

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 11th MARCH 2009 at 7.15pm
at the 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH**

**Present: The Mayor, Councillor D Rutson, in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor J Brown**

**Councillors: B Brown, L Double, G Calver, A Colbourne,
D McLeod, S Henderson, B Howlett, J Wares, S Tyrer,
R Callender, P Burke and M Gardner**

The Clerk to the Council, Mrs E Novorol

Also present: 1 member of the press and 9 members of the public.

156/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Morrison and L Payne

157/08 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None

158/08 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave details of engagements he has recently undertaken.

159/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 28th January 2009 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record accept to amend:
Minute 134/08 - Councillor Rutson's declaration of personal interest to read: 'as previous owner of land in Ashley Road, close to the Mayflower School Site'.

Councillor Double queried minute 135/08 and asked Councillor Rutson to confirm his agreement of the content of the previous meeting: that, through the subject matter of an article in a recent newspaper report, he had taken the position of Mayor into disrepute because of publicity showing him dressed in civic robes when the reported issue was not part of Mayoral duties. Councillor Rutson agreed that this component was missing from the minute.

160/08 FEASIBILITY STUDY, MAYFLOWER SCHOOL SITE

Further to minute 141/08, Councillor Rutson advised members that he had problems in obtaining the required £4000 from Tendring District Council but was hopeful of funding from an alternative source. Councillor Double reminded the meeting of the resolution that Harwich Town Council would contribute £1733 to the study when in receipt of the £4000, regardless of its source.

161/08 INCORRECT NAMING OF BUS STOPS, FRONKS ROAD

Further to minute 110/08, Councillor Calver advised members that two bus stops on Fronks Road, Dovercourt were still incorrectly named.

RESOLVED: to again write to Essex County Council to request that the matter receives urgent attention.

162/08 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Councillor S Tyrer presented the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2009 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

163/08 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, HIGH STREET, DOVERCOURT

Further to minute 137/08, Councillor McLeod gave a statement in response to a letter from a member of the Community Representatives Party regarding issues concerning the Christmas lights in Dovercourt High Street.

164/08 THE FRYATT HOSPITAL

Reference minute 138/08, Councillor Henderson advised members that he is dealing with various matters concerning the Fryatt Hospital but was not prepared to bring them to the attention of this meeting. Councillor Calver referred to previous allegations made by Councillor Henderson that the hospital is to be sold with services going out to the private sector and asked for evidence.

RESOLVED: to write to Dr Zollinger-Reade, Chief Executive of the Primary Care Trust, and ask for written confirmation that there is no intention to sell off the hospital.

165/08 STREET CLEANING, HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT

Councillor McLeod referred to newspaper reports that Councillor J Brown had made derogatory comments regarding Harwich Town Councillors in stating they 'should be taking more responsibility' concerning street cleaning. Councillor J Brown responded that he had been misrepresented in the local press.

166/08 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Councillor Tyrer thanked all councillors who had attended the tree planting held on Saturday, 7th March and funded by HEAT. She advised that the event, with nearly 300 trees planted, had been well

attended by the Harwich Society and members of the public. Councillor Rutson, a member of the Seafront Advisory Committee, advised that 3 new toilets will be built with the first, at the West End, to be completed by the end of July and the others before the end of August.

167/08 FINANCIAL UPDATE AND RECORD OF PAYMENTS

Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed in Appendix 'A'.

168/08 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

Councillor Tyrer proposed and it was **RESOLVED:** to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee conduct a scrutiny exercise on the effectiveness of the enforcement process within Planning.

169/08 TENDING WILDLIFE HABITAT SURVEY INFORMAL CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: to set up a Working Party, Chaired by Councillor Tyrer, with Councillors Rutson, Gardner, McLeod and Wares, to comment on the Wildlife Habitat Survey by 27th March 2009.

170/08 HARWICH QUAY FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Members noted the letter thanking Harwich Town Council for its recognition of the 2008 display and offer of support for this year's event.

171/08 EXHIBITION AT THE GUILDHALL, FESTIVAL WEEKENDS 2009

Councillor B Brown advised members that the Honorary Archivists will be visiting the Association of Jewish Refugees to obtain materials on loan for the forthcoming exhibition which will focus on the Kinder Transport which ferried thousands of Jewish children to safety in England. **RESOLVED:** to present a Harwich Town Council paperweight to the Association of Jewish Refugees in recognition of the link with Harwich.

172/08 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday, 21st April 2009 at Long Meadows Community Centre at 8.00pm or at the rise of the Annual Parish Meeting, whichever is the later.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE