

MINUTES of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL held at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich on Wednesday 12th October 2011 commencing at 7.05 pm

Present: Councillors Calver, Day, Double, Flavell, I Henderson, J Henderson, King, McLeod, Thurlow and Todd

In the Chair: Councillor B Brown

Clerk: Mrs L Ballard

Also present: 10 members of the public and 1 member of the press

Upon opening the meeting, the Chairman reiterated that public questions should have been submitted in writing to the Clerk in accordance with new Standing Orders except for any issues that have been resulted since the publication of the agenda, and in such an instance, the Chairman will suspend Standing Orders to allow questions. Being aware that there was an agenda item likely to give rise to public questions, the Chairman confirmed that he would adjourn the meeting to allow the member of the public to speak.

Prayers were said by Reverend Peter Mann.

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The Chairman informed of 2 emergency items to be added to the agenda due to the timeframes given for responses; one item to be discussed after item 12 (min 87/11) and the other at item 19 (min 95/11).

76/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C Callender, R Callender, Gibbins, O'Neill and Thompson.

77//11 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllrs Calver and Flavell in relation to the Harwich Society correspondence as members of the Executive Committee.

78/11 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave an account of some of the 29 engagements attended since the last meeting, including several civic services outside of Harwich, the Motorbike Rally, Opera Gala, RAFA service, and also the opening of the World Dementia Day events and the Lighthouse Walk in aid of St Helena Hospice. The Mayor hoped to get support for the Charity concert to be held on 22 October 2011 at St Nicholas Church.

79/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 31st August 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

80/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Members noted a letter from Paul Price at TDC regarding the attempts to consult with HTC in relation to leisure facilities in the town. **RESOLVED:** to

place the item on the next agenda for Full Council and reply to Mr Price's letter to confirm comments will be submitted in due course.

- Further to Minute 64/11 members discussed a response from Ian Taylor, TDC regarding requests made in relation to parking in Harwich, and his suggestion to write to the North Essex Parking Partnership. **RESOLVED:** to write to NEPP to expedite the matter.
- Further to Minute 64/11 members noted a reply from Harwich Police Station to confirm the current establishment, which includes 1 Inspector, 5 Sergeants, 20 constables (incl. 2 Neighbourhood Constables), 6 PCSOs and 4 Service desk/front office staff (incl. 2 part time).
- Further to Minute 65/11 a member stated that the Council need to monitor the BT payphone to ensure no vandalism. The Clerk confirmed that the final documentation was awaited and then progress would be made with the actions previously agreed.
- Further to Minute 71/11 the Chairman read a response from ECC leader Peter Martin to HTC's request to reinstate the bollards previously used on market days to prevent parking. **RESOLVED:** to write back to Peter Martin to ask him to explain his suggestion that doing this would require additional resources, and copy this to Bernard Jenkin MP.

81/11 JET SKIS

The Chairman gave an account of the measures taken by TDC to ensure users of Jet Skis in Dovercourt Bay waters are abiding by the rules and acting responsibly. **RESOLVED:** to propose to TDC that there is additional signage on the beach side.

82/11 FRIDAY MARKET SUCCESS

The Chairman gave an account of the research he had undertaken to gauge the success of the Friday market now that it's reaching its first anniversary. His research found that 1) there is a current waiting list for available stalls, 2) there's a mechanism in place for standby stall-holders in the event that existing holders are ill, 3) The market is generating an income of £600 per week and as such has allowed the organisers to be able to purchase more Christmas lights for the town. It is also hoped that a survey will be sent to shop keepers to establish the footfall and the benefits obtained.

83/11 ASSISTANT CLERK

The Clerk informed members of the successful appointment of the new Assistant Clerk to the Council and the intended starting date is 1st November.

84/11 WEEKEND DISPENSARY SERVICE

Cllr Calver informed members of a recent offer by a Pharmacy owner to open a pharmacy in Dovercourt which would provide late night and weekend opening to allow prescriptions to be dispensed but had been denied permission by the PCT. **RESOLVED:** to write to the PCT to ask how they intend to provide this facility if not to take up the offer placed before them.

85/11 PUTTING GREENS

Cllr J Henderson asked for ideas for further use of the green area between the putting green and the Skating rink, which currently accommodates the Crazy Golf and Croquet facilities, and suggested children's rides and craft schools, and also to extend the Skatepark behind the swimming pool given that members had previously received an email from a frequent skatepark user

regarding increasing the facilities. **RESOLVED:** to refer to a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for investigation and discussion.
FURTHER RESOLVED: to put the issue of a zebra crossing by the leisure facilities on the next E&H agenda.

86/11 SALT BINS

Members discussed the invitation from ECC to partake in the Winter Salt Bin Scheme 2011 and the implications of doing so and the Council's previous decline to take part due to logistics and resources. It was debated as to whether the salt bins had been removed or will return following the end of the summer season. **RESOLVED:** to write to ECC and ask how many bins we currently have in Dovercourt and where they are located. If they have been removed, why.

87/11 FLOOD SIREN

The meeting was adjourned under standing order 33c to allow a member of the public to speak about this item. The meeting was then reconvened for discussion by members who raised concerns that neither Harwich Council nor residents have been consulted prior to its removal. **RESOLVED:** to write to Cllr R Callender as ECC Councillor for Harwich to ask what he has done to keep the flood siren and also to write to Bernard Jenkin MP and ask him if he is in support of HTC's wish to have it returned.

88/11 RAISED BED AT SAILING CLUB

Cllr Flavell gave members some background information on the current condition of the raised grassed area behind the Sailing Club and the request by TDC to put HTC suggestions, of what to do with the area, in writing.
RESOLVED: to write to Pauline Richardson at TDC to suggest that picnic benches be placed there on a concrete base, but also to include a barrier of some description to prevent parking.

89/11 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 30th June 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted.

90/11 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 5th September 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted.

91/11 MINUTES OF THE GUILDHALL COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 19th September 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted.

92/11 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purpose Committee held on 26th June 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted.

93/11 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

94/11 BRIEF REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

- Cllr McLeod informed members of attendance at a meeting of the Essex and South Suffolk Rail Partnership and of a future Station Pride Day and Halloween ‘Ghost Train’ as two forthcoming events to be held.
- Cllr I Henderson reported that at a recent meeting of the Harwich Festival of the Arts Committee, the retiring Chairman, Anna Rendell-Knights, was thanked and the new Chairman, Diana Burrell, was already making headway with arrangements for 2012 and hopes to make things bigger and better.
- Cllr Thurlow confirmed that with both the Harwich and District pensioners Association and Age UK, member numbers had increased recently.

95/11 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Members noted a letter of thanks from Teen Talk for the use of the Guildhall to hold their HIYA meetings.
- Cllrs Calver and Flavell left the room whilst members discussed a letter from the Harwich Society regarding concerns over plans to use the grassed area within the site of Harwich Bus/Train Station as coach parking. Cllr I Henderson confirmed this was only an idea and that there was no suggestion of destroying the fountain.
- Members discussed a letter from the Boundary Commission.
- Members noted correspondence from the Hartley Park Group
- The Chairman adjourns the meeting to allow a member of the public to speak in relation to a letter she’d written regarding the new standing order regarding public questions. The meeting was reconvened and the Chairman read the letter. A resolution to vary Standing Order 1f was proposed and seconded and therefore adjourned to the next meeting of the Council.
- Members discussed a 20mph zone order from ECC at Stour Close in Dovercourt. **RESOLVED:** to submit to ECC that HTC welcomes this.

96/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 23rd November 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 8.50pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE