance, though it remains below acceptable standards. Previously highlighted concerns had been raised with the CEO who had said that they would take action, but no progress has been made. Councillor A Stinchcombe will now submit a Freedom of Information request.

Councillor A Brown noted that performance has improved only from “very bad” to “bad.” Councillor A Brown also asked Councillor J Mason whether the issue had been added to the Health and Scrutiny forward work programme, Councillor J Mason confirmed that this had been paused due to the election and is not currently scheduled, Councillor J Mason will follow up.

c) Suffolk County Councillors: (see Appendix ii)

Councillor J Mason submitted his final report ahead of the meeting and confirmed he will not provide one in April. He stated it has been an honour to serve as a County Councillor and that he has aimed to remain accessible and accountable. He thanked fellow councillors for their support. He expressed appreciation for Highways' work on potholes, while noting the need for increased funding to improve road conditions and response times. He also emphasised the importance of continuing to address residents' concerns.

Councillor J Mason then went on to highlight some points from his report, adding that the sketch design has been prepared for the Community Room on the Persimmon estate and that the trigger point has been reached by Persimmon for the Library Accessible Toilets, but that he is still waiting for further information and confirmation.

Several councillors reported that the pothole which had been filled in in Camps Road has already sunk, Councillor J Mason explained that this had been a temporary fix and that Highways were aware and that there will be a proper fix done soon.

Councillor J Burns reported to Councillor J Mason:

- the damaged roundabout at Coupals Road which has been reported, but still not fixed.
- the traffic lights at Chalkstone Way
- Millfields Way was still shut

Councillor J Mason thanked those councillors and council staff who took part in the Great British Spring Clean, 123 bags of waste had been collected, 29 of those by Zone staff.

Councillor D Smith asked how to report damaged speed humps. Councillor D Roach responded that it is the same reporting tool as potholes, but that they are on the radar at Highways. He confirmed that they were highlighted when he and the Highways engineer had toured Haverhill, but that he will look into it.

Councillor D Roach also reported that he will not be standing for election in May, stating that it has been a pleasure and an honour to be a County Councillor and also that serving as Mayor of Haverhill for two years was particularly rewarding.

Key highlights from his time in office include:

- Completion of the Recycling Centre
- Road improvements to the upper section of Chalkstone Way

d) District Councillors:

Councillor A Brown reported:

- The section 278 agreement for the entrance of Sturmer Road Service Station has been agreed and that work can now start.
- Steps at the wildlife park in Millfields Way were in a bad state and that it has been agreed that they will be repaired after April.

Councillor L Smith reported that the 'Ecovend' machine at Abbeycroft Leisure had not been working but will be fixed this week. There will also be another one installed in the town.

Councillor P Hanlon reported that the line-marking work at Lower Downs Slade had been completed. Councillor J Mason added that the quantity of disabled spaces was an improvement. Councillor D Roach mentioned that white lining was going to take place in Haverhill and cutting back along the by-pass.

e) Town Councillors:

Councillor J Burns had submitted his report (attached appendix iii).

Councillor J Burns also reported:

- Parking signs will be put up at Strasbourg Square
- Splashpad is fixed and water testing has been carried out.

Cllr P Firman left the meeting

Councillor J Teixeira reported receiving complaints from residents regarding comments made by the MP and called on the town council to state that it does not align with those remarks.

Cllr P Firman rejoined the meeting

f) Public Forum:

None.

C26 **Mayor's Report (appendix iv)**

/037

Mayor Q Cox submitted his report ahead of the meeting. He highlighted that he had attended the Methodist Church Eco event and requested that this was something the Town Council could be involved in.

To be put added on to the Energy and Sustainability agenda.

**Deputy
Clerk**

C26 **ONE Haverhill Partnership**

/038

a) Report from Clerk

ONE Haverhill Board have not met since the last Full Council meeting.

b) Stourview Wellbeing Centre

The clerk advised that the official opening of the Centre will be Friday 15th May, with an open day on Saturday 16th May, which coincides with the Food Festival.

The centre is open for the Warm Space and has been well attended, with those that had previously attended the Arts Centre Warm Space now using the Wellbeing Centre.

A men's group will be using the centre at the beginning of March, and various organisations will be starting in April.

C26 **Financial Matters**

/039

a) Authorisation of payments:

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns seconded by Councillor L Smith that the listed payments totalling £103,756.51 was authorised.

RESOLVED

C26/ **I.T. Policy**

040

a) It was agreed that both the I.T. Policy and Staff Data Protection Policy be deferred to the next meeting to allow for minor amendments.

**Town
Clerk/AL**

Cllr A Luccarini left the meeting 20:27

C26/ 041	<u>20mph Speed Limited</u>	The Clerk to engage with the Community Liaison Engineer and contact the School regarding applying for the Active Travel Scheme and to bring back to another meeting.	Town Clerk
C26/ 042	<u>Historic Building Preservation Trust</u>	It was proposed by Councillor J Mason and seconded by Councillor A Brown that a task and finish group be convened to explore the establishment of a charitable body to work to bring derelict buildings back in to use in and around Haverhill. RESOLVED Councillors D Smith, M Martin, J Mason and Q Cox volunteered to join the group. The Clerk to invite other interested parties.	Town Clerk
C26/ 043	<u>Suspension of Standing Order 3x:</u>	It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor L Smith, that SO3x be suspended in order to transact the remaining business on the agenda. RESOLVED	
C26/ 044	<u>Town Centre Manager</u>	a) Report noted. b) Members discussed the proposed Town Centre Manager role, emphasising the importance of regular reporting to the Council to enable members to monitor progress and establish appropriate performance indicators. It was also noted that this is jointly funded with West Suffolk Council, as both are seeking to achieve similar outcomes. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon and seconded by Councillor L Smith that the Personnel Committee can recruit to this role. RESOLVED	
C26 /045	<u>Adoption of Committee Reports</u>	a) <u>Leisure and Community Committee:</u> It was proposed by Councillor J Burns and seconded by Councillor A Stinchcombe that the Minutes of the meeting held 3 rd March 2026 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record. RESOLVED b) <u>Planning Committee:</u> It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the minutes of the meetings held 9 th March 2026 and any recommendations contained therein, be agreed as a true record. RESOLVED	
C26 /046	<u>County Council Elections</u>	It was noted that the Pre-Election Period for the Suffolk County Council elections in May 2026 commences on 27 th March 2026. This restricts what councils can do, but not councillors, so long as they do not use council resources. NOTED	
C26 /047	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u>	The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 28 April 2026.	

C26 /048 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**
It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon and seconded by Councillor J Teixeira, 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 – C26/048 personnel matters and C26/049 bids for a contract.
RESOLVED

Cllr A Luccarini joined the meeting 21:16
C26 /049 **1a Boundary Road Opportunities Report**
The Clerk referred the meeting to the previously circulated report. It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the proposed strategy be implemented.
RESOLVED
It was proposed by councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor J Teixeira, that the Chair of Personnel, Councillor L Smith be the representative for oversight.
RESOLVED

C26 /050 **Vision 2030**
The Clerk circulated the report prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor A Brown and seconded by Councillor J Mason that the quote be accepted.
RESOLVED

C26 /051 **Closure**
The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed Date.....
Chairman

- Appendix i) - County Councillors' reports**
- Appendix ii) – Town Councillors' reports**
- Appendix iii) – Mayor's report**

Appendix i)
Ambulance Report:

Councillor Stinchcombe submitted a report (Appendix i)

Haverhill Ambulance Response Times

C1 response times in 2025 were a distinct improvement on those in recent years. However, as we've noted before, the excesses over Cambridge (5.5 minutes for mean, and 12.3 minutes for 90th percentile) are still long enough to die in. **C1 Mean**

Year (or year so far)	Haverhill area	Cambridge (CB)	Minutes by which Haverhill exceeds Cambridge	Percentage by which Haverhill exceeds Cambridge	Haverhill area	Cambridge (CB)	Minutes by which Haverhill exceeds Cambridge	Percentage by which Haverhill exceeds Cambridge
Jan 22 - Dec 22	00:15:21	00:08:08	7.2	89%	00:27:31	00:14:07	13.4	95%
Jan 23 - Dec 23	00:14:54	00:07:15	7.7	106%	00:26:00	00:11:57	14.0	117%
Jan 24 - Dec 24	00:14:40	00:07:23	7.3	99%	00:26:03	00:12:29	13.6	109%
Jan 25 - Dec 25	00:11:59	00:06:28	5.5	86%	00:23:24	00:11:07	12.3	111%
Jan 26 - Feb 26*	00:12:07	00:07:04	5.1	71%	00:23:23	00:11:34	11.8	102%

* These two months in winter cannot be compared with data for whole years.

The Red-Amber-Green (RAG) ratings remain different by territory. A time that is rated green for Haverhill would be rated red for Cambridge. How are the threshold values for these ratings calculated, and why are they different by territory?

Cambridge - Response Time Performance

Defined as postcode district = CB1, CB2, CB3, CB4 or CB5

Date

01/03/2024

Year Month	C1 Mean	C1 90th PCTL	C2 Mean	C2 90th PCTL	C3 Mean	C3 90th PCTL	C4 Mean	C4 90th PCTL
February 2025	00:06:57	00:12:31	00:37:10	01:26:04	02:16:18	05:44:13	03:38:19	06:41:39
March 2025	00:06:13	00:10:42	00:27:24	00:57:26	01:33:59	03:52:54	03:57:40	07:41:31
April 2025	00:06:03	00:10:44	00:27:43	01:01:42	01:31:02	03:19:18	03:04:49	05:06:29
May 2025	00:06:43	00:11:08	00:25:46	00:53:57	01:19:54	03:19:54	01:26:17	03:27:42
June 2025	00:05:57	00:10:15	00:23:31	00:50:32	01:10:13	02:58:56	02:31:29	05:14:58
July 2025	00:06:20	00:10:46	00:25:13	00:55:18	01:26:46	03:22:34	02:38:53	05:57:55
August 2025	00:06:32	00:10:58	00:24:12	00:50:44	01:14:03	02:53:45	02:22:29	08:12:05
September 2025	00:06:06	00:09:40	00:28:01	00:59:44	01:45:00	04:24:21	03:19:50	06:05:55
October 2025	00:07:20	00:12:48	00:34:16	01:16:29	01:58:08	05:07:33	01:03:32	03:00:18
November 2025	00:06:42	00:12:06	00:28:30	01:00:01	01:34:51	04:07:07	02:00:31	05:26:05
December 2025	00:06:14	00:11:08	00:25:13	00:57:48	01:34:08	04:13:05	01:28:26	02:37:23
January 2026	00:07:30	00:12:10	00:38:37	01:25:41	02:31:42	06:11:24	00:51:20	03:07:06
February 2026	00:06:39	00:10:58	00:28:28	01:02:16	01:27:25	03:55:17	00:16:07	01:09:19

Haverhill- Response Time Performance

Defined as address like "Haverhill" and postcode district like "CB9"

Date

01/03/2024

Year Month	C1 Mean	C1 90th PCTL	C2 Mean	C2 90th PCTL	C3 Mean	C3 90th PCTL	C4 Mean	C4 90th PCTL
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	06:38:23	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	00:12:57	00:24:33	00:38:23	01:23:37	02:35:58	05:34:40		
November 2025	00:13:05	00:24:28	00:36:37	01:08:24	02:21:05	05:24:01		
December 2025	00:11:11	00:21:19	00:36:09	01:22:17	01:36:48	04:26:11	01:45:41	01:45:41
January 2026	00:12:42	00:22:53	00:47:09	01:35:44	02:41:57	05:46:45		
February 2026	00:11:33	00:23:54	00:37:21	01:17:03	01:44:49	04:13:17	01:12:34	01:12:34

Appendix ii)
Suffolk County Councillors:

County and District Councillor Report, March 2026
Cllr Joe Mason

This will be my last full written report before the elections in May. At the April Meeting of the Town Council I will give a verbal update and answer questions on issues of interest to members. It has been an absolute honour to represent the Town, local residents and businesses as a County Councillor.

In this report

1. Suffolk County Council News
2. Highways Update
3. Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way
4. Blue Lights Hub
5. Forest City
6. EV Charging Installations
7. Haverhill Preservation Trust? Saving the Corn Exchange
8. Persimmon (Landscaping & Maintenance Issues)
9. Community Hall/Space for Haverhill North
10. Abbeycroft Visit
11. West Suffolk Council News & Updates
12. Community

1. Suffolk County Council News (For full details of all SCC news stories please visit <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news>)

Suffolk County Council held its last Full Council Meeting before the upcoming election on Thursday 19th March. We are expecting an announcement from the Government this week as to whether 1 or 3 Unitaries for Suffolk will be selected as the preferred chosen model for the 2027 election. As this council comes to the end of its administration, there is less news than normal of specific interest to Haverhill and nearby villages.

Two new crossings approved for key Haverhill route

Suffolk County Council is to install new crossings to improve safety on the Railway Walk. Suffolk County Council has approved plans to progress two new crossing schemes in Haverhill, improving safety and accessibility for people walking, wheeling and cycling. The proposals focus on key crossing points along the Railway Walk — an important traffic-free route used by residents travelling across the town, including pupils travelling to and from school.

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/two-new-crossings-approved-for-key-haverhill-route> (For more see Haverhill Local Travel Plan item below)

2. Highways Update Monthly safety inspections continue across our main roads, and any defects meeting intervention criteria will be repaired within the required HMOP timescales.

- **Withersfield Rd & Downs Crescent** Have been confirmed for resurfacing works for the 2026/27 tax year
- **Allington Walk**
Has been rescheduled for the 30th April – 1st of May. I visited properties affected and spoke with residents regarding the sequence of delays that have been experienced

- **Clements Close dropped kerbs and missing Withersfield Sign**
I expected both of these projects to have been completed last week. I am awaiting an update from Highways.
- **County Wide TRO**
No further updates – I have been told September for implementation of the changes to TROs specific to Haverhill.
- **High Street – Block Paving**
I met with Cllr David Roach and Highways to agree to a final project using the remaining balance of David's locality budget, focusing on areas of worn block paving on the High Street that have been a long-standing concern. Although the issues did not meet the usual criteria for repair, we have now secured agreement to use the remaining funds to address as much as possible. There is no confirmed date and works may take some time, but we are pleased to have found a practical solution to something that has frustrated residents and businesses for quite a while. This was also something the Town Council and the High Street Enhancement Group had raised previously.
- **Bypass / A1307 cutback and signage issues** Some work has been carried out. Awaiting an update from Highways as to what else will be done.
- **Potholes – General** Highways in Suffolk, as across the country continue to work flat out to keep up with potholes and are understandably prioritising the worst ones. This will ease but we could see more issues if freezing/ or prolonged wet weather persists. Please can members report potholes that appear in their wards. I am doing what I can and I am pleased that residents are increasingly using the online tool.
<https://highwaysreporting.suffolk.gov.uk/>

Call 0345 606 6171 to report a highways problem that poses an immediate danger to the public. Many thanks to Cllr Stinchcombe for his correspondence regarding the bad defects on Burton End. This should now have a temporary filling and will be returned to for a permanent repair.

3. Active Travel, Cyclists, Pedestrians and Rights of Way

- **Haverhill Local Transport Plan** See Suffolk County Council News. It is important to note this is something residents and Cllr Tony Brown lobbied me on. Improved pedestrian crossings for railway walk were seen as essential, and I am really pleased with the investment SCC are putting into these important crossing points. There are more schemes in the pipeline that SCC are not yet ready to share.
- **New Pelican/Toucan Crossing on Wratting Road** No further update, still awaiting date for the installation.
- **Raised Table on Ann Suckling Road** No further update, still awaiting date for the installation. The timing for works is ultimately dependent on the developer.
- **Greenfields Way dropped Kerbs & Path from Clements School to The Doctors Surgery (Bus Stop)**
All works now completed. The bus stop and crossing improvements are significant upgrades improving access and accessibility for residents visiting Unity Health Care and/or the Pharmacy.
- **Bus Improvement Scheme & Bus Shelters**

RTI boards confirmed but no date given for implementation. Bus Shelters for Vetch Walk/Chivers Road and Chimswell Rd confirmed, awaiting dates for installation.

- 4. Blue Lights Hub** I met with Tim Passmore recently. He is still working with West Suffolk Council and the other Services to develop the proposal. It is still early days, but I am hopeful and quietly confident that this will progress.

5. Forest City

I recently took the opportunity to raise awareness of the Forest City 1 proposal at County level, as it is clear that discussion to date has been largely confined to West Suffolk despite the potential scale and impact of the scheme. A development of this size would have far-reaching implications, not just for Haverhill but for infrastructure, services, and the wider character of Suffolk as a whole. It is important that this is not treated as a purely local issue, and that there is broader understanding and scrutiny across the county. This is not about opposing growth, but about ensuring that any development is appropriate, sustainable, and supported by the necessary infrastructure, while also protecting our rural communities, landscape, and valuable agricultural land.

6. EV Charging

Awaiting news on installation dates.

7. Haverhill Preservation Trust? Saving the Corn Exchange

Met with Suffolk Preservation Society Director Tom Foakes and Haverhill Town Council Clerk Colin Poole to discuss possible next steps.

8. Persimmon Path (& Landscaping & Maintenance Issues)

Path is now finished and of great benefit to local residents. Landscaping and planting remain issues of concern to residents.

9. Community Hall/Space for Haverhill North

I am pleased to report that progress continues on plans for a new community space for Haverhill North, linked to the proposed North-West Primary School currently expected in 2028. Updated designs for a multi-use community room, including a hall, kitchen, storage and accessible toilets, have now been shared, addressing a long-standing gap in local provision for daytime community use. The project, funded through developer contributions, is moving forward following strong resident support, although further work is needed to finalise arrangements for community access.

10. Abbeycroft Visit

I recently visited Haverhill Leisure Centre and met with Abbeycroft's Chief Executive, Warren Smyth, to discuss the facility, including recent resident concerns. It was positive to have an open and constructive conversation, with reassurance provided that issues are being addressed, alongside around £100,000 of recent investment in areas such as boilers, air handling, lighting and cleaning, and further improvements planned. The centre continues to offer a wide range of high-quality facilities and services, including innovative community provision, and remains an important asset for supporting health and wellbeing in Haverhill, with a clear commitment to maintaining standards and responding to feedback.

West Suffolk Council News

Two year balanced budget to deliver millions in improvements across West Suffolk

A balanced budget over two years that protects services and delivers millions in improvements to leisure, economic, and community facilities for West Suffolk has been agreed. <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20260227ws01.cfm>

I am pleased to report that my motion to introduce the first hour of free parking, alongside reducing the cost of pavement licences, was successfully agreed as part of the budget at West Suffolk Council. The intention behind this was to provide practical support to local businesses by increasing footfall and making it easier for residents to access the High Street for short visits.

In addition, lowering pavement licence fees will help businesses make better use of outdoor space, contributing to a more vibrant and welcoming town centre. This is a positive step towards strengthening our local economy and ensuring our town centres remain accessible, competitive, and attractive. I do believe as a Town Council we should promote this to encourage footfall into town for local residents and nearby villages.

Kick off for Football Foundation PlayZones in West Suffolk

New Football Foundation PlayZone to be created in Haverhill, with onsite works set to begin in the coming weeks. <https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/news/pr20260317ws02.cfm>

Atterton & Ellis

There remains an impasse between the owners of the site and West Suffolk which is preventing this site from being developed. Discussions are ongoing.

The Fox

The building is now changed hands. The owner has promised to make the building safe. Following acts of vandalism and trespassing on site. The Toby Carvery planning permission has now expired. No news on plans for this gateway derelict building.

Other updates

11. Community

- Burton Centre Court – No further update. Hopefully Announcement Soon
- I continue to liaise with the community police team on a range of issues around town.
- We are now in the middle of Haverhill's Great British Spring Clean from 13th - 29th March. Many thanks to all residents' organisations and group leader who have contributed. After the first week a total of 77 Bags of waste had been collected. (As of the 19th March) Special thanks to Haverhill Town Councillors: Cllr Tony Brown, Cllr Paul Firman, Cllr Bruce Davidson for either leading and/or contributing to the total.

Appendix iii)

Town Councillor Report:

Report by John Burns on Town activities March 2026

- **Great Wilsey Park:** Work continues alongside Chalkstone Way on the Barratt development. The spline road was accidentally left open by a contractor meaning being used as a shortcut from the A143 where there is no road surface or speed restrictions. This was closed again.
- **Police Matters:** Crime stats for January 2026 distributed on 6th March. Had meeting with others regarding potential for modern day versions of the cycling proficiency tests to encourage more sustainable methods for young persons to get to and from school and reducing the plague that is parking at schools.

- **SCC Highways:** As others will know potholes are all over the town. I have been reporting as I find them as long as not already reported. Some are very deep and way beyond HMOP limits with no evidence of them being marked for a repair. Have then reported them again even if already reported. I replaced a couple of lit bollards I came across and reported others missing such as on Ehringshausen Way.

- **Combined Authority:** Nothing to report.

- **Greater Cambridge Partnership:** No further updates.

Parking: Still no perceived benefit from the so-called increase in enforcement.

Markets: Meeting now scheduled for 27th March some 8 months after the last one despite promises for “regular meetings”.

Sturmer Arches: Nothing to report.

Fox PH (Wratting Road): Nothing to report other than the site has been sold yet again.

Vixen PH (Millfields Way): I have had a complaint from shopkeepers last week where there were only 3 spaces left in the car park at 9am. I am told the businesses how to make a formal complaint to WSC as this is affecting their livelihood and that is even before this site is redeveloped. Despite recent repairs it would appear the building is once again accessible. Photo below.



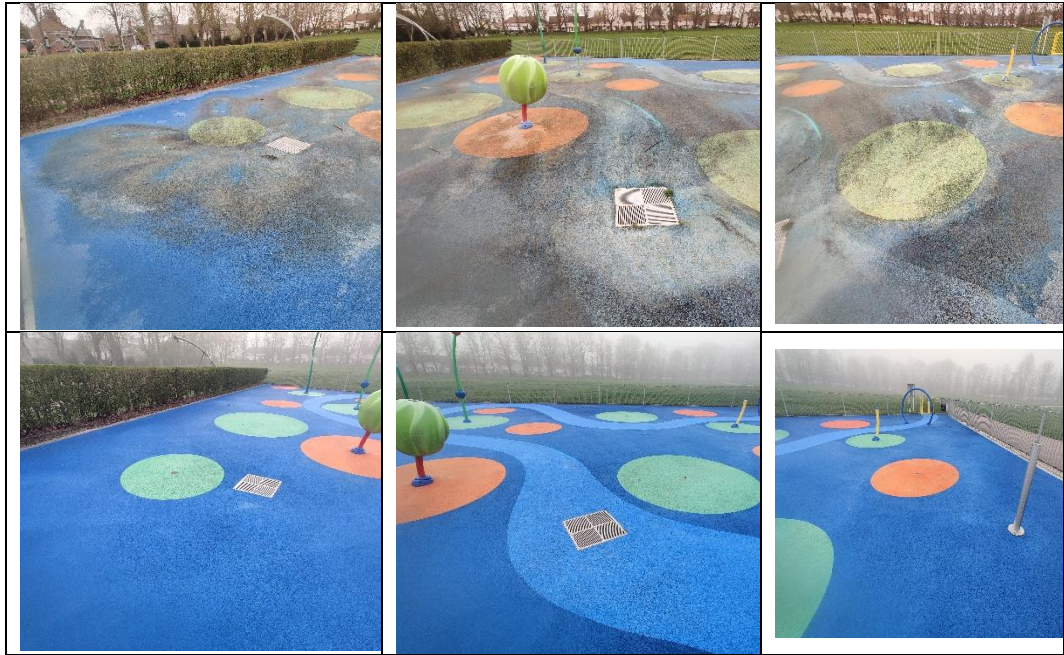
Strasbourg Square: See above.

Other work (in no particular order):

Splashpad: The pad was partially recommissioned on 17th March. Whilst testing we found one of the pipes between a solenoid and an isolation valve had split – why we do not know but was not over pressurised as there was no water in the pipes over winter. On examination we found a further 7 to have bulged. I phoned and took a trip around town to see if I could obtain spares, but they are all only available to order. So decided to replace all of the pipes (totalling 16 – one for each element on the pad) as obviously any could fail at any time. The engineers should be returning on 27th March to replace them.

I also arranged for the pad to be cleaned in readiness for any opening. With the Easter Holidays coming up I am keen to have it ready for then however will only open if good weather and then just for the Easter break closing again until the official opening on 23rd May when the kiosk reopens.

Before and after cleaning photos.



Digisign: Was fixed on 23rd February.

Wellbeing Centre:

CCTV installed using loaned equipment from myself.

Installed wireless access point in one of the offices and tested OK. Have ordered more to complete the offices plus one for the café area.

FTTP high speed broadband was installed on 5th March. After making sure all working as expected, removed all the obsolete telecoms equipment and my loan 5G system.

Clements:

Attended to allow access for engineers to complete electronic door lock installation.

Installed 2 extra hard drives in the TC network attached storage in preparation for moving data from the old and obsolete Windows Server and its eventual demise.

As time allows still working on revisions to the till system for HAC bar.

Sorted out suitable new TV for the studio and currently looking for an audiovisual system that can be used for online meetings and other reasons.

Tested A/V system using my equipment ready for hybrid Zoom planning meeting next month.

Due to attend town centre development meeting on 26th March.

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

END

Appendix iv)

Mayors Report

February 01st to March 23rd 2026

Sadly, I have had to miss a few events due to ill health so it has been a continued quiet time, my apologies for not being able to represent us at these times. Our community continues to inspire, support and create.



12th February

Samuel Ward Musical Matilda

The young cast of Samuel Ward put on an incredible show. The talent was great to see, and the entertainment value was off the chart. The members of staff who ensured the show took place had clearly supported the students incredibly well. Both staff and students involved should be very proud, as should our town.

Following the show, I wrote to the Head Teacher to express my gratitude to the staff and students and to express how amazing the show was. A huge credit to us all.

6th March

Chair of West Suffolk Civic Dinner @ Edmunds Restaurant at West Suffolk College

A lovely evening shared with Chairs, Mayors and Deputies. I was very impressed with the students who are studying hospitality and provide all elements of the industry, from the food and all elements of the kitchen to front of house duties for the event. It was a really delightful meal and excellent service was provided for us. I would like to thank the Chair or West Suffolk for ensuring a wonderful evening took place.

22nd March

Methodist Church Celebration focusing on our Environment.

As always, I was made very welcome and very well looked after, this is always appreciated. The focus of the service was on our planet and everything in it. A guest speaker spoke about how the Methodist Churches are looking at getting involved in improving our environment by implementing changes in and out of the church and local community. This involves installing solar panels, rewilding areas and looking at how else the environment can be improved. A whole structure and support website helps each church with moving forward and gaining awards.

An inspiring service with plenty to reflect on.



I have provided some reflective moments from this month and some points regarding the environment. This could be something that us as a Town Council and Haverhill could reflect on to see if we can continue to improve our environment and our care for it.

Councillor Quinn Cox