

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Susan Anderson

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 5th JANUARY 2011 at 7.05pm**

at

THE 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH

**Present: The Mayor, Councillor S Tyrer in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor B Brown
Councillors P Burke, G Calver, A Colbourne, L Double,
S Henderson, B Howlett (from 7.20pm), D McLeod, L Payne and D Rutson**

Clerk to the Council, Mrs S Anderson

**Also present: Reverend Peter Mann, Inspector C Willis, Mr C Strachan (from 7.10pm),
15 members of the public and 1 member of the press.**

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Flavell informed members that he had asked Tendring District Council if the Harwich Master Plan was still in force. He further explained that an email response had been received from Councillors Stock and Halliday, Tendring District Council, stating the Master Plan was a “white elephant” that had failed. Mr Flavell then asked the view of the council.

Councillor Double explained that the Master Plan is a document that gives consent for a set of circumstances to take place in the future; it does not mean that it will not happen and designs sometimes are changed along the way.

Councillor Payne confirmed that the Harwich Quayside design would not be going ahead without the Master Plan.

The Mayor confirmed that Harwich Town Council were fully supportive of the Master Plan.

Councillor Calver suggested that it is easy to state that it has failed but there has been no provision of evidence to support the case

The Mayor suggested inviting Councillor Stock to the next Harwich Town Council meeting on 16th February 2011 and agreed that the item is placed on the next agenda, once permission has been obtained to release a copy of the email.

The Mayor welcomed Inspector C Willis to the meeting.

Prayers were said by Reverend Peter Mann.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, R Callender, M Gardner, A Morrison and J Wares.

117//10 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

118/10 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a report of all her engagements carried out since the last council meeting. On Christmas day, the Mayor and Mayoress dedicated the whole day visiting the Fryatt Hospital, local elderly peoples homes in Harwich and also obtained permission to visit Ramsey Manor formerly Michaelstowe Hall.

119/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 24th November 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

120/10 HARWICH POLICE

Inspector Chris Willis gave members an overview of the current situation of the local police force. The Inspector assured members that there will be no cuts to the force locally now, nor in the foreseeable future. The Inspector agreed that Members if changes came about, he would contact the council accordingly.

Inspector Willis agreed to regularly attend meetings of Harwich Town Council and for him to be added to the Full Council agenda list.

The Mayor thanked him for attending the meeting.

121/10 CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL – BUS PASSES

The Mayor informed members that after writing to Essex County Council regarding changes to the times of concessionary travel and meeting with the Chairman of Essex County Council, the 9.00am start time will remain for a year at least.

Councillor McLeod reported that 12000 responses had been received regarding the changes and he was also actively supporting the retention of the 9.00am start.

122/10 FLOOD WARNING SIRENS

Further to Minute 89/10, members discussed the response received from Essex County Council regarding the decommissioning of the flood warning sirens at Harwich. Members expressed considerable concern regarding this matter; it was agreed for the Mayor to write to Essex County Council and Mr B Jenkin (MP), on behalf of Harwich Town Council stressing salient points made by councillors.

It was further agreed to include this on the next agenda with a view of Harwich Town Council paying to maintain this facility for local residents.

The Mayor agreed to take this matter as an emergency item.

123/10 HARWICH QUAYSIDE DESIGN

Further to Minute 91/10, members agreed that the matter had been discussed earlier with Beverly Gould and Helen Code of Essex County Council who had briefed the council regarding the Harwich Quayside design.

124/10 WELLINGTON ROAD, HARWICH – PARKING CONGESTION

Further to Minute 95/10, the Council discussed a response received from Mr Ian Taylor, Tendring District Council. **RESOLVED:** that Mr Ian Taylor is invited to the next meeting of Harwich Town Council to discuss the matter.

125/10 HOOK OF HOLLAND EXCHANGE VISIT

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next agenda.

126/10 HARWICH SCHOOL – FUTURE MEETING

The Council agreed the importance of holding a future council meeting at the Harwich School. The Mayor reported that as soon as she has received a response, the item will be placed on the agenda.

Councillor Howlett provided members with another option of inviting the children to attend a council meeting with an extended “questions and answer” session. Councillor Howlett told members that, in response to an email received today regarding the British Youth Council, he had seen the presentation which was very good and positive.

127/10 RESTORATION OF BANDSTAND IN CLIFF PARK

The Council discussed a request from Essex County Council for grant funding of £4000 towards the restoration of the bandstand in Cliff Park. **RESOLVED:** that Harwich Town Council will grant £4,000 towards to restoration of the bandstand as long as the rest of the funding of £43,600 approximately, was in place.

128/10 MINERALS DEVELOPMENT DOCUMENT

The Council noted consultation dates 9th December 2010 to 17 February 2011 on the Minerals Development Document from Essex County Council.

129/10 ESSEX LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Members considered the Essex Local Transport Plan and the importance of the implications to Harwich. **RESOLVED:** for the Clerk to extract relevant information from their website.

130/10 MACE PARK, DOVERCOURT

The Mayor informed members that the disabled access through Mace Park was not in place. The Council **RESOLVED:** to write to Councillor S Mayzes, Leisure Portfolio Holder at Tendring District Council, to request the installation of a disabled access through Mace Park.

The Mayor agreed to take a special item regarding arrangements with Tendring District Council to open the toilets situated beside The Pier, Harwich Quay on New Years Eve. The Council agreed that the item is placed on the next agenda.

131/10 SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members noted the Revised Core Strategy Document received from Suffolk Coastal District Council.

132/10 MINUTES OF THE GUILDHALL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 18th November 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

133/10 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 1st December 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

134/10 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Special Council Meeting held on 15th December 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

135/10 ACCOUNTS

Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted. **RESOLVED:** to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

136/10 BRIEF REPORT OF MEMBERS

None received.

137/10 LETTERS OF THANKS

Members noted letters of thanks received from;
(a) The Swedish Group
(b) Ark Family Resource Centre
(c) Arrival of St Nicholas (Welcome Committee)

138/10 REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

The Council welcomed the news that a new Registration Office has been installed at the Fryatt Hospital which is due to open early in January 2011.

139/10 RESIGNATION OF CLERK

The Council acknowledged the resignation of Mrs Susan Anderson, Clerk to the Council dated Monday 13th December 2010, confirmed leaving date 14th January 2011. A Working Party has been formed, consisting of The Mayor Councillor S Tyrer, the Deputy Mayor Councillor B Brown and Chair of Finance Councillor J Wares, to make preparations to appoint a new clerk.

140/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 16th February 2011 at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE