

Haverhill Town Council

Notes of a Meeting of Haverhill Town Council's
LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE



Held at Haverhill Arts Centre on Monday, 11th November 2024 at 7.00pm

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

Apologies: Councillor Q Cox

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Town Clerk
Daniel Schumann, Creative Director
Sandra Linnane, Zone Manager & Senior Youth Worker
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. The meeting observed a silence for remembrance.

MINUTES

		ACTION
LC24	<u>Apologies for Absence</u>	
/049	The above apologies were noted.	
LC24	<u>Declarations of Interest and requests for Dispensation</u>	
/050	None.	
LC24	<u>Minutes of the Last Meeting</u>	
/051	It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 9 th September 2024 be agreed as a true record.	
	RESOLVED	
LC24	<u>Actions Arising from the Minutes</u>	
/052	LC24/031a.i.) To check with the marketing team that the booking website has been updated to show the cost of the maintaining the building, which may encourage donations.	Town Clerk

LC24/031a.ii.) Sara Marsh to be asked to provide a breakdown of Spektrix fees.

Town Clerk

LC24/031b) Karen Chapple to be invited to the next meeting.

Town Clerk

LC24 Public Forum

/053 There were no members of the public present.

LC24 Grant Requests

/054

Requesting Group	Purpose	Amount Requested	Amount Awarded
Haverhill Scouts and Guides	Towards fitting-out of the new building at Colne Valley Road	£651.60	£651.60 Councillor A Brown Councillor D Page RESOLVED
Haverhill Town Pastors	Towards the general costs of the work they do helping keep people safe in Haverhill town centre	£1,000	£500 Proposal to amend the amount awarded and to approach West Suffolk Councillors for the remainder Councillor A Brown Councillor M Martin RESOLVED

LC24 Reports from Officers (attached – Appendix 1)

/055 a) Creative Director and Arts Centre Report

Daniel Schumann presented his report. He highlighted that it has been a very successful period with many sold-out events and strong sales for future shows. Tickets for the pantomime are selling well and as the brochure goes out next week, sales are expected to increase.

Children's author, Michael Rosen, is booked for 13th February 2025 and schools will be invited.

Cinema programming – work with a new provider has been undertaken which should result in a reduced cost to the Arts Centre. It is expected that the contract will be finalised imminently.

Of note is that the play about knife crime, funded by the Police and Crime Commission as a precursor to the arrival of the Knife Angel, shows some heartening statistics. Children were asked to complete a brief questionnaire before seeing the play and another one after:

- Before seeing the play, 49% of children had considered carrying a knife; after the play this dropped significantly to 3%.
- Before seeing the play, only 7% of children understood the possible consequences of carrying a knife; after the play, this rose acutely to 98%.

b) Youth Skills Manager Report

Councillors agreed that this is a positive report showing many initiatives supported by Haverhill Town Council and it would be useful to highlight this to the community. The Town Clerk will speak to the Marketing Officer.

Deputy Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Town Clerk

c) Zone Manager Report

Sandra Linnane presented her report to the meeting. Discussion arose around staffing difficulties as the role does not have regular hours and is often dependent on the weather. The number of parties booked in 2024 compared to 2023 is lower. However, the website is being updated which may attract more bookings. The background music at the Zone has been updated which has been well received.

LC24 Grant Recipient Reports

/056

Grant recipient reports were received from:

- a) Townswomen's Guild
- b) Reach
- c) Sudbury District Scouts

It was suggested that a formal letter of thanks be sent to Reach in recognition of all the work they do in Haverhill and surrounding areas.

Deputy Clerk

It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor D Page, that the grant recipient reports from Townswomen's Guild, Reach, and Sudbury District Scouts be accepted.

RESOLVED

LC24 Working Party Reports

/057

a) Civic Events Working Party

It was proposed by Councillor M Martin, seconded by Councillor P Hanlon, that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday, 15th October 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

b) Community Events Working Party

It was proposed by Councillor A Luccarini, seconded by Councillor D Smith, that the minutes of the meeting held Monday, 14th October 2024 be agreed as a true record.

RESOLVED

LC24 Any Other Business

/058

None.

LC24 Date of Next Meeting

/059

Tuesday, 14th January 2025 (Provisional)

LC24 Closure

/060

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.07pm.

Signed

Date

Chairman

APPENDIX 1 – MANAGERS’ REPORTS

8a Arts Centre Report

Box Office Update

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

- Dreamcoat Stars – Sold Out
- Christmas Memories – 172/210 Sold
- Buddy Holly Winter Dance Party – 190/210 Sold
- MJ Legacy – Sold Out
- Ed Sheeran Experience - Sold Out
- Harry Panto and the Serpent of Secrets – Sold Out
- High Jinx Magic – Sold Out
- Mark Simmons – 179/210 Sold

Future Sales

The following have all made a particularly healthy start:

- Andy Parsons (not until February) – already 73/210 Sold
- Seriously Collins (not until February) – already 64/210 Sold

Cinema

NT Live, Exhibition on Screen and ROH Live remain popular. ROH Live: Alice in Wonderland did the best with 64 sold. In terms of main-stream cinema, The Critic did well with 34 tickets sold.

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

Pantomime

Sales remain strong and we are still ahead of sales from 2023. The brochure will be the next big push for Panto sales.

Half Term & Easter Family Show

We are creating our own Princess Show for February half term. I have also teamed up with Rentadinosaur to produce a spectacular Easter Dinosaur Show specially for HAC called Jursassica Spectacular. This is a new addition to our programme which I hope will bring in large audiences of young families.

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 letting still underperforming.

We have now started a relationship with a new comedy partner - BIG DEAL COMEDY – who are set to deliver a new style bi-monthly comedy night led by a star name. The first two in the series have been announced and are already over 50% sold out.

Developments of Note

- ***Visual Arts Exhibitions***

We have a touring Claude Cahun exhibition from the world-famous Hayward Gallery booked for May/June 2025.

- **Primary Literacy Event**

I have secured a visit from MICHAEL ROSEN on 13th February.

- **Cinema Programming**

I will provide an update at the meeting.

- **Warm Spaces**

The Arts Centre has been successful in securing £1,400 warm spaces funding.

- ***Suffolk County Council Culture Fund***

I have drafted an application for this fund and will be submitting a full application by the deadline of 29th November.

Arts Centre Improvements

I have had an initial meeting with The Heritage Lottery Fund to discuss a capital project to improve and revitalise the Arts Centre. Based on that meeting we were recommended to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), which is Stage One of their formal application process. This will be submitted before Christmas and, if successful, will allow us to progress to the next stage and work up a lot more detail, necessitating meetings of the Arts Centre Development Group. Some basic community consultation will be taking place shortly to support our EOI.

Daniel Schumann

November 2024

8b Youth Skills Report

September and October 2024

Office Update

Our team attended training delivered by Turning Point, based in Haverhill. As part of the training, we learned how to administrate naloxone, to overdose victims, should we ever need to. Training also covered an awareness of drugs and alcohol. (Following on from this we have arranged for some training on awareness of alcohol and drugs to be delivered to our BOOST clients)

We attended Kooth on-line training, a guide to managing back to school or college anxiety.

Rebekah completed her Emergency First Aid at Work, also coaching and mentoring training.

Well-Being Youth Hub for 11-16 year- olds Thursday 18.00pm-19.30pm

This offer is now up and running and is at full capacity, we are now turning some clients away. Currently we have attendees spanning the age groups below.

Age of YP	Number Attending
11 years	8
12 years	4
13 years	12
14 years	6
15 years	0
16 years	1

As a fresh pair of eyes on this project, Rebekah, who works weekly with this group, is with the help of the attendees, looking at some new ideas to revamp our existing offer. The idea of trying to attract an older group once a month is currently under discussion.

We have utilised Outdoor Explorer and Mrs Baldwin to lead varied activities, to enable our clients to experience new things, to build confidence and grow relationships within the group. These sessions have included rope activities, making Halloween trail props and themed snacks to take home. The weeks in-between Outdoor Explorer attending, the staff have engaged with playing football, table tennis, connect 4, pool, and PS5 miniature tournaments to ensure everyone is feeling included and involved.

Chris Swarbrick from West Suffolk Council attended a session where he discussed the Football Foundation's Play Zone Project at Motts Field, to generate awareness and get views and feedback on this potential new project, thus giving our young people a voice.

Walk Talk and Therapy

Our group is forming again, after some clients have positively progressed.

Social Media

Rebekah has put a lot of effort into updating our social media and renewing our flyers. We need to look at updating our website to ensure our complete offer is clearly advertised.

Level 2 WS Training Provision Update

Since opening in mid-September, three local people have been employed, including a centre manager. Currently, WS Training is supporting 18 young people over two groups, they are able to offer learning to 22 learners, but this is dependent on their needs. There is still lots of interest in the programme, and WS Training continue to accept applications. We believe a high percentage of these young people would have become NEET had this local provision not been available.

WS Training share they are most grateful for the Town Council supporting with the use of the Clements Community Centre, but are also aware that for the provision to grow, they will need to consider other, larger, premises within our Town. They share they are grateful they were approached, enabling them to offer this much needed provision.

Transitioning Support Group

The two main core members have decided to start up a planning system, with the larger vision for the group to be broken down to smaller goals. They have decided to take a step back from trying to be a physically larger group and instead start a bulletin board/newsletter full of accurate information and contacts to pass onto those who may need signposting. This will help identify clients who want to commit or contribute to forming a group more naturally along

with also gathering more connections and information both for those already in the group and those who may need it.

Meetings and Events

- Yag meeting – We chaired the YAG Meeting bringing youth organisations together,
- Education, Skills and Enterprise Task Group- • Skills Centre Meeting -
- Well-being Wednesday Fair – We attended and gave leaflets out at Abbey Croft Leisure Centre, this was poorly attended by the public but gave as an opportunity to network with other organisations
- Job and Skills Fair – We had a stall at the fair that took place at the Art Centre we showcased our offer. The attendance was good, a lot of those attending were clients from JCP
- World Mental Health Day- We hosted a Tea & Talk day at the Arts Centre on the 10th of October. We invited new clients and existing clients to come along to discuss their needs, we explained the support we offer over a cup of tea and cake and signposted to other agencies.
- Turning Point and Allumah (domestic violence)
- West Suffolk Haverhill

1-2-1 Client Sessions

These mentoring sessions continue, clients are giving 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 applied for £10,000 Thriving Communities Grant, for our Signpost Projects. We are in the process of applying for the Lottery Awards For All, we have pencilled in a request of £20,000 to cover all our wellbeing projects, looking at trying to theme the upstairs rooms at the Zone as a wellbeing centre/hub, where trauma therapy is included as part of the offer.

Signpost Projects

Adult Signpost

We have a new cohort; ice breakers have been carried out to enable the group to get to know each other. We have also persuaded some members of the transitioning support group to attend adult signpost, allowing for a broader demographic of people in our group and provide a more inclusive environment for all involved.

Junior Signpost

Junior Signpost is now up and running again after the summer break.

We prepared Halloween themed food, made Halloween costumes, and props for the Halloween trail. Some of our attendees volunteered to be scarers at the trail – they did a amazing job. The group are bonding together, and their confidence is growing. We have given out handouts to support wellbeing, so far on self-care, leave stress at the door, and on overcoming anxiety strategies. We took our group Xheight climbing; some had to overcome their nerves, and it was good to see them push themselves to overcome their fears.

Toddler and Me

Parenting group has been progressing well with the number of attending parents and children totalling 14. We are currently supporting some parents living at Coupals Court – with the closure of this facility we will need to work out if there is a gap in services and if we consider extending this offer to reach more young parents in the future. We have taken the

group out to a public play area, to encourage socialising in a more public and open setting. We booked a service coordinator from Alumah, who met the parents and discussed positive relationships, and the advice they can seek out if they are in a situation that requires them to safeguard themselves and their children.

Boost

We were awarded **£11,902** and halfway through our delivery we have spent £4653.00. We underspent on the first month.

Offer of mentoring, education, fun activities and trauma therapy, Boost is offering a holistic approach, working with those that are making bad decisions, and at risk of committing a crime.

We have engaged with 25 clients so far, including their family members. One young client who chose golf as an activity, got his first hole in one, a couple of weeks ago! Football training, 1-2-1, built confidence and skills for another client, and he is now playing and training with a local team, this was one of his aspirations when joining the project. We recognise the importance of channelling energy and spare time into a positive interest whilst building skills and confidence. The instructors involved often act as a 2nd mentor for our clients.

Allocating the 'Surviving Winter' Grant

In October we distributed a total of £1,000 surviving winter grant. We shared this out amongst 11 vulnerable families we are currently supporting, via our project. The money was spent on energy bills.

Case Study

Youth Skills Reflections

SP, 16-years-old, was referred to our service 3rd September 2024, by Madaline Day, Suffolk County Council. He was diagnosed with Aspergers, anxiety and depression. A meeting with SP was set up at home, as he wasn't comfortable leaving his safe place. Rebekah spoke with SP's mother, she explained SP was suffering from low mood, severe anxiety, would not leave his room and she had no idea on how to move forward.

By the end of the meeting SP popped his head around the door to say "Hello". Rebekah asked for SP's email and asked if she could email him directly, he agreed. After emailing for a while, SP agreed to meet Rebekah at his home, which they did. After a few initial meetings at SP's home, Rebekah and SP went for walks, local to his home, and built up a positive relationship. SP eventually agreed to meet Rebekah at the Art Centre. This further continued with SP agreeing to attend adult signpost, he is engaging, and slowly beginning to talk in sessions. This week he has asked Rebekah for help to form a CV and to support him with some job hunting. He is planning for the future, he has hope.

Madaline Day Referrers Reflections

Just wanted to reiterate how impressive it is that SP is engaging with Adult Signpost. He really struggled to attend school and has been left without a place in post 16 education (we are working on this). Without your support he most definitely would

have become NEET and we know that once a young person becomes NEET it impacts their confidence, mental wellbeing and feelings of social isolation. I did have doubts about him engaging, so it's brilliant to hear that he is continuing to attend. Another positive outcome

Mum's Reflections

SP needed support to get himself out of his bedroom, he had spent months on end isolating himself from the outside world, school, and general day to day activities. His self-esteem and self-confidence was at its lowest. He looked lost and sad most days, which was having a huge impact on his life and our families.

A few months ago, Rebecca (sic) visited me and SP at our home, I was very unsure he would agree to go outdoors out of his home comfort due to his bad social anxiety and reluctance to mixing outside his home. But Rebecca was calm, helpful and empathetic with SP - she listened to him and worked out a way to work with him. She has been involved with helping SP to wanting to participate in the weekly meet ups at the Haverhill Arts Centre with Rebecca and the other students. He is wanting to go weekly without me pushing him! I'm amazed!

SP is happier, calmer and is much more sociable, going outdoors. Which is truly amazing and all down to Rebecca's hard work dedication and commitment. Rebecca is amazing! Thank you for everything you've done to help SP to overcome his battles.

Karen Chapple Youth Skills manager

8c Zone Soft Play and Youth work Report

Staffing – The Zone. We are still in need of a person who can take on the Cover Team Leader role and especially cooking in the cafe. Recruiting has been difficult. We are working with the job centre to help with this. We are losing one of our young team members who has been offered an apprenticeship with a chef at a pub. We wish George all the very best. He has been a good member of the team, and his humour will be missed.

Training – Online and in house training continues. Various courses have been completed or in the process of completion such as, Chemical Spill: Prevention and Response, Fire Marshal training, Leadership and Management Course.

Parties – Party bookings are lower than last year and to tackle with this we had a special offer of a free tray bake with each party booked in September and October. This wasn't taken up like we thought it would. Joe Dexter is working on improving our advertising and updating our website. We still have an outside agency who deliver laser tag, dodge ball and football parties. We have had a couple of the pre-schools book their Christmas parties.

Comparative numbers of parties booked in 2023 and 2024

	2023	2024
June	16	17
July	27	14
August	19	9
October	29	13
November	21	15 booked so far
December	23	13 booked so far

Soft Play – These numbers do not include the birthday parties. The difference during this period is we are down by 113 visits in 2024.

	2023	2024
June	590	905
July	1286	981
August	1697	1306
September	935	1184
October	1545	1564

Zone Financials

September 2023:

Entrance £2,124.99
Café Sales £3,155.28
Party Sales £2,447.78

September 2024:

Entrance £2,436.72
Café Sales £3,675.19
Party Sales £1,209.51

We are down by £406.63 compared to September 23, which is down party bookings. This may partly be a “McDonalds Effect”, as that opened in August and also offers parties.

October 2023:

Entrance £3,953.76
Café Sales £5,055.58
Party Sales £3,330.71

October 2024:

Entrance Fees £3,500.79
Café Sales £4,664.56
Party Sales £2,467.46.

We are down by £1,707.24 across the board compared to October 23, which was one of the wettest Octobers on record, so perhaps no surprise.

Zone Refurbishment - We are having replacement anti-climb netting fitted to the football/basketball area, as the original netting, although meeting the standard when installed, can be climbed and presents a fall risk. This is part of a rolling replacement programme.

October holidays – Not as busy as we had hoped although we were slightly up compared to this time last year. Weather has been milder and dryer. We have had staff sickness (or staff off because of their children's sickness) which necessitated shutting the kitchen a couple of times as we did not have staff available who are qualified to run the café. We had a Halloween Fancy Dress party at The Zone and all the children got a little pack of sweets.

Toddler Time - (parents attending and are responsible for their children) takes place during term time only stops during the school holidays. It resumes (Wednesday 13th November) 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.

Toddler Multi-Sport – We are teaming up with Prestige Sports who will deliver multi sports in our football/basketball area on a Thursday morning. We hope this will encourage more visitors to The Zone on this day. Age range 2 to 4 years. They will have the opportunity to take part or just use the soft play equipment or do both.

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. We have submitted our funding application to Activities Unlimited in the hope to secure funding for 2024 to 2025.

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

Youth Work

Staffing - We have two new youth workers, Stef and Ryan. They have experience with working with young people and Ryan is currently in the middle of his youth worker training. Just waiting for DBS clearance before he can commence shifts.

Training - We were offered free drug and alcohol training with Turning Point including training on how to administer the drug Naloxone. This is a drug that can reverse the effects of an overdose of some drugs and can be the difference between life and death, whilst harmless if administered to someone who is unconscious for some other reason. This was taken up by some youth workers, Youth Skills team and a member of The Zone.

Funding – We have approached West Suffolk Council Communities Capital Fund for replacement laptops for the On Spot Van. We await to hear.

Pride Alliance Group – Continues at 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 – Ideally, we would like to go out weekly but due to a shortage of youth workers this has not been possible. PC Jack Oakley offered to come out on some sessions, but his policing took priority, and this did not take place. With our new youth workers about to take post then this should relieve this problem. We continue to work with the police, communities within Haverhill, and other professionals to enable us to provide the best service possible to the young people.

Case Study:

Youth Workers attended the civic welcome event for the Knife Angel and intervened with an adult who was handing out money to young people at the event. A few were accepting it. When we approached the adult, he was unhappy we had intervened and the police were called as he became verbally aggressive. We did what we could to keep the young people from the adult. The police promptly came, and the person was taken away from the area as he was in breach of an order. Conversations then took place with the young people regarding the dangers of accepting money from strangers. “What might they want in return?” was a question we asked. Some knew it wasn’t right but others took convincing which was alarming, and some were not happy that the police had taken the adult away who they thought was kind for giving them money. Further conversations took place with the young people and youth workers contacted an upper school where some of the young people go so this could be discussed further with the pupils.

Youth workers also had conversations with a small group of young people at the event about how loud they were being while the speakers were talking. They were apologetic and hadn’t realised how loud they were. Regarding both interventions youth workers were approached and thanked by members of the public and one male adult offered assistance with the adult and asked if we were okay after the incident.

SEND Youth Night – We held a session for our SEND young people during October half term with their families/carers. Activities during the evening included pool, table tennis, giant Jenga, giant connect four, colouring, 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 – Continues and we have some new faces join us after the summer holidays. Young people can play football, basketball, PlayStation 5, giant Jenga and giant connect four. Arts and crafts are available, pool and table tennis. Some of the young people like to just sit and chill and catch up with their mates. Young people also drew and wrote on hearts that were taken down and put by the Knife Angel.

Play zone Consultation: We got asked to speak to Mike Hill from Active Insight regarding the Play Zone Consultation. (proposed MUGA at Motts Field) As a result of that conversation we invited him to come to the Well-Being-Hub where he spoke with a number of our young people to get their opinions and thoughts on the sports project.

Boost Project – We continue to work with the Youth Skills team to mentor young people who are attending the Boost Project. We also support the Boost activities held at The Zone on a Monday afternoon.

Sports Event – Haverhill Youth Workers, Abbey Croft Leisure, Positive Futures and Haverhill police held a sports event on Saturday 14th September 11 to 2pm for young people aged 11 upwards at the Leisure Centre on the astro turf. We played football, basketball, water balloon catching, frisbee throwing. We also have leaflets and info regarding knife crime and the Knife Angel. Free refreshments and snacks were offered, thanks to Tesco and Harry at Deja-vu. We have had this event run the last of couple of years and has worked well. This time we had 16 young people and a couple of families with very small children who took themselves off into another part of the astro turf and played catch safely. Harley Barfield's father and his partner visited us and thanked us for what we were doing regarding the Knife Angel.

On Spot Van – Has been out when staffing has permitted. The van supported the Knife Angel activities and was present on the Market Square each week where young people and adults were happy to engage and take part in the activities we had to offer. We had adults who were visibly upset by the Knife Angel and shared their feelings regarding knife crime across the country and its effects on communities. People thanked us as youth workers and the town council for what they do for the young people of Haverhill.

Case Study Work Placement: A young person and her parent came to us to ask if we could provide a work placement at the Zone, due to the young person wanting to change the college course she had originally chosen. Ideally though, she needed a work placement at a school. We were able to liaise with a local primary school and passed over the information for the young person to make contact and she is now in a work placement with a school which will meet her course requirements for her to continue with her preferred choice at college. Both Parent and young person were very grateful for our help.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sandra Linnane Zone Manger and Senior Youth Worker