



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's

LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Held at Haverhill Arts Centre on Monday, 9th September 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Mayor D Smith
Councillor J Burns (Chair)
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor D Page
Councillor M Martin

Apologies: Councillor A Brown
Councillor Q Cox
Councillor A Luccarini
Daniel Schumann, Creative Director

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Jane Lomas, Council Administrator

0 members of the public were present.

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman advised that the meeting was being streamed live on the Council's YouTube channel.

MINUTES

LC24 /037 Apologies for Absence
The above apologies were noted.

LC24 /038 Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation
None.

LC24 /039 Minutes of the Last Meeting
It was proposed by Councillor D Smith, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 15th July 2024 be agreed as a true record.
RESOLVED

LC24 /040 Actions Arising from the Minutes
LC24/019 Haverhill In The Park report: The Town Clerk will ask Steve Marsh to circulate a report with a summary of the event and financial information.

ACTION

Clerk

LC24/031a.i.) The Town Clerk will check with the marketing team if the booking website was updated to show the cost of maintaining the building which may encourage donations.

Clerk

LC24/031a.ii.) The Town Clerk will ask Sara Marsh to provide a breakdown of Spektrix fees.

Clerk

LC24/031a.iii.) As Dan Schuman was unable to attend this meeting, an update regarding the possibility of using a different programmer for the supply of films will be deferred to the next meeting.

LC24/031b) Karen Chapple was unable to attend this meeting and will be invited to the next one.

Clerk

LC24/031c) The Clerk will remind Sandra Linanne to provide basic numbers for bookings and money taken for comparison purposes in her report.

Clerk

LC24 Public Forum

/041 There were no members of the public present.

LC24 Grant Requests

/042

Requesting Group	Purpose	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Sudbury & District Scouts	Towards the cost of a marching band for St George's Day 2025.	£183.34	£183.34 Councillor M Martin Councillor D Page RESOLVED

Deputy Clerk

LC24 Reports from Officers (attached – Appendix 1)

/043

a) Creative Director and Arts Centre Report

Councillors agreed that this report looks encouraging. Councillors felt that a meeting of the Arts Centre to discuss the Arts Centre's improvement plan would be welcome. Councillors noted their thanks to Sara Marsh for all the work she has carried out while Dan Schumann has been away.

Knife Angel – The sculpture has raised the profile of Haverhill in a positive way, and great feedback has been received.

b) Youth Skills Manager Report

Councillors agreed that, once again, Karen Chapple has produced a comprehensive report. Councillor Smith said that, during her recent visit to Haverhill, Lady Clare Countess of Euston, Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk was astonished at the number of projects and positive outcomes that Karen and her team achieve.

c) Zone Manager Report

It was a busy summer for the Zone, although, as usual, sales were influenced by the weather. It was noted that café sales were adversely affected due to the opening of McDonald's, as a trip to the new restaurant was part of the 'package' parents were offering children.

LC24 Grant Recipient Reports

/044 a) Haverhill & District Twin Town Association (HTTA) – report attached (Appendix 2)

A number of the visitors were teachers, who met with teachers at Castle Manor and Samuel Ward School Academies. It is hoped that this positive event will continue into the future.

LC24 Working Party Reports

/045 The following provisional dates for 2025 were discussed:

Thursday, 8 May	VE Day
Saturday, 28 June	Armed Forces
Wednesday, 23 July	Chalkstone Fun Day
Wednesday, 30 July	Clements Fun Day
Wednesday, 6 August	Picnic in The Park
Wednesday, 13 August	Parkway Fun Day
Friday, 15 August (circa)	VJ Day*
15 August Weekend	Haverhill in The Park
Friday, 31 October	Halloween
Sunday, 9 November	Remembrance Sunday
Saturday, 29 November	Christmas Event

*Date to be discussed and agreed by the Civic Events and Community Events Working Parties.

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor M Martin, that the dates listed above be agreed and booked by the Civic Events and Community Events Working Parties.

RESOLVED

LC24 Any Other Business

/046 None.

LC24 Date of Next Meeting

/047 Monday, 11th November, 2024

LC24 Closure

/036 The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.36pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

APPENDIX 1 – MANAGERS’ REPORTS

8 – Managers’ reports

8a Arts Centre Report

Box Office Update

The Arts Centre has had a very busy period again. Notable shows have included:

- Drag Bingo - Sold out
- Bye Bye Baby - Sold out
- Go Your Own Way - Sold out
- Lipstick on your Collar – Only 20 seats not sold
- Dolly Show – Only 16 seats not sold
- Simon & Garfunkel – Only 14 seats not sold
- Take That Experience - Sold out
- The Ultimate Commitments & Blues Brothers Experience – Only 14 seats not sold

Future Sales

The following have all made a particularly healthy start:

- Rock for Heroes (21 Sept) - 134 sold
- MJ The Legacy (16 Nov) - 158 sold
- Sleeping with Beauty (3 Jan 2025) - 148 sold

Cinema

NT Live, Exhibition on Screen and ROH Live remain popular. *NT Live: Present Laughter* did the best with 53 sold. In terms of main-stream cinema, *IF* was one of our biggest successes with 58 tickets sold.

Our Dementia Screenings in partnership with The Terrific Tuesday Club continue to go well.

Pantomime: Jack and the Beanstalk

The cast are now all contracted and we had a very successful photoshoot day. All marketing materials have now been prepared and the script is written. Our star this year is Celena Cherry from The Honeyz – which is quite a coup for HAC! Sales are very strong, but we need to keep this under review to ensure it isn't just people booking earlier and that there is actual growth.

Panto sales comparison since this time last year:

- Jack and the Beanstalk ticket sales from 1 Jan - 4 Sept 2024 - 457
- Dick Whittington ticket sales from 1 Jan - 4 Sept 2023 - 268

Easter Family Show

Historically we have hosted and co-produced an Easter Panto. However, these have seen diminishing returns, and it is fair to say that the quality has been variable. Nonetheless this is an important family 'slot' in the HAC calendar so, to bring new life (and hopefully a new audience!) to this, I have teamed up with Rentadinosaur to produce a spectacular Easter Dinosaur Show specially for HAC.

Comedy Nights

Committee members may recall that when I presented audience and financial figures to you last September, I highlighted that Comedy was one of the few areas still underperforming. I am now in conversation with several new comedy club providers, and I am confident we can re-launch our comedy offer with higher profile acts and more consistent quality.

Developments of Note

- **Visual Arts Exhibitions**

We have a touring Claude Cahun exhibition from the world-famous Hayward Gallery booked for May/June 2025. We are also working on some permanent works to brighten up the walls throughout the ground floor of the Arts Centre when touring or other exhibitions are not present.

- **Public Mental Health Programme**

Our two projects - DANCE YOURSELF FIT (a dance project for older people) and DANCE YOURSELF HEALTHY (a dance project for young people) were both delivered successfully. Over 285 people attended these in total.

- **Knife Crime Project**

Haverhill's own Knife Crime play took place at The Arts Centre and did a weeklong run w/c 10th June 2024.

The following schools attended:

- St Felix
- Clements
- Place Farm
- Kedington Primary
- New Cangle
- Barnadiston
- Westfields
- Coupals
- Thurlow/Hundon
- Castle Manor
- Stoke College
- Samuel Ward
- Burton End
- Stour Valley

This represents over 1,240 young people.

Arts Centre Improvements and Staffing

It is early days since my return, but I am getting my teeth back into developing the Arts Centre and a plan for a future capital project, as well as looking at staffing and staff challenges/opportunities. I will bring more detail to future meetings.

Daniel Schumann

September 2024

8b Youth Skills Report

Staffing: Callum has settled well into his role as Youth Skills and Family Advisor. He is currently studying for his Level 2 in Advice and Guidance and First Aid Mental Health, both are 40 hours guided learning time.

We said goodbye to Catherine who joined the Youth skills team on the Government Kick Start Scheme in 2021. She was in her role for 3 years and gained some good skills whilst working with us; our clients greatly benefited from these. It was a pleasure to see her flourish, and whilst disappointed to see her go, we are proud of her taking the first steps into a teaching career, which has been her goal for some time.

Catherine gave a 5 week notice period, so we have managed to recruit a replacement for the Youth Skills and Family Advisor role. Rebekah started 2nd of September. She has experience of working with a caseload of clients at Turning Point, but she is new to the area, we look forward to showing her around Haverhill and introducing her to our community.

Well-Being Youth Hub 11-16 years Thursday 18.00pm-19.30pm This offer historically goes quiet in the summer holidays. With a youth worker down (from Sandra's team) and staff leave, we took the decision not to offer this during the 6 weeks school holidays. We would rather spend grant money when sessions will be better attended, so more young people benefit from the offer. We will allow the students time to settle back to school, and then make this offer available again. We will re-evaluate and listen to our clients wants and this may have a slightly different look to it going forward.

Walk Talk and Therapy Three clients from this project have been referred into counselling. We have grant money available to cover the cost of these counselling sessions. A further two clients were referred to WS training for September.

Attended Community Days Our team, with the help of some of our clients as volunteers, attended the Haverhill community days, at the Chalkstone, Clements and East Town Park. We decorated book markers with paint pens and discussed the importance of reading with families and the benefits. We had fun engaging with the community whilst showcasing our offer.

Social Media *"Young people have directly expressed their desire to be communicated with via TikTok (and to a lesser extent Snapchat).*

The above point was shared by Jay, when giving young people a voice.

We have now created a TikTok account (with the help of Joe) and will communicate with our young people through this. This is in early stages; I'm hoping we will build on these skills as time goes on!

Level 2 WS Provision Update Some good coverage from local press has been received for this much needed provision being delivered in Haverhill and was beneficial in sharing the offer available.

We have one cohort which has 7 students confirmed, all with low abilities and requiring additional support with their education. Learners for the second cohort were met and 8 have confirmed they would like to enrol for the course in September. The second cohort are of higher abilities and don't require as much educational support; these students are likely to be the ones requiring work experience or employment training, with maths and English.

Transitioning Support Group We meet individuals weekly to support struggles with gender identity. OUTHOUSE NHS have a planned visit to further discuss online themed workshops. Isolation is a problem amongst this group and one we aim to tackle before moving on to a more bespoke service to meet individual needs. We held one of our sessions at the link in the High Street, to show case their offer.

1-2-1 Sessions These mentoring sessions continue, clients are giving a bespoke personalised advice and guidance depending on individual needs, and aspirations. We address their unique challenges strengths and interests. Achievable goals are set, and they are encouraged to meet them. Enabling them to become more ready for next steps.

Funding Applications We are currently working on a funding application for Thriving Communities for our Signpost Projects the amount is still being worked out .

Signpost Projects

Our signpost projects offer support to clients that need to grow their confidence and improve upon their well-being. We are now spending the Community Chest grant of **£5,000**.

Adult Signpost Adult Signpost has continued over the summer, with the youth skills team engaging several clients in activities and skill-based sessions. Clients from adult signpost were also invited to volunteer and assist with the youth skills stands on the community days (Clements, Chalkstone and East Town Park fun days). The team continue to support these young people with 1-2-1 sessions, helping them apply for jobs and build on their CV's. We will be looking to form a new adult signpost group in September as existing clients move on and take different paths to work and education.

Junior Signpost For the Junior Signpost summer offer we offered some stand-alone activities where we invited young people to East Town Park, the Rec, Abbey Croft Leisure and the library to meet up and have some fun, whilst tackling isolation, low mood and low confidence. We look forward to offering weekly sessions after school shortly.

Toddler and Me The "Toddler and Me" Signpost project has been thriving over the summer. Catherine and Callum have been leading the initiative, regularly meeting with the seven established parents in the group.

Most sessions have been relaxed, fostering open conversations about tantrums, healthy eating, and the positives of parenting. The primary goal of these sessions has been to build confidence of parent and child, support parents integrate with other services, lift low mood, set goals for the future and encourage socialising outside the group, to help overcome isolation. This goal is beginning to come to fruition, as some parents now arrive together for the sessions, the general mood feels good, it is encouraging to see parents and toddlers develop their skills in front of us, and to evidence the work we do.

In July, we booked a paediatric first aid session with the group, which was well-received and provided a great introduction to child safety for the parents. The parents were engaged throughout the course, and left upskilled, and better equipped to deal with first aid danger should they experience it first-hand. I feel this has wetted the appetite for learning, some parents have shown an interest in signing up for on-line learning, that they can do at home at their convenience.

Boost: We benefitted from some good press coverage for this project.

We were awarded **£11,902** to divert young people away from crime and making bad decisions.

- Mentoring - each client has been assigned a mentor
- Education - standalone events to encourage better decision making
- Fun Activities, that could become lifelong hobbies to build resilience and confidence. So far golf, football, mindfulness including yoga have been our clients' chosen activities.
- Counselling 1-2-1 and group / trauma support offered via Room 4. – Clients are now attending either individual counselling or group therapy.

We have signed up 10 young people and are now nearing the end of our second quarter.

We are seeing some good results. One of our clients who is 13 years of age, who had not attended school for a year when she signed up for Boost, started attending school partially after 6 weeks, and is now returning to a full timetable. It is early days, but knowing she is going to attempt a full timetable has made us proud of her progression.

Working with schools

Samuel Ward Academy Mock Interviews Callum assisted Samuel Ward Academy with their year 10 mock interviews. Providing a realistic experience for the young students on what they will be facing trying to secure work. Callum assisted in interviewing some of the more vulnerable students, providing a more relaxed yet professional interview, which made them feel more at ease and enabled them to learn from their experience.

Castle Manor Academy Skills and Employability Workshop Catherine and Callum were present at the education fair offering advice and guidance to all school years at Castle Manor Academy. In the Careers Workshop they focused on workplace skills and the importance of these skills for employment. Throughout the day, they conducted five sessions with Year 10 students. It was an incredibly rewarding experience, allowing them to engage with the students and encouraging the students to view themselves and their skill sets in a positive light. Our workshop aimed to help them recognise their strengths and abilities and what skills future employers are looking for when offering employment. Both Callum and Catherine had productive conversations with the students about their future aspirations.

What's Next Event Both upper school career leads, and representatives from Cambridge Regional College and WS Training we held a support and guidance day outside the Art Centre.

This took place the day after GCSE results day, and was targeted at those who didn't receive their required grades to take their next steps as planned. We discussed alternatives and solutions to enable them to take next steps.

Case Study

B started working with Callum in the summer of 2024 after being referred to our service by his mother, who had seen our Facebook post. During the initial assessment, it was noted that B had been suffering from depression, had struggled to socialise out of the house.

He initially came to the service looking to start working full time. His skillset was discussed at length during the assessment, and B was a keen coder and computer game designer. His chosen career path was to become a games designer and work for a video game studio.

Callum explored this option with him, asking if B had considered university as a pathway, but at this time B declined.

Throughout June and July, B met with Callum every Wednesday for 1-2-1 meetings, where they built on B's CV, applied for jobs and set targets for B to work towards. B also attended the adult signposting groups during this period of working with the youth skills team and he was able to socialise with other young people his age in a relaxed setting, building his confidence and selfbelief.

In August, Callum further explored the idea of university with B, this time he decided that he was going to apply to do video game design at the University of East Anglia. As of the 28/08/24, B was successfully accepted to study his bachelor's degree at UEA. **Young**

Persons Reflections

“Since working with you I feel like you have been a great help, before all of this began in no way shape or form did I think I'd get accepted into university of all things. Halfway during this I definitely noticed myself become more confident and less anxious about looking for jobs and/or opportunities. The service has most definitely boosted my self-esteem, and I feel way more motivated to do things that I normally wouldn't. I can only thank you for your support these past couple of months and I'm glad I was able to receive the help I needed, to get me where I needed to be with your help.”

Karen Chapple

September 2024

8c Zone Manager and Lead Youth Worker

The Zone

Staffing – Colin introduced us to a young person who he had interviewed during mock interviews at Sam Ward school. We have had the young person working with us during the holiday and although her duties are restricted because of her age she has been a hard worker. Initially she was going to leave at the end of the holidays but has decided to stay on and help at weekends and school holidays when needed. We are still in need of a person who can take on Team Leader Roles. Recruiting has been difficult. We are working with the job centre to help with this.

Training – Online and in house training continues. Various courses have been completed such as, Importance of Ladder Safety, Fundamentals of Manual Handling, Anger Management and conflict resolution.

The Zone – Parties are lower than last year and to help with this we have a September and October special of a tray bake with each party booked in these months. We still have an outside agency who deliver laser tag, dodge ball and football parties. We are boosting our advertising regarding parties. We have had a couple of the pre-schools book their Christmas Parties.

Zone Refurbishment - New chairs have been purchased and customers and staffs response has been pleasing. It has also taken away the worry of the old chairs collapsing whilst being used by the public. We are having anti climbing netting put in areas of the soft

play that are hard to see. Also fencing has been ordered for the outside area as the old fencing is unsafe and now collapsing.

Summer holidays - During August we were open 7 days a week except for Bank Holiday Monday and a Saturday for Haverhill in the Park. Staff worked at this event. Zone numbers varied considerably, and it was clear that the very few rainy days we had in August the numbers were higher on those days. August was on the whole a very warm month which reflected on our numbers.

Toddler Time - (parents attending and are responsible for their children) takes place during term time only and has stopped during the school holidays. It resumes (4th September) and continues every Wednesday and Friday. These prove popular sessions, and we have regular customers who prefer just having preschool children here and it's usually a calmer session. Good to see parent's talking with different people.

SEND Sessions – Funded by Activities Unlimited take place every other Monday during term time. This ensures we only have a maximum of 25 children and parents/carers have the opportunity to chat with others who are experiencing similar concerns, but also sharing what works for them. Unlimited squash and some healthy snacks are offered to the children. This group has a good uptake. Any children/parents who find our main sessions challenging are given information regarding our Monday SEND session.

Funding – We continue to look for funding to enable us to offer different projects.

Youth Work

Staffing We are still needing youth workers. We are advertising with the Job Centre and have had one successful applicant who is due to start with us.

Pride Alliance Group Has been on hold but will resume next week. We will continue to visit Castle Manor (term time) for an hour on a Wednesday to meet with Miss Kennard, support staff and young people to discuss matters regarding LGQBT+ and other topics of interest.

Detached Work Ideally, we would like to go out weekly but due to a shortage of youth workers this has not been possible. PC Jack Oakly offered to come out on some sessions, but his policing took priority, and this did not take place. With our new youth worker about to take post then this should relieve this problem. We continue to work with the police, residents, and other professionals to enable us to provide the best service possible to the young people. Youth Workers will be supporting the civic event regarding the Knife Angel.

SEND Youth Night We held a session for our SEND young people with their families/carers. Other activities during the evening included pool, table tennis, giant Jenga, arts and crafts, football, basketball and also the chance for the young people and their families to meet up. We welcome younger siblings if this is the only way SEND young people can visit us, but the youngest is usually about 11. Great evening and thank you to Activities Unlimited for the funding.

Wellbeing Youth Hub Paused for the summer holidays and hoping to resume once all staff are in position.

Boost Project We are working with the Youth Skills team to mentor young people who are attending the Boost Project.

Sports Event Haverhill Youth Workers, Abbey Croft Leisure, Positive Futures and Haverhill police are working together to hold a sports event on Saturday 14th September 11 to 2pm for young people aged 11 upwards. We will be playing football, basketball, rounders, water balloon catching, frisbee throwing. We will also have leaflets and info regarding knife crime

and the Knife Angel. Free refreshments and snacks will be offered. We have had this event run the last of couple of years and has worked well.

The On The Spot Van supported some of the community events and was well received. Karen and her team from Youth Skills joined us. The van will be supporting the Knife Angel project by being on the Market Square 11th, 18th and 25th September 18.00hrs to 20.00hrs. Various activities will be offered. We are looking at getting some new laptops for the van as our Macs are now 14 years old and are past updating. If anybody can offer some funding for the laptops it would be gratefully received. Please email or phone for a chat.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sandra Linnane

September 2024

APPENDIX 2 – Grant report: Haverhill & District Twin Town Association (HTTA)

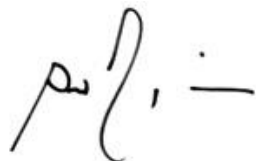
Dear Colin & Vicky

On behalf of Haverhill & District Twin Town Association (HTTA), many thanks indeed for the recent grant of £1000. This was used primarily to offset costs incurred when we hosted guests from our French Twin Town of Pont St. Esprit who were with us in Haverhill arriving on the 15th August and departing on the 20th August.

A varied and entertaining itinerary was shared by both hosts and guests alike and we were fortunate to be joined by both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Haverhill at several of these events. This was very much appreciated by all those in attendance.

Your grant enabled HTTA to welcome our French guests once again to Haverhill and surrounding areas and by using reserves you will see from the attached spreadsheet that we were able to make sure that their trip was enjoyable, including 2 cultural visits to Bury St Edmunds & Cambridge.

We hope that you will look favourably at our grant application when we have a party from Ehringshausen visit us in May 2025.



Kind Regards,
Councillor Bruce Davidson

Chairman - HTTA

Outgoings from French Visit		
Tour of Bury St Edmunds	£180.00	Apex
Coach to Thorpe Le Soken	£400.00	Turners (not yet paid)
BBQ meat	£122.40	Kedington Butchers (BBQ)
BBQ Gas	£52.50	Bruce (BBQ)
Tesco	£3.00	Napkins (BBQ)
Tesco	£7.50	onions and free from bread and meat (BBQ)
Aldi	£9.16	dressings / condiments (BBQ)
Bus to Cambridge	£20.50	Stage Coach
Tour of Cambridge	£106.35	Viator
University Arms	£448.50	After Vat & Service Charge refunded
Aldi	£2.58	Refreshments - H/S concert
Aldi	£7.00	Refreshments - H/S concert
West End Church	£100.00	Haverhill Singers concert
Haverhill Singer Invoice	£524.34	Haverhill Singers concert
Town Hall Painting presented to Corinne	£40.00	cash
Summer Lunch (Rose & Crown)	£310.00	31 x £10
Summer Lunch (Chris)	£130.00	Desserts, Fish & Cheese for Summer Lunch & BBQ
	£2,463.83	