

# Haverhill Town Council

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

## LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.00pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill, Suffolk CB9 8AR



**HAVERHILL**  
TOWN COUNCIL

**Present:** Mayor J Burns (Chairman)

Councillor M Marks  
Councillor J Mason  
Councillor L Miller-Jones  
Councillor D Smith  
Councillor L Smith

**Apologies:** Councillor P Fox (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor A Brown  
Councillor P Firman

**Absent:** Councillor D Roach

**In Attendance:** Colin Poole, Town Clerk  
Vicky Phillips, Assistant Town Clerk  
Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager

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 /040** Apologies for Absence  
The above apologies were noted.

**LC19 /041** Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensations

Cllr J Mason	Non-Pecuniary Interest	LC19/049a Employee of the Applicant body
Cllr D Smith	Non-pecuniary Interest	LC19/049a Has received an application for funding for this project, in a different civic capacity.

**LC19 /042** Minutes of the Last Meeting  
It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor L Smith that minutes of the meeting held 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 be agreed as a true record.

**RESOLVED**

**ACTION**

**LC19 Actions arising from the minutes**

**/043** LC19/029 – Councillor J Mason advised that he was mistaken in declaring a pecuniary interest in LC19/035a at the last meeting; he now considered the matter a non-pecuniary interest.

**NOTED**

LC19/033 – The new bins for the BMX Track had not yet been delivered by WSDC. It was noted that the Haverhill team are very short-staff and a number of bins are not being emptied at the moment.

District Councillors agreed to check their wards and make individual representations to the District if there are issues in their ward.

*Post meeting note: WSDC have confirmed that staff from Haverhill were drafted temporarily to Brandon to assist preparations for their Anglia in Bloom judging.*

**LC19 Public Forum**

**/044** Resident: Endorsed the grant application for the Stroke Support group, as a member he found it very valuable. The new booking regime for the community room at the fire station meant long-term bookings were not possible.

**LC19 Castle Manor Academy Grant Application**

**/045** Mr Paul Gardiner, Miss Sophie Street and Mr Kian Reeve provided a short presentation and answered questions in respect of the request for grant support bringing their drama studio equipment up to date. They have had financial input from the school replacing the stage working lights and £2000 was raised through the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. Nick Keeble, Arts & Leisure Manager, advised there was clear public benefit in that community groups such as the Mayes School of performing Arts also used the studio.

It was proposed by Councillor M Marks, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones, that £2,697.15 be granted towards updating the lighting rig in the drama studio.

**RESOLVED**

The Mayor thanked Mr Gardiner, Sophie and Kian for their presentation.

**LC19 Haverhill Urban Sports Park**

**/046** Mr Will Wright, Families and Community Officer at WSDC gave a presentation on behalf of the Youth Advisory Group presenting the results of a survey of opinions regarding the proposed provision of an urban sports park. This would consist of a new skate park and parkour course.

The findings of the survey indicated that there was clear support for this proposal. The proposed location at the Chalkstone Community Open Space also met with approval.

Councillors welcomed the proposals and voiced support for the existing skate park to be retained and not removed.

It was proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor M Marks that it be recommended to Full Council that a user group be set up to further the development of proposals for an urban sports park.

**RESOLVED**

The Mayor thanked Mr Wright for his presentation. Mr Wright offered to be a member of a user group as he had been involved in the successful Newmarket development of a skate park.

**LC19 Christmas Lights Switch on 2019**

**/047** The meeting considered the arrangements for the Christmas lights switch

on event for 2019. The Council were aware of concerns being raised in respect of diesel fumes from fairground rides and Councillors shared the Clerk's concern about the weight of these vehicles on the re-laid paving stones in the High Street. Local businesses had expressed a desire for the opportunity for local businesses to have stalls in the High Street and for more charity stalls. They also expressed concern that bought-in Christmas markets impacted on their own sales.

The meeting asked that Nick Keeble contact the fairground rides owner to explore options, including whether the fairground can work off of mains supplies, to avoid using diesel generators. Also to explore the possibility of the fairground setting up on the market square. This will necessitate co-operation from the market stall holders on the Friday, to set up on the High Street, which would supplement the charity/business market anyway.

Councillors very much welcomed the involvement of businesses, but did not accept that the one-off Christmas market could seriously impact on local business as they were selling different wares. It was very much down to businesses to take positive steps to make the most of the family Christmas night and the Christmas in Haverhill events. Whilst there was limited time to do much about the format of this year, the town centre business group would be asked to lead on enlisting businesses to take part.

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones, that a reference group be set up to follow the work of the Arts & Leisure Manager in organising the 2019 event, in order to oversee changes for 2020.

**RESOLVED**

The committee to consist of Councillors L Miller-Jones, J Burns and J Mason.

Councillors asked that the option of putting the tree in front of the church be investigated.

Nick Keeble

Nick Keeble

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**LC19 /048 Report on past and future Arts Centre and Leisure Activity**

Nick Keeble referred Councillors to his report. (see Appendix 1)  
Councillors endorsed Mr Keeble's proposals to start the beer festival on bank holiday Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The Spoken Word project was a great success which we hope will result in a regular programme of spoken word activity in Haverhill. See report, appendix 2)

**LC19 /049 Determination of current grant applications**

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	£2,697.15
b) Haverhill Stroke Support Group	Contribution towards weekly hire of the Arts Centre Studio, after the need to relocate from the Fire Station Community Room.	£1,650	£1,650
c) Memories are Golden Community Hub	Towards refurbishment of Old parkway Middle School classroom to house a day care hub	£1,806.64	Defer & invite to present their plans.

**LC19 Reports from Grant Recipients**

**/050** Councillors noted the report from the Haverhill Youth & Community Band.  
**NOTED.**

**LC19 Youth Strategy Report**

- /051**
- a) **Youth Skills Project Report** Councillors deferred this report to the next meeting
  - b) **Youth Work (OTS) Report** There was no written report this month. The Senior Youth Worker had taken over as manager of The Zone. The Clerk will arrange a new reporting structure.
  - 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** In addition to matters covered earlier, the contractor is awaited on-site to tarmac the entrance.

**LC19 Date of Next Meeting**

**/052** It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the Arts Centre, following the Planning Committee.

**LC19 Closure**

**/053** The meeting was declared closed at 21:17pm.

**CLERK**

Signed .....  
**Chairman**

Date .....

## Appendix 1- Art and Leisure Manager Report

Nick Keeble



### ARMED FORCES DAY

Armed Forces Day in Haverhill took place on Saturday 29 June 2019. A committee of representatives from Haverhill Town Council, Haverhill Family History Group, Royal British Legion and St Mary's Church met to develop the activities. A very warm day, we invited local D-Day veterans as our VIP guests and had 2 come along and had tea with the Mayor. An extended route saw the parade led by the Phoenix Pipe and Drum Band with RBL members, veterans, Emergency Cadets and Army Cadets marching through the High Street, Queen Street and Queens Square before flags of the 3 services were raised and the Town Mayor delivered a speech. This was followed by a piper playing a lament from the top of St Mary's Church tower – a first we believe! The event attracted large numbers of people and has received much positive feedback on the day and following the event. Entertainment was provided by Haverhill Sequence Dancers, the Apple Blossom Trio and Phoenix Pipe & Drum Band. The date for Armed Forces Day 2020 is Saturday 27 June 2020.

Groups and individuals who took part included: Haverhill & District Family History Group, Haverhill & District Royal British Legion, Haverhill Army Cadet Force, Haverhill Emergency Cadets, St John Ambulance, Haverhill Sequence Dancers, Friends of St Mary's Church, West Suffolk Council Markets, St Mary's Church, Blind Veterans Association, Suffolk Regiment Living History Society, Wrattling Common Memorial Association, Stradishall Aviation Society, Martin Eaton, Robert Clayden (vehicles) Mick Taylor (memorabilia).

### WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

During June and July, the Arts Centre has increased engagement with local schools. 50 students took part in spoken word / rap workshops with a further 300 attending assemblies. 199 pupils from Westfield, Place Farm and Coupals took part in a Schools Music Day (with 160 family members in the audience), 44 Special Needs pupils from Granta School attended a film screening. More than 100 students are involved in performing / catering for Castle Manor Academy's Local Heroes evening with 80 in the audience, 170 Samuel Ward students will attend their Leavers Prom and 60 St Felix Students will take part in their Leavers Celebration with an audience of 200 family members. We also had 150 pre-school children attend performance of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

### SUMMER IN HAVERHILL

The Summer in Haverhill 2019 brochure has been published and is being distributed.

### BEER WEEKEND 2020

The Haverhill Beer Weekend has been successfully promoted over the past 3 years on May Bank Holiday weekend on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday leading up to Bank Holiday Monday. Keeping the same weekend is important to establish regularity for events. As the government have changed the May Bank Holiday to a Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May a decision needs to be made regarding the timing of the Weekend

The two options would appear to be: move the event to the weekend before and accept that the Monday will not be a Bank Holiday running from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May OR keep the event on 'Bank Holiday weekend' starting on either the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May or lunchtime of Friday 9<sup>th</sup>

May and continuing until Saturday night or Sunday lunchtime. There would be a potential cost implication of staff working on Bank Holiday Friday (although we are hoping to attract more volunteers to work on the event in 2020). Councillors opinion is sought on this matter.

### **ARTS CENTRE 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The Arts Centre has been open for 25 years on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. We are planning a short exhibition in the Gallery and will be looking at how we can use the opportunity to get maximum publicity for what goes on at the Centre. There are currently no plans for any event to celebrate this although there may be the opportunity for a Mayoral happening of some kind to celebrate the anniversary.

### **Arts Centre BUILDING UPDATE**

We have recently had a new fire alarm fitted throughout the building. The system is addressable and is able to locate which individual detector has been activated rather than indicate a zone. There are other improvements too. More door hold backs have been linked into the fire alarm system and additional sounders have been added along with detectors which have lights on should there be a power cut.

The Arts Centre auditorium will be 'shut down' from Saturday 3 August to Sunday 11 August for testing and maintenance.

### **Arts Centre Programme**

Since May, we have had sell out shows from Gyles Brandreth, Tributes to Queen and Ariane Grande, One Night in Dublin as well as screening of Take That Live. Other shows have had disappointing turnouts but we are aware that June / July is often a difficult month to sell tickets for live events and programming accordingly.

The next programme is close to complete and runs from September to December. Highlights include the annual pantomime Snow White, comedian Hal Cruttenden, a new production of The Hound of the Baskervilles, the Counterfeit Sixties plus Centre Stage's production of family favourite The Wizard of Oz

### **HAVERHILL ARTS CENTRE FILM FIGURES**

<b>Months</b>	<b>No of Screenings</b>	<b>General Movie Attendance (no of screenings)</b>	<b>Event Cinema Attendance (no of screenings)</b>	<b>Average per screening</b>
<b>Jan / Feb 2018</b>	27	1111 (23)	292 (4)	51.96
<b>March /April</b>	26	845 (20)	260 (6)	42.5
<b>May/June</b>	24	702 (20)	199 (4)	37.5
<b>July/August</b>	19	694(14)	187 (5)	46.37
<b>September/October</b>	29	926 (20)	428 (9)	46.69
<b>Nov / December</b>	19	726 (13)	343 (6)	56.26
<b>Jan / Feb 2019</b>	33	1455 (25)	419 (8)	56.79
<b>Mar / April</b>	25	829 (19)	212 (6)	41.64
<b>May / June</b>	23	543 (16)	401 (7)	41.04

### **Forward Diary and happenings**

Haverhill Show – Sunday 7 July 2019  
 Historic Vehicle Rally – Sunday 14 July 2019  
 Big Day Out – Wednesday 31 July 2019  
 Picnic in the Park – Wednesday 7 August 2019  
 Tribute Night – Saturday 17 August 2019  
 Halloween Trail 2019 – Friday 25 October 2019

Open Air Cinema –19 & 20 July 2019  
 Tribute Night – Saturday 3 August 2019  
 Chalkstone Fun Day – Wed 14 August 2019  
 Clements Fun Day – Wed 21 August 2019  
 Family Christmas Night – Fri 6 Dec 2019

## Appendix 2

### Haverhill Town Council: Spoken Word project report

20 June 2019

Rapper and Spoken Word artist [Shay D](#) came to Haverhill on 10 & 11 June to deliver a one day workshop at both Castle Manor and Samuel Ward Academies. Between 20 - 25 pupils were selected to take part at each school.

- At **Castle Manor** Shay engaged with a group of Year 10s - the group was hand-picked by the school from pupils with low attainment in English and below average attendance.
- At **Samuel Ward** Shay worked with a Year 7 group made up of pupil premium students.

Shay reported that in both groups about half of the pupils felt comfortable enough to perform their work in front of their peers by the end of the day. All of those who performed expressed an interest in coming along to the Arts Centre to share their work at the event on 17 June. Shay (and our letter to parents) encouraged all to come along, whether performing or not, and support the event and their peers.

The workshops revealed the fact that both groups included previously hidden talent; a bedroom producer, a beatboxer, a DJ, a beat maker and a number of emerging rappers. It was evident from talking to young people that this was the case across the school.

On 17 June 3 pupils turned up at the Arts Centre to rehearse their work with Shay D and perform on the stage that had been set up to be as un-intimidating as possible. 1 Sam Ward Year 7 pupil had written a piece about her dad leaving when she was young and her mum's new boyfriend. She had never performed on a stage before and yet managed to courageously deliver some emotional words, acapella! 2 students from Castle Manor arrived on their own and were able to get straight into performance, with additional tips for delivery given by Shay. Another student (not in workshop group) appeared to perform a song she'd written herself about comforting her friend through tough times when her mum died.

The audience consisted of 5 additional Castle Manor and 3 Sam Ward students + Melissa Matthews (BLOC / Suffolk libraries), Audrey (Haverhill Library), Olivia Rudkin (Samuel Ward, English teacher), Michelle, Nick and Patrick (Haverhill Arts Centre).

The event had a great atmosphere and the young people were really well supported and encouraged by Shay who MC'd the event and kept it high tempo and energetic. It ended with a Shay D rap about the suffragettes with all female audience members and performers jumping around on the stage!

Olivia Rudkin (English teacher, Samuel Ward) gave some great feedback on the workshop: *The benefits of the day were numerous. I thought Shay was amazingly encouraging with our students. She really built their confidence - a highlight was them all "rapping on the mike". She also built their literacy with thinking quick exercises like passing the sound, tongue twisters and acrostics. I also think the visit helped them emotionally as several were discussing and writing about big issues in their lives. They then turned issues and aspirations into some fantastic pieces. Shay dealt with everything with real sensitivity.*

*Finally, I feel she really empowered the girls. When Shay performed in the assembly a big group of boys came down the stairs and danced at the front of the studio but it was the girls who performed in the afternoon - the boys were much more shy.*

***I do believe this would be a great project to carry forward*** . Rap seems very raw and to really confront a lot of the challenges of some youngsters lives. Shay was a very good role model as she told the students she had been in a lot of trouble at school but she had sorted her life out and started working in Year 11 so she could do something positive and help her family.

*Olivia mentioned that there is additional pupil premium money available to support the Year 7 students who took part. She said that the school could look into money to help support the project in the future! She suggested that next time we consider aiming the project at a selected/mixed group of Year 9 or 10s who enjoy the music and are also dealing with challenges.*

Feedback from Sian Fagg (PE Teacher, Castle Manor - supported the session):

*Sian said she was really proud to hear that some of her students performed at the Arts Centre! In terms of benefit to the students she said she thought the workshop 'made the pupils aware that other students around them, who they may not interact with on a daily basis, have been through the same situations and life experiences. They explored words and it aided their confidence especially for moving forward into their speaking and listening exams. I was unaware how much my students listened to the music / knew the music so it was eye opening for me, therefore I think others could also benefit.*

*She said that she thought Castle Manor would be interested in taking part in this kind of project again: 'It got positive feedback from students therefore I think CMA would love taking part in this again' and that, depending on the workshop and benefit to the students, Castle Manor may consider contributing to future costs.*

**Publicity and support for the event:**

Shay made a poster to go outside the Arts Centre on the night and we posted on Facebook with @s to both schools. Information had been sent to teachers in advance to circulate via group members to parents and family members + the event was mentioned in assembly at both schools.

Shay suggested that it might have been easier to maintain momentum if the performance event had been at the end of the workshop on the second day. She also thought it would have been good to check that some follow up had been arranged with pupils within the school (aftercare) as a number of participants had written material about difficult personal / emotional issues.

**Project outcomes to date:**

- We have set up a meeting with Melissa Matthews and the Haverhill Library team for 8 July to discuss continuation of this work via the [BLOC](#) programme ( BLOC: Building Libraries on Creativity is the Suffolk Libraries Youth Arts Programme) with support from Haverhill Arts Centre for similar performance opportunities. We are looking to develop a programme of work with input from (local) skilled rap / spoken word facilitators.
- Michelle audio recorded performances with a view to using material as Have You? website content (with consent).
- Nick is planning to set up an Open Mic event at the Arts Centre, to be led by Patrick, as the set up worked really well !