

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Assistant Clerk: Susan Anderson
Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich CO12 3DS
Telephone: 01255 507211 email: harwichtown_co@btconnect.com

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 16th September 2009 at 7.00pm at THE 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH

Present: The Mayor, Councillor J Wares, in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Tyrer
Councillors B Brown, R Callender, M Gardner, D McLeod,
L Payne, L Double, G Calver, A Colbourne

Assistant Clerk to the Council, Mrs S Anderson

Also present: 2 guest speakers, 1 member of the press and 22 members of the public.

Prayers were said by the Reverend E Lammens and a one minute silence in memory of the Clerk to the Council, Mrs Elaine Novorol was observed and tributes were made by councillors.

63/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, P Burke, S Henderson, B Howlett, A Morrison and D Rutson.

64/09 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor L Payne declared a personal interest in 71/09, as he lives at Fronks Road, Dovercourt.

65/09 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave details of engagements she has recently undertaken and requested that the press and public be excluded at the end of the meeting because of the likelihood that confidential information could be disclosed.

66/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5th August 2009 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

67/09 450th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISIT TO HARWICH BY QUEEN ELIZABETH I

Reference minute 42/09, Councillor G Calver advised that there couldn't be anything to report until at least the next meeting.

68/09 REPLICA OF THE MAYFLOWER

Further to minute 45/09 (a), the Council were advised that Mr Tom Daly would be attending the next meeting of the Full Council to speak about the proposal to construct a replica of the Mayflower.

69/09 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Further to Minute 45/09 (b), the Council were advised that as no feasibility study had been received from Ingleton Wood, that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

70/09 HARWICH MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT: CONSTITUENCY NEWSLETTER

Reference Minute 46/09, in response to a reply from Douglas Carswell MP, regarding distribution of his constituency newsletter the Committee **RESOLVED:** to write to The Speaker of the House, Mr Bercow expressing concerns that constituency newsletters were not being delivered to residents of Harwich.

71/09 COLLAPSED DRAIN MAIN ROAD/MANOR ROAD, DOVERCOURT, DIVERTED TRAFFIC ROUTES

Councillor L Payne expressed his concern with traffic diversions authorised by The Highways Agency, whilst repair work is carried out on the collapsed drain. **RESOLVED:** to write to the Highways Agency requesting a meeting, with councillors, to discuss better ways of diverting the traffic.

72/09 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Councillor S Tyrer present the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2009 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

73/09 PROJECTS IN HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT PROPOSED BY THE PREVIOUS TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Councillor Calver introduced Councillors Mayzes, the Portfolio Holder for Leisure, together with the previous holder, Councillor Oxley to discuss leisure facilities in Harwich.

Councillor Mayzes reported on future plans for Harwich and Dovercourt and confirmed that a new air conditioning ventilation unit will be installed at the Dovercourt Swimming Pool next year but expenditure on the Dovercourt Sports Hall and alandall other improvements locally would not materialise, as the current Administration at Tendring District Council were not prepared to borrow money.

Councillor Oxley gave a presentation on plans previously proposed for Harwich and Dovercourt and handed reports to all councillors present and confirmed that, according to the Audit Commission, there is a

£1.8Million reserve, Tendring District Council has just under £4Million and a £1Million under-spend and could possibly find another £1.5Million funding, making a possible £6Million available to spend.

Councillor Mayzes confirmed that because of neglect of council facilities it was agreed to set reserves at £4,000,000 and initiate a ten year maintenance programme.

The Chairman gave her thanks to both councillors.

74/09 GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' PRESCRIPTIONS ON SUNDAYS

Members noted a letter received from Dr P Zollinger-Read, Chief Executive of the North East Essex PCT. Councillor Calver expressed his concern at the inability of Harwich residents to obtain prescription medicines between 6.00pm on a Saturday and 9.00am on a Monday.

RESOLVED: to write to Harmoni requesting (a) that all information in the letter is correct? (b) to confirm where GP's covering Harwich, are based? and, (c) location of medicines.

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75/09 MEN'S HEALTH CLINIC AT THE FRYATT HOSPITAL, HARWICH

Councillor Calver reported that councillors had met with representatives of the PCT who stated that this clinic would not be put in place. He further advised that after discussions it was established that Professor Booth had not been allowed to discuss this proposal with the PCT's Clinicians. Councillors felt that this was wrong and the PCT agreed to arrange such a meeting. As no report had been received from the PCT, it was agreed that the matter be deferred until that meeting has taken place.

76/09 THE LICENCING ACT 2003 – 09/00611/PREMGR

Further to Minute 59/09, the Acting Clerk clarified that the Sunday Trading Laws applied to selling/supplying alcohol at Iceland, High Street, Dovercourt.

77/09 REPORTS OF UNPROVOKED ATTACKS IN HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT

The Mayor read a letter received from the Chairman of the Community Representatives Party, Mr David Smith requesting that a public meeting be called to discuss the current anti-social behaviour in the town. The Mayor confirmed that she alone could not call a public meeting therefore the item was placed on the agenda for consideration by the full council.

RESOLVED: to write to Mr Smith advising him to approach the Police direct and the local Crime Prevention Panel.

78/09 RESTORATION OF BANDSTAND IN CLIFF PARK

A letter from Essex County Council, requesting £1000 towards the cost of restoration work of the bandstand in Cliff Park, Dovercourt was

noted. **RESOLVED:** to refer this item to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

79/09 STREET CLEANSING

The Committee agreed that the Chairman of Environment & Highways Committee, Councillor S Tyrer, would present comments, on behalf of the Full Council, to Mr S Sparrow, Tendring District Council regarding the street cleansing in Harwich.

80/09 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Councillor L Payne, representative of Harwich Master Plan, advised that he had attended an extraordinary meeting called by TDC where a decision was taken to scrap the planned parking at Gas House Creek which was to be an essential facility for tourism in Harwich.

Councillor D McLeod asked for the Master Plan to be included in the next Full Council agenda.

Councillor B Brown thanked the Archivists and councillors who helped at the Guildhall with the recent Heritage Exhibition.

81/09 ACCOUNTS

None.

82/09 SEA FESTIVAL REPRESENTATIVE

A letter received from Dovercourt Rotary Club with a request for a member of the council is nominated to assist with disabled facilities, when preparing for next year's Sea Festival. **RESOLVED:** that Councillor P Burke be nominated as Harwich Town Council's representative on the Harwich Sea Festival Committee

83/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 28th October 2009 at The 1912 Centre, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

84/09 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Pursuant to Section 1 of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the meeting is closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under mentioned business:

Part 'B' by Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor L Double, update on continuity of Town Council Duties.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE

PART 'B'

85/09 CONTINUITY OF TOWN COUNCIL DUTES

Councillors were advised that Mr Ron Laurie was being employed, on a temporary and part-time basis, to assist with accounts work during the period of staff shortage at the Guildhall. **RESOLVED:** to retain his services until staffing is at the required level.

86/09 APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: to recommend that the Assistant Clerk to the Council be appointed Acting Clerk to the Council on the same terms and conditions applied to the former Acting Clerk appointment with a salary at point 35 in a range 35-39 on the NALC scales.

The Committee agreed that the Chairmen of Planning, Allotments, Finance and General Purposes, Guildhall, Environment and Highways Committees and The Mayor be in attendance when interviews for the position of Clerk to the Council take place.

87/09 OFFICE CLOSURE

The committee agreed that as a mark of respect, the office would be closed on Friday 18th September 2009. **RESOLVED:** that a floral wreath be sent to the Independent Funeral Directors, Oakley Road, Dovercourt from Councillors and Staff of Harwich Town Council

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: