

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 20th January 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
Councillor G Stroud

Apologies: None

Absent: Councillor M Martin
Councillor D Roach
Councillor D Russo

In Attendance: Councillor B Robbins
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)
Nick Keeble (Arts and Leisure Manager)

7 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

Councillor P Hanlon welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

LC15 /001 Apologies for Absence
No apologies had been received.

LC15 /002 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations
Councillor M Byrne declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in LC15/006(a), as the applicant was a close friend, and would not take part in the discussion on that item.

LC15 /003 Minutes of the Last Meeting
The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2014 were agreed as

ACTION

a true record.

LC15 **Matters Arising**

/004

- a) LC14/035 & 036 – Community Action Suffolk. The clerk had not heard any further from CAS.
- b) LC14/038 – Meeting regarding Environmental Budget. The meeting regarding planters in the High Street had been set for February 11th, invitees have been identified and invites will be despatched shortly.
- c) LC14/039 – Bus shelter request. The County Council had acknowledged our request, but we need to carry out a consultation with local people on whether there really is a need for a shelter.

LC15 **Adjournment**

/005

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

The meeting was reconvened

LC15 **Determination of current grant applications**

/006

The Committee determined the following grants

- a) Haverhill Sequence Dance Club - £400 to support the running costs of the group and day trip to great Yarmouth, followed by a Tea Dance. Proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor G Stroud, the Committee **RESOLVED** to approve this request.
- b) Haverhill Town Pastors - £400 towards the cost of continued expenses such as Townlink radios, insurance, room rental for equipment and base, continued training and water / chocolate which is provided free to those out on the streets in the early hours of the morning. Proposed by Councillor B McLatchy, seconded by Councillor E Goody, the committee **RESOLVED** to approve this request.
- c) Haverhill WI - £400 towards expenses for 2014/15, e.g. hall hire, speakers and insurance. Proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor B McLatchy, the committee **RESOLVED** to approve this request.

LC15 **Reports from Grant Recipients**

/007

- a) Reach - The Committee received the six-months report from Reach, noting the debt counselling provision was working most days of the week, such was the demand. The committee agreed that Reach do a tremendous job for people both in and out of work.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that the above report be accepted. **RESOLVED**

LC15 **Leisure and Community Budget**

/008

The Clerk presented the draft budget for 2015/16. In preparing the 2015/16 budget for the Full Council to consider, three main principles

have been followed:

1 - Clarity - the costs are apportioned to where they are incurred, so that the true cost of activities can be easily understood.

2 - Zero-based budgeting - income and expenditure are calculated from current or anticipated costs and the underlying formula for how the total are reached can be seen.

3 - Value for money - keeping council tax bills unchanged for 2015/16

As a result, two outcomes are apparent:

a - Much the same level of activity can be delivered within the existing budget envelope, if some modest increases in income can be achieved.

b - Budget limits will be a key consideration in event planning to ensure they are not exceeded.

4 - During 2015/16, we will look to deliver the full programme of events but aspire to beat the non-grant budget by 10% (£12k) without compromising the experience of the people of Haverhill.

5 - One issue that cannot be budgeted for, but will require a re-jig, is the need to levy fair rent. Currently the Town Hall Charity Trustee (The Council) is not itself a proper market rent. The Clerk is working with the Charity Commission to resolve this. Some or most of the grant given by the Council to the Town Hall Charity will become rent, and Hartseats may have to pay more rent than currently. This doesn't change the bottom line, but does provide transparency.

It was proposed by Councillor E Goody, seconded by Councillor M Byrne, that the budget be recommended to Full Council. **RESOLVED**
The Committee thanked the Clerk for preparing the budget.

LC15 **Report on past and future Arts Centre and leisure activities**

/009

a) The Arts and Leisure Manager's report was tabled. (see appendix 2). In particular, the excellent display on the history of the Arts Centre, produced by the Local History Group, was highlighted. Not only is the display very informative, but Mr Chris Gurteen gave a fascinating talk at the official opening.

b) Winter in Haverhill was successful. The Christmas lights switch on and fireworks had no reported police or first aid incidents. However, these events are run on a very low number of volunteers and we need to recruit more. It was not possible to circulate with collection buckets as a result. Councillors expressed concern at reports that the fairground rides were charging high fees and wondered if having more charity stalls would be a better option. The Arts Manager will review this and discuss prices with the fairground. The meeting also agreed that the shops should be consulted on whether this event was useful as a late-night shopping event

**Arts
Manager**

or should be seen as a community entertainment event.

The road closure for the event was as per Police instructions. Whilst some shops reported not knowing about the road closure, all had been delivered a flyer detailing this.

c) The organisers of the Summer Bash event felt running it over two venues overstretched resources, so they are planning a single-venue event for 2016.

d) Arts Centre programme was having mixed results. For film, the box office record has already been broken, with three months of the year still to go. Bookings for live shows are slower than we would like but overall there have been 10,000 attendances in the last three months alone.

e) The Arts Manager is also working with the SEBC Markets Officer to bring a continental market to Haverhill.

LC14 Date of Next Meeting

/041 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 10th March 2015.

LC14 Closure

/042 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:05pm

Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

Public Forum

Mr John Burns asked whether the Council do the accounts for the Summer Bash, as he had not heard anything about the charitable distribution of funds raised.

The Arts manager confirmed that the Town Council acts as banker and accounts for the funds raised by the independent organising committee. It is not in charge of the funds and these are not shown separately within the Council accounts, although a budget report could be drawn up if requested.. The organisers are constituting their committee and it is hoped that responsibility for funds can be transferred to them in due course – perhaps within the next 2 years. It will shortly be announced that approximately £4000 is being distributed between 6 organisations in the town.

DRAFT

Appendix 2

Arts Manager Report

HISTORY GROUP EXHIBITION

The Local History Group are currently staging 2 exhibitions in the Arts Centre. One charts the refurbishment of the Haverhill Town Hall to create the Arts Centre in the 1990's. The second shows the 25 years of Haverhill Town Council. Both have attracted widespread attention.

WINTER IN HAVERHILL 2014

The Winter in Haverhill programme was successfully and safely delivered. Family Christmas Night and the Fireworks were well attended. The Ice Skating Rink on the Market Square on Saturday 6 December was full all day.

ARTS CENTRE PROGRAMME

The pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk broke box office records with attendances of more than 3000 people at 16 performances. Centre Stage's Peter Pan is already sold out and they are considering adding an extra show. We have booked Cinderella in December 2015 adding a further 2 public performances.

A slow start to the year for the live programme but film audiences have exceeded expectations. Event (films, live, fayres and exhibitions) in the three months from November 2014-January 2015 attracted 10000 people

EVENTS IN THE YEAR AHEAD

The key dates for 2015 have already been identified and artists and attractions are being booked. We are talking with the Summer Bash Committee about the Town Council involvement with the 2015 event. We are looking to work with St Edmundsbury Borough Council on extending the number of outdoor Theatre shows in the summer, maybe using the refurbished Churchyard. We are also talking with SEBC Markets Development Manager about projects in 2015.

Nick Keeble - January 2015