

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 16th September at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Councillor P Hanlon (Chairman)
Deputy Mayor Councillor M Byrne
Councillor P Firman
Councillor E Goody
Councillor B McLatchy

Apologies: Councillor G Stroud
Nick Keeble (Arts and Leisure Manager)

Absent: Councillor M Martin
Councillor D Roach
Councillor D Russo

In Attendance: Mayor Roger André
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)

4 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Councillor P Hanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Lyn Davis from 3 Counties Transport.

MINUTES

LC14 /018 Apologies for Absence
The above apologies were noted.

LC14 /019 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations
None.

LC14 /020 Minutes of the Last Meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2014 were agreed as a true record.

ACTION

LC14 **Matters Arising**

/021

- a) LC14/008 – Councillor M Byrne reported that she had been contacted by a member of the public voicing concern about her questioning of Ms Savine at the previous meeting regarding Suffolk Mind services. She had replied to explain her reasons for quizzing Ms Savine; particularly in response to charges to clients. It had not been made clear in the funding application that another provider, Suffolk Wellbeing, had been contracted by SCC to provide the same services free of charge to the end user.

The Clerk reported that subsequent to the last meeting, Suffolk Mind had withdrawn their funding application.

- b) LC14/009 – The Clerk reported that he had met with representatives of the Haverhill Crafters Co-operative after the meeting and suggested some possible alternatives. It was clear that the burden presented by running a shop might prove difficult to sustain as many of the members were crafters as a hobby and both manning and stocking a shop sufficiently just to pay commercial rental was unsustainable.

Ideas such as taking space in an existing outlet, taking part in a covered market or enlarging their craft fairs at the Arts Centre were all welcomed by the group.

LC14 **Adjournment**

/022

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Forum. See Appendix 1 for Details.

The meeting was reconvened

LC14 **Presentation – 3CT Transport**

/023

Lyn Davis, Manager of 3CT Community Transport gave a verbal report to the Committee on the work of the organisation.

The Community Transport Service operates in Haverhill and the surrounding villages in Suffolk, South Cambs and Essex. The service has operated for about 15 years, first by Age Concern, then Suffolk County Council and since September 2013, by The Voluntary Network.

Services are provided by volunteer drivers and volunteer passenger assistants. There are 30+ volunteers. 3CT get grant support from Haverhill Town, Suffolk County and St Edmundsbury Borough Councils. There is increased demand for hospital transport.

3CT operates 6 vehicles. It also operates Haverhill Shopmobility Scheme.

As well as individual service users there are 68 local groups affiliated. Typical use of the service includes: A lady visiting her husband who is in a residential home. In this case the dial-a-ride finishing time was extended to enable her to feed him his meal; Transport to Icanho Brain

Injury Rehabilitation Unit in Stowmarket; Lunch club in local pubs; journeys to day centres. Community Transport is a lifeline to many rural communities.

LC14 **Determination of current grant applications**

/024 The Committee determined the following grants

- a) Cambridge Care Company - £500 towards the delivery of a Dementia Awareness evening in Haverhill. **DEFERRED** - The Committee asked that more information on the nature of this organisation was gained, as it appeared to be a business, not a charitable body.
- b) Haverhill Arts Group - £300 to support the costs of hiring the Arts Centre. Proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, Seconded by Councillor E Goody, the committee **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve this request.
- c) Suffolk Accident Rescue Service - £400 to support the work of volunteer doctors and paramedics in the Haverhill Area. Proposed by Councillor M Byrne, Seconded by B McLatchy, the committee **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve this request.
- d) 3 Counties Transport - £3,000 to maintain services in Haverhill. Proposed by Councillor M Byrne, Seconded by B McLatchy, the committee **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve this request.
- e) Community Action Suffolk (Haverhill Volunteer Centre) - £1,400 to promote and develop volunteering in Haverhill. **DEFERRED** - The Committee deferred this item as the applicant was unable to field a representative to this meeting.
- f) Haverhill & District Flower Club - £1000 to hold an annual flower competition at the Arts Centre. Proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve this request. The Club are requested to explore additional sources of funding elsewhere as match-funding for future applications.
- g) Wednesday for Women - £4,000 to support the running costs of the organisation, including hire of the Leiston Centre. Proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve this request.

LC14 **Reports from Grant Recipients**

/026 The Committee noted and accepted the report from REACH

The Clerk read out the letter and annual report. The Committee noted with pleasure that REACH were keeping the Council up to date with their great work, rather than just submitting the bare minimum to qualify for the next grant.

LC14 **Report on past and future Arts Centre and leisure activities**

/027 The Arts and Leisure Manager's report was tabled. (see appendix 2).

The Committee requested that the report be formed into a press release. Councillor Firman requested that the costs of each individual event was calculated in future, rather than be given an overall figure.

Clerk

Arts
Manager

The Clerk confirmed it was his intention that this be part of a deeper budget structure and reporting would be possible in future.

**Arts
Manager**

LC14 Date of Next Meeting

/028 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 18th November 2014.

LC14 Closure

/029 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:50pm

Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

Public Forum

Mr J Burns referred to grants given to bodies who required the funding in order to hire the Arts Centre facilities, which meant the money was paid out and then promptly paid back to the Council, which seemed an unnecessary route. Why not just up the Council grant to the Arts Centre and allow free use?

It was explained that in common with principal councils, it was important for transparency that rather than some groups get free use of a council facility, they openly applied for the cost of using it. This meant that the public could hear about these arrangements and comment upon them. It also ensured that the cost of operating went through the books of the organisations so their budget better reflected the real cost of operating. This becomes increasingly important in helping groups become self-sufficient through match-funding grants or raising their income to be less dependent on what used to be free. Attaching a value to hiring a facility also means it is not taken for granted quite so much as when given for free – the use of a ‘free’ venue does still cost money, just not that of the hirer. The current arrangements quantify that.

Mr J Burns asked whether, now Haverhill Volunteer Centre was part of Community Action Suffolk with its management structure, the grant was paying for the remote management or the service delivered in Haverhill. He thought they did a great job, but was concerned about how much money still went towards work in Haverhill.

It was explained that the applicant intended to attend the next meeting of this Committee in order to present their report on previous grants to meet the condition of offer of any further grant. The Clerk was aware that the matter raised by Mr Burns was one that the Volunteer Centre Manager was aware of and would address during her presentation.

No other members of the public wished to speak.

Appendix 2

Arts Manager Report

Arts & Leisure Report for meeting on 16 September 2014

Summer Events facts and figures

Summer in Haverhill programme successfully completed and delivered.

Date	Event	Attendance	Notes	Weather
13 July 2014	Historic Transport Rally	1500		Showery
20 July 2014	Summer Bash Sunday	5000	25 Haverhill based organisations involved	Sunny
30 July 2014	The Big Day Out	2600	20 agencies and organisations taking part	Sunny
2 August 2014	Tribute Night	2500		Cloudy
6 August 2014	Chalkstone Fun Day	900	Slightly down on last year due to weather?	Rainy then sunny
13 August 2014	Picnic in The Park	1200		Sunny
16 August 2014	Tribute Night	2500		Overcast
20 August 2014	Parkway Fun Day	1300		Sunny

Other events and activities during Summer in Haverhill, supported by Haverhill Town Council, included the Flower Club Flower Festival and the History Group 'Saving the 70s' which attracted more than 1000 people to their activities.

The Town Council engaged with more than 60 groups and agencies serving Haverhill and all activities were free to attend.

Arts Centre Programme

Film

Attendances for the regular film programme remain strong compared to the last three years. Event Cinema is bringing in a regular income for a diverse programme. We are looking at introducing Opera in 2015 – the English National Opera programme.

Live Events

The autumn programme has started well. Recent highlights include a sell-out performance of Big Girls Don't Cry (Frank Valli tribute) and a local band night organised with Sanofi as part of their St Nicholas Hospice fund raiser challenge which looks set to raise more than £700.

Future Events programme

Currently planning Halloween and Christmas events. Family Christmas Night / Fireworks and Lights Switch On is scheduled for Friday 5th December.

Nick Keeble

September 2014