

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Elaine Novorol

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 13th AUGUST 2008 at 7.45pm held 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, S Tyrer, J Wares, L Double, G Calver,
A Morrison, A Colbourne, L Payne, S Henderson and B Howlett.
Councillor D McLeod until 8.10pm

The Clerk to the Council, Mrs E Novorol

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

Public Question Time: A member of the public asked why he could not be present for item 17 of the agenda 'Exclusion of the public and the press'.
Councillors explained the legality of the exclusion for certain matters to be discussed.

38/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Callender, Burke and Gardner.

39/08 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Calver declared a personal interest in the item regarding Essex Tourism Association and The Harwich Society of which he is a member.

40/08 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave details of engagements undertaken since the last meeting including details of a meeting he had attended regarding the possible implementation of a Men's Health Screening Scheme at the local hospital. Councillors gave their unanimous support of the scheme.

41/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2nd July 2008 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record with the amendment to 30/08 to read 'Cllr Oxley will arrange for a site visit. All East Central Ward members of Harwich Town Council will be invited to attend'.

Cllr Calver referred to the report given by Cllr J Brown regarding a meeting of the Conservation Panel and comments regarding the 10p parking scheme at Milton Road car park. Cllr Calver advised that the minutes of that meeting actually state that members believe the car park is under-used and that it should be better advertised.

RESOLVED: to ask Tendring District Council to promote the 10p parking scheme.

42/08 MILL LANE TUNNEL, DOVERCOURT

Members noted the response from Essex County Council confirming that the Bridges and Structures Section have arrangements in hand to inspect the structure and to undertake repairs to any safety defects identified.

43/08 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Cllr Colbourne presented the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2008 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

44/08 MINUTES OF THE GUILDHALL COMMITTEE

Cllr B Brown presented the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2008 (previously circulated). **RESOLVED:** that the minutes be adopted, including the recommendation to carry out repairs to the Coat of Arms on the front of the Guildhall.

45/08 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Cllr S Tyrer presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4th August 2008 (previously circulated). **RESOLVED:** that the minutes be adopted with the amendment to E23/08 to read 'Cllr Calver confirmed that parking issues were dealt with by Tendring District Council and that the request for a Residents Only parking scheme was refused because it was considered that it would not solve the problems'.

Members referred to minute E20/08 and acknowledged the hard work and perseverance of the Assistant Clerk to the Council, Mrs Susan Anderson, in obtaining the grant towards the restoration of the Minesweepers War Memorial, which will now go ahead.

46/08 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Councillor Morrison advised members that he would not be able to attend the next Harwich International Port LALC meeting on 17th September 2008 and any councillor who wishes to go in his place will need to complete the confirmation form.

47/08 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'.

48/08 COMMUNITY FLOWER FESTIVAL, 19th – 21st SEPTEMBER 2008

RESOLVED: for Harwich Town Council to take part in the Festival with an arrangement at a cost of £50.00 to be placed in the Mayor's pew of St. Nicholas Church.

49/08 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (HIGHWAYS)

Cllr Double referred to the need for resurfacing of the piece of land in front of the Citizens Advice Bureau, at the end of Patricks Lane and advised the meeting that a grant of up to £25,000 can be requested from the Community Initiatives Fund which could be used for this purpose. **RESOLVED:** to lodge an application for Community Initiatives funding to carry out this work.

50/08 FREE USE OF THE GUILDHALL

Members considered a request from the Pre-School Leaders for free use of the Guildhall on 4th November 2008.

RESOLVED: to grant free use of the Guildhall on that date.

51/08 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Members noted the letter of thanks from St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School regarding the welcome and tour of the Guildhall given to the Tendring Education Trust and visiting head teachers from Ghana.

52/08 FRIENDS OF HISTORIC ESSEX

A letter from Friends of Historic Essex thanking Harwich Town Council staff for the arrangements for the AGM held at the Guildhall on 19th July 2008 was noted.

53/08 SERVICE PERSONNEL AND VETERANS AGENCY

Members noted the invitation for a representative of Harwich Town Council to attend the Veterans Agency conference on 8th October 2008.

54/08 THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for grant of premises licence – Star Coffee Shop, 184 High Street, Dovercourt – Members noted that the objections of Harwich Town Council have not been accepted as a breach of Licensing Objectives.

55/08 THE BILLY PUBLIC HOUSE, HARWICH

Members noted that, as the required lobby at The Billy Public House, Harwich has not been built, the matter will be returned to Sub-Committee "B" and that Tendring District Council will advise when a date for the hearing has been set.

56/08 HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT BAY BEACH HUT ASSOCIATION

Councillors noted the letter from the Beach Hut Association.

RESOLVED: to request that Tendring District Council consider giving parity of parking charges to non resident beach hut owners.

57/08 ESSEX TOURISM ASSICATION

Members considered the invitation to the Essex Tourism Association AGM on 21st October 2008. **RESOLVED:** to pass the invitation to The Harwich Society.

58/08 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on 24th September 2008 at 7.15pm at the 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich.

59/08 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: that 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:

Dealing with habitual/vexatious requests and complaints

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE

