

AT A MEETING of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL  
held at 1912 CENTRE, HARWICH, ESSEX  
on WEDNESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2008 at 7.05pm

PRESENT

The Mayor Councillor D McLeod in the Chair

The Deputy Mayor Councillor D Rutson

Councillors:

B Brown

J Brown

S Tyrer

L Double

A Colbourne

G Calver

P Burke

L Payne

R Callender

Clerk to the Council Mrs E Novorol

Also present were one member of the press and three members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Henderson, Gardner, Morrison, Howlett and Wares

Prayers were said by the Reverend E Lammens

132/07 REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC None

133/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Councillor J Brown declared an interest in the item regarding the Parkeston Welfare Group.

134/07 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The Mayor gave details of engagements undertaken since the last meeting, and mentioned the success of the Pancake Race which took place on 2nd February 2008. The Council was unanimous in offering Cllr B Brown thanks for his part in organising the event.

135/07 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th January 2008 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record with an amendment to 115/07 to read 'RESOLVED: that the balance of £180 should be retained by the Crime Prevention Panel'.

136/07 HARWICH AND MANNINGTREE STANDARD An email from the editor of the Harwich and Manningtree Standard regarding the accuracy of

items printed in the newspaper was read to the meeting.

RESOLVED: to write to the editor advising him that this Council has noted his views which have been circulated to all members with the request that they are mindful of his comments regarding future actions.

Further discussion took place regarding the claim by the Deputy Mayor that the newspaper had printed inaccurate quotes in the 28th December 2007 issue.

During this heated debate, a member made a derogatory comment regarding the Deputy Mayor. Following a comment from another member, the derogatory remark was immediately withdrawn and an apology given for any offence caused. It was further

RESOLVED: to write to editor and request the reporter's evidence on which the newspaper's quotes were based. (Votes recorded: 8 FOR / 3 AGAINST).

137/07 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE Councillor D Rutson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2008.

Reference minute F60/07 - Parkeston Welfare Park's use of surplus funding, a member asked if the £500 grant from this Council had been used for items other than the original project. A discussion followed regarding the response that had been received from the group and it was.

RESOLVED: to request the return of the £500 grant.

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the minutes, including all recommendations, be adopted.

138/07 GUILDHALL COMMITTEE Councillor G Calver presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th January 2008.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

139/07 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING Councillor Colbourne presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2008.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

140/07 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS Councillor Tyrer advised the meeting that she had attended the last meeting of the Conservation Panel. She reported that Tendring District Council are looking to list further local buildings and that Councillors are welcome to recommend any for this listing. The Mayor reported that the Older People's Forum has received funding. The Mayor read a report from Councillor Howlett that Teen Talk has received funding from the PCT.

RESOLVED: to write to Teen Talk and congratulate them on this achievement and assure them of the continued support of Harwich Town Council

141/07 FINANCIAL UPDATE Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed.

142/07 EUROPEAN RELAY RUN The Mayor advised members that the European Relay Run of disabled people will be starting its first run from Harwich on 14th May 2008 and that he would welcome councillors support of the event.

143/07 CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS Receipt of the consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of local authority members was noted.

144/07 CRIME PREVENTION PANEL Members noted a letter from the Crime Prevention Panel advising that an alternative initiative to 'Rhyme Against Crime' will be raised again at a later date. The letter also thanked Harwich Town Council for the £500 grant towards the 'Gardening Competition'.

145/07 FREE USE OF THE GUILDHALL A request for free use of the Guildhall to host the Essex Conservation Officers Forum on 17th April, 2008 was considered.

RESOLVED: to agree to the request.

146/07 EALC - CHANGES IN LEGISLATION A member advised the meeting of notification from Essex Association that 'The Chairman may be elected from the councillors who have been elected: this restricts co-opted and appointed councillors being elected as Chairman of councils'.

147/07 ESSEX AREA FORUMS Councillor Double reminded members of the importance of the Council sending a representative to meetings of the East Essex Area Forum.

RESOLVED: to place the item on the next agenda of the Full Council to nominate a representative.

148/07 PARTY IN THE PARK Councillor Double advised the meeting that Party in the Park is a biennial event and is, therefore, not scheduled for 2008.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm