

Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 21st May 2019 at 8.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre,
High Street, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8AR



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor J Burns (Chairman)
Councillor A Brown
Councillor P Firman
Councillor J Mason
Councillor D Smith
Councillor L Smith

Apologies: Councillor M Marks
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager

Absent: Councillor P Fox (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor D Roach

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk

6 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised members of the public attending that the meeting was being recorded.

MINUTES

LC19 /028 Apologies for Absence
The above apologies were noted.

LC19 /029 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

Cllr J Mason	Pecuniary Interest	LC19/035a Employee of the Applicant body
Cllr D Smith	Non-pecuniary Interest	LC19/035a Has received an application for funding for this project, in a different civic capacity.
Cllr D Smith	Non-pecuniary Interest	LC19/035d Applicant is known to the Member

LC19 /030 Minutes of the Last Meeting
It was proposed by Councillor A Brown, seconded by Councillor J Mason that minutes of the meeting held 5th March 2019 be agreed as a true record.
RESOLVED

ACTION

LC19 Actions arising from the minutes

/031 LC19/023 – Engagement in Local Council Elections: The access to the polling station at Parkway was unclear, with people not aware they had to walk three-quarters of the way around the building to vote. The Clerk was asked to flag this up with West Suffolk.

CLERK

LC19 Public Forum

/032 No member of the public wished to speak.

LC19 Matters to Report

/033 Councillor J Mason asked for an update on the provision of bins at the BMX track. The Clerk confirmed these had been ordered. Councillor J Burns advised that the District Council had requested suggestions for bin locations in the High Street. Several suggestions were made. The Clerk was asked to circulate the request to all Councillors for comment.

CLERK

LC19 Haverhill Breastfeeding Friends

/034 Mrs Virginia Sullivan gave a presentation explaining how last year's grant had supported the group and how the group supports its members. Four members gave their testimonies as to how the group had helped them personally, by way of example. The Councillors noted that the breastfeeding counsellors (BFCs) were able to give more time to mothers than was possible within the NHS maternity provision. Two of the witnesses were midwives themselves but described the BFCs as having more knowledge on getting babies to suckle than they themselves did. The Mayor thanked the group for their presentation.

LC19 Determination of current grant applications

/035 The following grants were considered following representations from several of the applicants, gratefully received by the committee.

Requesting Group	Cause	Amount requested	Amount Awarded
a) Castle Manor Academy	Upgrade and update the lighting in Drama Studio so as to be fully functional to promote the arts and achieve the nationally recognized Art mark	£5,636.58	Deferred to a future meeting to enable Nick Keeble to comment
b) H&D Local History Group	Assistance with the operating costs of the History Centre	£3,000	£3000
c) Haverhill Breastfeeding Friends	To continue support for Breastfeeding Councillors	£3,120	£3120
d) Haverhill Emergency Services Cadets	Support the social development of young people and to learn about the Police and Fire Service	£380	£400 to contribute towards transport costs as well
e) Haverhill Townswomen's Guild	Trip to Felixstowe on Community Bus to celebrate 90 th Anniversary of foundation, with lunch	£210	£210
f) Haverhill Youth & Community Band	To be used towards costs for attending Haverhill Youth Brass Solo Festival	£144	£144
g) Rotary Kidsout Western	For disabled or disadvantaged children to take part in a one day event at Wimpole Hall	£500	£500

LC19 Reports from Grant Recipients

/036 Councillors noted reports from Haverhill Silver Band and SARS had been circulated earlier, Haverhill Breastfeeding Friends had just given a report through their presentation.

LC19 Youth Strategy Report

/037

- a) **Youth Skills Project Report** See appendix 2
The committee recorded their thanks to Karen Chapple and Dan Cooke for their work on this project and the quality of the reports submitted. The Committee also asked that Karen and Dan be congratulated for their successful funding applications and particularly on being given the University of Suffolk runner's up award for the "Health and Wellbeing Impact" Award.
- b) **Youth Work (OTS) Report** There was no written report this month. The OTS van had been out and about, the Chill-Out Zone continued to be well-attended.
- c) **Youth Strategy Report** Of matters not already covered, the 'Have You' social media project was being given a new injection of momentum to get the project up and running.
- d) **BMX Track update** A quote had been accepted for the tarmacking of the gateway. Bins had been ordered from the District Council. A volunteer had come forward to maintain the grass until such time as the Community Warden is in post.

LC19 Date of Next Meeting

/041

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9th July 2019 at the Arts Centre.

LC19 Closure

/042

The meeting was declared closed at 21:16pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Appendix 1

Youth Skills Report

Karen Chapple

During April and May our department has worked on the following;

- Rolling out sessions for our Adult Signpost Project, these clients are our furthest away from work clients
- Supporting clients in a job club environment with those clients that are work ready
- Working on our Apprenticeship Project, both with clients and local businesses to provide a matching service, by filling vacancies and securing employment for those that are a match.
- Organising sessions with our Junior Signpost clients to build their confidence and support them to feel less anxious
- Working with secondary Academy schools and Churchill School to share information and inform their students, to increase their knowledge of the local labour market and further education pathways to support them to take positive next steps
- Applying for grants to enable us to fund our projects
- Offering a bespoke support service and individual learning plans to our case load of individuals to ensure targeted progression takes place

Apprenticeship Project

Since the start of the project we have been involved with supporting over 289 apprenticeship vacancies. In the last couple of weeks, we have visited Samuel Ward Academy, Castle Manor Academy and Churchill Free School and shared information about our Apprenticeship Project. We are now actively encouraging local businesses to look at their staffing levels and asking them to consider the apprenticeship route when they recruit. We have some very bright local talent who will be shortly leaving school and available to our local businesses. We will actively go and find suitable placements to suit our young person's skill set. We hope to provide the very best matching service so that both parties fully benefit from our service.

The Haverhill Apprenticeship Fair was hosted this year by West Suffolk College in Haverhill and took place during National Apprenticeship Week. We supported this event and felt that it was worthwhile in allowing businesses and potential employees to come together.

We attended and presented at a "Networking Business Event" hosted by Menta. The presentation highlighted our project and explained how the apprenticeship scheme can be extremely beneficial to our local businesses and also to our young local talent.

We look forward to our project coming into its busiest period very shortly. We aim to maximise this opportunity with an increased social media presence. We currently use Facebook, Instagram, Snap chat and twitter.

Casework with Young People

Since April the 1st we have supported and met up with 21 young people on a 1-2-1 basis. We regularly engage with our clients once they are part of our casework.

Some have been referred to WEA Cooking Course taking place at our Community Kitchen at the Leiston Centre. Others have been referred to an Art Project again delivered by WEA. We have successfully matched some to jobs/apprenticeships/further education courses.

In addition, we have referred some to the LifeLink project and have had some referrals back. We have provided the employment engagement support to their clients. It has also enabled us to listen out for gaps in community projects and potentially look for solutions for our young clientele.

School Partnership Work

We have regularly visited both Samuel Ward and Castle Manor Academy and have worked out a package of support to offer this year's school leavers. In partnership with Justine Rice, Early Help Team employed by Suffolk County Council, we have carried out some bespoke work. Together we have carried out both group work and 1-2 -1 sessions with over 60 earmarked NEET students since September. We have supported students as well as their parents to ensure there is a smooth transition between school and next steps.

We are working smartly with our school leavers and are offering the best possible support to try and ensure our 16-18 NEET figure is lower than ever.

It was good to see our work highlighted in a recent OFSTED Report that spoke favourably about this partnership working.

Training Courses

The following courses have been sourced and are taking place in Haverhill. We have identified a need for this training to be delivered locally. We have had to ensure that the courses have a minimum of 12 starters on each course, for it to be viable to the training providers.

WEA Healthy Cooking Programme, delivered to our Adult Signpost Group

The write up below was written by Rachel Turner WEA Education Coordinator Suffolk to enable her to nominate us for the Suffolk Adult Group/Leaver Awards. The group Adult Signpost achieved runners up of the "Health and Well-being Impact Award" from the University of Suffolk"

Adult Signpost run by Karen Chapple in Haverhill, is an inspiring project who works with a group of adults, at risk of becoming marginalised and socially excluded due to mental health and anxiety problems.

Students attending the group have benefited significantly from a range of health and wellbeing courses to encourage social inclusion and confidence building, assisting them to integrate into the wider community. They have learnt essential nutrition and healthy eating skills to develop awareness and practical knowledge to enable an active involvement in society, the world of work and higher education.

This not only has an impact on the individuals involved but also their family, friends and the local community who benefit from their new skills and lifestyle changes. Members of Adult Signpost have now been given the confidence to progress onto the next steps to learning by creating a nurturing learning environment, looking out for each other both within the learning sessions and outside of the classroom. The

Adult Signpost group of learners have broken down barriers to achieve amazing things, working together as a group and supporting each other through health and wellbeing learning opportunities to guide and encourage each other towards opportunities for success. People within the group are now volunteering on other courses and have the confidence to plan and structure their own learning opportunities to meet individual needs.

The dedication of the health and wellbeing tutors and the support of Karen and Dan from the Town Council who provide the venue and materials, and run the project mean students are supported to persist in their learning, even when they doubt their own potential to succeed. Although afraid at first, students have the opportunity to gain confidence through their learning experience and the support of experienced tutors and fellow students. The health and wellbeing courses delivered by the WEA are an excellent example of overcoming personal difficulties and barriers to succeed, leading to future Health and Wellbeing courses such as community health projects.

This success of learning has motivated and inspired other groups to engage in 'Learning to Cook' classes. Others are now keen to learn new skills, make new friends, change lifestyles and most importantly, have fun.

Princes Trust, Inspire Suffolk

A team of Haverhill young people completed this 12 week team building programme delivered in Haverhill and without doubt gained from the overall experience. The residential element was the favourite of many of the students. It was good to see the Churchill School benefitting from a sensory garden that the team organised as their community project. We will continue to work with this group of young people and offer the support they need to continue their journey into success

Project U

Delivered by WSC for 16-18-year olds in Haverhill. They report currently they have 12 clients still remaining on the programme which is due to finish in June. They are expecting some positive results both in Maths and English Functional Skills and all will receive achievement certificates.

Chidcare Traineeship

This is offered by WSC a taster 6 week course for those interested in childcare and will offer a stepping stone to a full-time course in the future.

Lack of training

We have no training provision currently for 16-18-year-old NEET young people available in Haverhill. West Suffolk College decided in Jan that they would not offer any further intakes of students on to their Project U Course that was due to intake and run until August, for funding reasons. We have enquired what suitable courses are currently running in Bury St Edmunds but have been told there is nothing at present. We are now struggling to offer any course for our current NEET 16-18-year olds not only in Haverhill but also in Bury St Edmunds. We need to learn from this and ask the college for a firm written offer upfront, in the future that is then adhered to if we are going to offer a solution to improving our NEET figures in 2019/20.

We are speaking to Inspire Suffolk Training and are awaiting some proposals on training from them to be delivered as soon as possible. We hope to find an alternative to be delivered in Haverhill for this particular client group.

Signpost Projects

Junior Signpost

The Haverhill Community Trust was granted the sum of £6,030.00 for the financial year of 2018/2019 to deliver “Provision of a safe environment for young, vulnerable people, who may have additional needs and other wellbeing issues”. The provision was to provide 12 young people with “an opportunity to try out, new activities and, hopefully, develop them into lifelong hobbies, interests and skills.” In a 12-month period, 3 courses were to be delivered, with each course taking place over 10 sessions for a 10-week period at least one per week.

For this project to be a success, several outcomes were agreed upon; these were:

- Increased sense of worth and belonging,
- Increased confidence and motivation,
- Improved communication and better equipped young people who are more open about their feelings and more conscious of their emotions,
- Peer support and positive relationships,
- Improved recognition of mood and coping strategies.

Junior Signpost is a project which primarily targets 13-16-year olds who have a range of wellbeing issues - these included: high anxiety, low mood, low self-confidence, low self-esteem, ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) and ADHD. Most also struggled to form and maintain friendships.

For our final course, we decided to work with our previous cohort of young people whilst adding in a few new members. At present, we have 8 young people consistently participating, with a further 2 young people dipping in and out. This we decided was a number that allowed us to really offer the support and service we have become proud of.

All 10 young people identified as female with 2 being new participants and 8 being previous participants. Of these, with 4 young people being foster children and 2 actively engaging with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) but all of these young people exhibited wellbeing issues that fit within the criteria of our project. In total we have worked with over 25 different clients over the 3 programmes.

Our delivery period will end in May 2019. For this course, we purposefully engaged with our young people to agree on activities that they enjoyed the most – these were arts/crafts team building games and cooking sessions at the Leiston Centre. These included:

- Trying out healthier recipes – baking delicious physalis cookies
- Exploring mood – creating beautiful masks representing the young person
- Thinking about what we want to change – crafting bespoke plaques with helpful messages.
- Dodge Ball and competitive team games

The calming sessions enabled us to really bond with our young people, fostering a safe atmosphere which gave them the chance to speak openly about themselves, their pasts and their own issues. The young people seemed very upset to hear that our latest programme was ending, but they were equally excited about our upcoming summer programme. We have continued to engage with parents/carers/guardians, some of which have even recommended us to other parents and look forward to the continued supported and positive feedback that they have provided us

Case Study Junior Signpost

NB is a 14-year-old female who has engaged with us in our projects, for just under a year. She was referred to us via her teachers at school and attended every session offered since of summer programme. NB's personal circumstances have meant that she has, unfortunately, depression, anxiety as well as very little confidence and self-esteem – often making self-deprecating 'jokes' about herself. She is currently working with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) to work on improving her mental health. Junior Signpost has provided a means of backing up what has learnt with her support team, even sharing some of her insights with our young people. She has been quite open and honest about her issues and this has allowed us to chat openly about a range of issues within the group.

For NB, Junior Signpost has provided an opportunity for her to continue to explore her wellbeing issues. She has fostered new relationships with other participants, has become more conscious of who she is as a person and is taking small steps towards coping with her difficulties. We have built a good relationship with NB and her step-mother – working together to ensure that NB has support in our sessions to feel safe. As such, this relationship has set a high standard of what we should aim for in the future - in engaging with parents/carers/guardians when working with young people. We look forward to continuing to support NB to conquer barriers and offer her a safe environment that she enjoys and feels comfortable in.

Adult Signpost 16-24years

After the successful completion of the healthy cooking programme our clients decided they would like to continue with the creative theme and try an art course. WEA obliged and speedily found us an art tutor. We are now 3 weeks into this course. So far, our clients have been fully engaged and have shown an infectious enthusiasm that has spread through the group even to those that have struggled previously with low mood. This will be initially a 6-week project. We currently have 12 clients on this course.

Grants Update

Secured:

CSA- £3360 we will receive shortly; Persimmon –£1000 just received

Grants Submitted:

Children in Need £29,820 (over 3 years)

Grant Applications being prepared:

Lift LEP Grant £3500

Case Study from Job Club

GJ is a 16-year-old, young woman who is mature, hard-working yet who suffers from dyslexia and a lack of self-confidence. She came to see us just before leaving school last year, whilst working on a Saturday at a local supermarket, as she had an interest in apprenticeships.

Following her boyfriend engaging with us and securing a full-time job, she began engaging with us. She revealed that she wanted to pursue a career in the care sector. We spent some time working on her CV and then contacted a local employer – organising some work experience for her to get a feel of the industry. After a few days, GJ was offered an apprenticeship on the spot.

GJ is a prime example of how important a little bit of support and time-investment can be on the futures of our young people. Helping them achieve their goals in her “dream job “as she refers to it.

Looking ahead,

We will:

- continue to offer our pop-in Job Hub and support young people with various supportive needs. We will support job applications and CV creation. We will offer advice and guidance and suggest progression routes that are suitable to individuals.
- contact local businesses and asking that they look at their staffing levels to see if they may be able to accommodate a 2019 school leaver.
- ensure we have strong pathways of local training agreed with training providers to ensure we meet the needs of our clients on a local level. We will look at getting a written agreement from training providers to ensure promise of delivery goes ahead.
- await to hear the outcome of our “Children in Need” application which will allow us to continue to work on our established projects.
- arrange, with both academies and the early help team at Suffolk County Council, an event that will take place centrally in town on a date near to GCSE results day. This will enable us in partnership to offer support to students that need to look at alternative pathways to their planned one, because of them receiving GCSE results not as they were predicted.
- look forward to working out of new premises the additional space will give us more flexibility on what we can deliver.
- apply for a LIFT Grant which we hope will enable us to work with young lone parents

Karen Chapple
Youth Skills Manager
15/05/2019