

**LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 18th September 2012 at 7.00pm in The Studio, Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill

Present: **Chair: Town Councillor: G Stroud**
 Town Councillors: L Ager, M Byrne,
 and B Hawes

One member of the public was present.

MINUTES**ACTION**

1. **Apologies for Absence**
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Carr, Goody and Russo.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
No members declared an interest in items on the agenda.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2012 were agreed as a true record.
4. **Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2012.
5. **For Members with Prejudicial Interests and/or Members of the Public to Speak on Matters on the Agenda**
No members with prejudicial interests or members of the public spoke on matters on the agenda.
6. **To Determine Current Grant Applications**
The Committee agreed the following grant applications:

Organisation Name	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Haverhill Methodist Church Wednesday Fellowship	£200.00	£200
Leiston Sequence Dance Club	£250.00	£250
Manor Road Allotment Association	£150.00	£150
Open Road	£385.00	Invite to next L&C Committee to discuss
Place Farm Primary School	£400.00	£400
Haverhill Running Club	£350.00	£350
Haverhill Townswomens Guild	£300.00	£300
TJS Snookerbility	£300.00	£300

Cllr Byrne said she understood that groups were being advised to approach the ONE Haverhill community grants scheme for funding, and to apply to the Town Council if unsuccessful. She said that if this was the case, the Town Council should be aware of the reason(s) for applications being rejected by ONE Haverhill. She also expressed concern that the ONE Haverhill grants were being awarded by a largely unelected panel.

The Town Clerk said that issues of public accountability in ONE Haverhill were due for discussion at its next Board meeting, and he would report back following the meeting.

As funds remain available from the grants budget for 2012/13, councillors agreed that a further round of applications be accepted, before Christmas if possible.

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7. To Receive a Report on Recent and Future Activities

Nick Keeble, Arts and Leisure Manager, gave a verbal report on recent activities, including a video recording of the main summer events. Nick outlined the following:

- An estimated 15,000 to 18,000 people had attended summer events/activities organised by the Town Council. This figure rose to over 40,000 when the Jubilee and Olympic Torch Relay events were included;
- The weather had in the main been kind, with only the Family Fun Days affected;
- The video offered a record of the Torch Relay, the Big Day Out, the Big Bash, the Tribute Nights, the Family Fun Days, the Olympic Pavement and the Street Jam, as examples of the success of the summer events.

Cllr Byrne thanked Nick and his staff for their extraordinary hard work and success.

Cllr Stroud said that the events made him feel proud to come from Haverhill.

Cllr Ager said that the events were a great credit to Haverhill, and that the town's decorations were the best he had seen.

Councillors agreed a vote of thanks for the tremendous hard work by Nick and his team.

Reporting on future activities, Nick outlined the following:

- A CB9 Media Hub project called 'Hangar Sessions' (working title) was outlined, which aims to engage up to 45 NEET young people (aged 12-16), who are at risk of offending, in music and media production. At least 15 of these would be expected to achieve an Arts Award, and the project provides an opportunity to contribute to the V50 Award. Funding of £10,060 would be required. Cllr Stroud welcomed the proposal to become involved with this age group to take them away from anti-social behaviour. Cllr Byrne agreed that this was a worthwhile cause. Councillors agreed that the project should proceed subject to a successful application to ONE Haverhill for grant support, and that Michelle Brace (Media Hub Projects Officer) should be invited to a future meeting;
- The film programme is likely to include many that were released during the Olympics, which may mean that attendances will be down;
- A new website and Box Office system has been installed and will help from a customer service and marketing perspective;

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- The Halloween event this year will be on 26 October
- The Christmas programme is currently being worked on;
- The Family Christmas Fireworks night will be on 7 December.

Cllr Stroud thanked Nick for his report.

8. **Olympic/Paralympic Legacy for Haverhill**

Cllr Hawes introduced this item. He said that every town and parish is talking about legacy, and suggested a meeting of all sports clubs, a request to local papers to print a list of all sports clubs, and that West Suffolk Athletics Club should be brought back to Haverhill.

Nick Keeble outlined the following initiatives advised by Abbeycroft Leisure and the 2012 Legacy Co-ordinator:

- The Active St Edmundsbury Campaign aims to inspire people to increase their physical activity to improve their quality of life;
- The St Edmundsbury Sports Alliance – supports local clubs to build membership and support;
- A bid for Sportivate funding to support Sitting Volleyball, a Paralympic sport;
- The continuing Suffolk Schools Games;
- A bid to Sport England to improve opportunities for Disability Sport not only in Haverhill but across the whole County;
- Work with schools to increase access to their facilities for community use.

Nick also advised councillors of a likely volunteering legacy that may accrue from the Torch Relay and the Games.

Cllr Byrne welcomed these developments, but expressed concern that there may be a cost to participants that might discourage them.

Councillors discussed ways of recognising the efforts of local Paralympians, and asked that Warren Smyth (Abbeycroft) be invited to the next committee meeting.

9. **Haverhill Carnival**

Cllr Hawes introduced this item. He asked why the Town Council is not involved in the Haverhill Show, and suggested investigating the possibility of reviving the Haverhill Carnival.

Nick Keeble advised that the Haverhill Show was run by a single issue organisation, raising funds for Lamp H. He also advised that there had been previous attempts to revive the Carnival, with limited success, and that the Town Council lacked the capacity to do so within existing resources.

Councillors discussed the advantages and disadvantages of getting involved in a Carnival, and agreed that Cllr Hawes would write to the Haverhill Lions and the Rotary Club to ask whether they might do so, as happens in many other towns.

10. **Financial Report, Haverhill Arts Centre and Haverhill Arts & Leisure**

The Town Clerk presented the financial report, which councillors noted.

8. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 8.34pm.

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CLLR HAWES