

# Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 8.25pm at the Leiston Centre,  
Haverhill



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:** Mayor Councillor B McLatchy  
Councillor J Burns (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor M Byrne  
Councillor P Fox  
Councillor P Hanlon

**Apologies:** Councillor A Williams  
Councillor W Yang

**Absent:** None

**In Attendance:** Councillor J Crooks  
Councillor Q Fox  
Councillor D Roach  
Councillor B Robbins  
Councillor I McLatchy  
Colin Poole (Town Clerk)  
Nick Keeble (Arts and Leisure Manager)  
Alan Boreham (Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union)

5 members of the public were present.

### Welcome:

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded. The Mayor also paid tribute to County and Borough Councillor Tim Marks, Town Mayor 2004-2006, who sadly passed away on Monday.

### MINUTES

**LC16 /001** Apologies for Absence  
Apologies had been received from Cllr A Williams and Cllr W Yang, who had attended at the advertised time but was unable to stay for the delayed start.

**LC16 /002** Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations  
Item LC16/005  
Cllr M Byrne, Non-Pecuniary Interest: Eastern Savings & Loan Credit Union  
Cllr A Brown, Non Pecuniary Interest: Eastern Savings & Loan Credit Union

**LC16 /003** Minutes of the Last Meeting  
It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor P Fox, that the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 be agreed as a true record.  
**RESOLVED**

### ACTION

**LC16** **Matters Arising**  
**/004** No matters were arising.

**LC16** **Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union**  
**/005** Mr Alan Boreham provided a verbal report on the work of the credit union. The Union supported initiatives such as the anti-loan sharks week in 2014. It has an access point in the Havebury offices opposite the Arts Centre which has a steady flow of customers. A Credit Union is an ethical not-for-profit organisation registered with and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. It is regulated to the same level as banks but without the resources. When rules tighten for the banks, the credit unions have to meet those changes too. This is done with a staff team of volunteers backed by a small number of paid staff. Previously Haverhill had a paid development officer but when the funding lapsed and the role ceased, the momentum of recruiting members was lost. The funding application is to help re-establish this 20-hour post.

The Credit Union has 200 members locally and wants to grow this as well as recruit more volunteers to run itself. If it can achieve a critical mass, then it won't need further pump-priming.

As well as being funded by grants, the Union gains income from the interest it charges on loans. In years where there is an excess of income over expenditure the surplus is distributed as a dividend. This has happened five times in the last seven years. Economies of scale are also being sought. Through merger, the Union now covers three counties.

**LC16** **Public Forum**  
**/006** Questions were asked of Mr Boreham. The answers are incorporated in the above report.

**LC16** **Determination of current grant applications**  
**/007** The Committee determined the following grants  
a) **Haverhill Steering Group – Eastern Savings and Loan Credit Union**  
- **£5000** to promote small-scale saving and borrowing to combat high interest payday and doorstep lending. It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Byrne to approve this request.  
**RESOLVED**

**LC15** **Reports from Grant Recipients**  
**/067** The Clerk will provide details of the Family History Group report at the next meeting.

**LC15** **Feedback on Christmas Lights, tree and winter event**  
**/068** The Committee reviewed the Survey Monkey responses to our feedback questionnaire. 139 responses had been received. The majority appeared to see this as primarily as a fireworks event, but more than a third of respondents said they did shopping too. The bucket collection raised £297 – much of this due to the enthusiastic work of the Mayor. It was difficult to 'catch' everyone after the event so this will be looked at for next year. We need to gather more volunteers for this event.

Generally the survey responses were favourable, with the exception of the tree, which we fully understand as it was vandalised a few days after the grand switch-on and was subsequently short of lights. Whilst we share the opinion of many regarding how good trees look with lights hanging vertically rather than wrapped around the tree, this is standard even for the main London trees. We will look at what we can do this year.

Our suggestion of a continental winter market was rated highly in the survey. Mr Keeble will discuss this with the market Development Officer and local traders. We also need to think about encouraging more shops to stay open longer. Bringing back the ice rink on the Saturday may bring in more shoppers too.

The survey results are appended to the minutes. Mayor McLatchy thanked all the staff involved in making the evening so successful.

**LC15 High Street Planters Sponsorship programme**

**/069** The Clerk outlined the proposal for seeking sponsorship of the planter sin the High Street. The Committee was asked whether they wished to test the water in the first year with a below cost price offer, or seek to make a surplus. It was agreed that at least cost price should be covered. There would be an early-bird rate to encourage take up. Un-sponsored planters would be badged as sponsored by the Town Council. It was proposed by Councillor M Byrne, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the sponsorship programme be implemented.

**RESOLVED**

**LC16 The Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**/010** It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor A brown, that Haverhill Town Council take part in the beacon event on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

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

**/070** The Arts and Leisure Manager tabled a report. See appendix 1. Members asked that future reports be circulated with the agenda. The Mayor thanked Mr Keeble on behalf of the Council for the excellent work he and his team do for the town.

Councillors asked that the general mailing list be reviewed in order to see if any postage costs can be saved. The Centre Stage projectors can be installed as soon as they are provided, or can be purchased by the Council if the funds are passed over.

**LC15 Date of Next Meeting**

**/071** It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The venue would be confirmed closer to the time as the Arts Centre would be closed for refurbishment.

**LC15 Closure**

**/072** The meeting was declared closed at 9:45pm.

**Mr Keeble**

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date .....

## Arts & Leisure Report for meeting on 5 January 2016



### WINTER IN HAVERHILL 2015

The Winter in Haverhill programme of events was well supported and received.



The main event was the Family Christmas Night and fireworks which was incident and accident free. There was a general

satisfaction with the town centre event and a high level of praise for the fireworks display. Discussions are underway about how to build on the success of the events at the current time.

### ARTS CENTRE PROGRAMME

The year finished strongly with a record box office for the pantomime Cinderella. 3000 people came to the public performances and feedback was excellent. Box office takings were up by 13%. There were 13% more bookers, website sales were up by 14% and now account for 54% of sales.

There were also sell out performances of The Indians (country music), Kenneth Branagh's A Winter Tale, A Touch of Holly at Christmas (tribute show) and A Night of 70s and 80s Soul Funk and Disco (which raised £1400 for Breast Cancer Care and for a Bolshoi Ballet screening of The Nutcracker. There was also strong support for Craft Fairs and music events.

Gross Income from Cinema Box Office receipts in the first 9 months of this financial year has exceeded that of full year's income in the financial year 2008-2009 (Cineworld opening).

The next programme has been printed and mailed and includes comedian Omid Djalili, an Easter pantomime, The Barron Knights, and the Centre Stage Pantomime Rapunzel. The film programme includes a

number of films tipped for the Oscars including Joy, Room and Carol.

## **TOWN COUNCIL PROGRAMME FOR 2016**

Key dates are currently being identified for the 2016 programme of events. These will be presented to the Leisure & Community Committee following approval of the 2016-2017 Budget.

## **ARTS CENTRE REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

Councillors will be aware that we are currently undertaking work for an extensive refurbishment of parts of the Arts Centre. Much of the work is replacement of aging, failing technical equipment and part is to upgrade the decoration and upgrade resources in public areas – much of which is more than 20 years old. The result of the refurbishment should see the Centre through the next 20 years and beyond.

### **House Lighting / Main Hall lighting**

The wiring for the house lighting system in the main hall has been fitted and the new lights will be installed this week 16 and commissioned next week.

### **Auditorium PA**

Installation of the new PA will take place over the next week including re-routing wiring and resiting of amp racks and other equipment.

### **The Café, Studio and Bar**

Using a design based on a concept from one of the West Suffolk College Interior Design students, there will be an extensive

refurbishment of three key areas in the Arts Centre. This will be carried out in 2 phases.

**Café** – the café is undergoing extensive refurbishment at the current time and will be re-opened to the public on Saturday 16 January.

**Studio** – The studio has been redecorated and new flooring will be installed next week along with a fixed projector and screen. In phase 2 there will be work done on the lighting and the display areas.

The Bar will be included in Phase 2 of the works in March 2016. The walls will be redecorated and new flooring put down. The seating and tables will be replaced and reconfigured.

By the end of March the majority of the public access spaces will have been decorated and refurbished.

### **Outside works**

The guttering has been cleared, refurbished and decorated and a pigeon deterrent has been installed on the gutters. The last part of the current outside works will be to install pigeon deterrents on the ridge of the roof to deter the pigeons from residing on the building entirely.

Work will be carried out to carry out on the lightning conductor. Scaffolding has been removed from the front of the building the remainder will be taken down in the next fortnight.

### **Nick Keeble - January 2016.**