

Haverhill Community Trust

Minutes of a Meeting of Haverhill Community Trust

TRUSTEE MEETING

CHARITY NO 288092

Held on Monday 28th April 2025 at 7.48pm at Haverhill Arts Centre, High Street, Haverhill



HAVERHILL
TOWN COUNCIL

Present: Mayor Councillor D Smith
Councillor A Brown
Councillor J Burns
Councillor B Davidson
Councillor P Firman
Councillor P Hanlon
Councillor M Martin
Councillor J Mason
Councillor L Miller-Jones
Councillor L Smith
Councillor A Stinchcombe

Apologies: Councillor R André
Councillor Q Cox
Councillor A Luccarini
Councillor D Page

In Attendance: Colin Poole, Clerk to the Trustee
Karen Chapple, Youth Services Manager, HTC

1 member of the public was present

Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES

HCT **Apologies for Absence**
25/01 The above apologies were noted.

HCT **Minutes of Previous Meeting**
25/02 It was proposed by Councillor P Hanlon, seconded by Councillor L Miller-Jones that the minutes of the meeting held 25th November 2024 be agreed as a true record.
RESOLVED

HCT **Matters Arising**
25/03 None.

ACTION

HCT 25/04 **To Approve the signing of a new lease for the Haverhill Local History Museum,**

It was proposed by Councillor J Burns, seconded by Councillor D Smith that the Clerk signs the lease on behalf of the Trust.

RESOLVED

HCT 25/05 **Vision 2030**

The Clerk to the Trustee presented proposals for a new Community Trust project on the old Castle Hill Community Middle School. This would see co-location of HTC/HCT services for young people currently located at 1a Boundary Road and a care farm operated by The Befriending Scheme (TBS). As well as the farm, both outside and inside educational facilities, a dedicated youth space, forest school area there would be space for other community organisations and services to share. A kitchen could serve both the farm café and soft-play party kitchen, without the two elements being otherwise connected. An outside play area with features such as a Halo Diamond would make the area attractive for children to visit.

The proposal would transform what is currently a derelict eyesore but well-located site central to Chimswell, Parkway and Clements estates. Capital funding would be sought from grant funders, but with leverage of a potential Public Works Loan paid for from savings realised by operating our services from a highly sustainable, modern site with paying tenants, rather than the Zone which is a compromise site with a high level of obsolete and unreliable factors.

Councillors warmly welcomed the proposals, expressing their excitement for the proposal. It was noted that there needed to be a robust feasibility study leading to a sound business plan. For this HTC/HCT would need to bring in a suitably qualified person to lead the project planning. West Suffolk Councillors Brown, Firman, Hanlon, Miller Jones, D Smith, L Smith and County Councillor J Mason all offered to put some of their respective locality funds towards this project planning.

It was noted that the s106 agreement for the site was to provide for public space, although the site has never been cleared and it seemed unlikely it would be just to become open space. In addition, it was noted that the freehold of the site should be acquired, or an extremely long lease, to satisfy funders' requirements. Furthermore, it was asked that a sequential check for other potential sites be completed as part of the planning, to be sure that the best available site is used.

It was proposed by Councillor J Mason, seconded by Councillor M Martin that the Trust recommends to Haverhill Town Council that this proposal be further developed to create a feasibility study and business plan.

RESOLVED

HCT 25/06 **Closure**

The meeting closed at 20:40pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....