

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

**held on Wednesday 16th February 2011 at 7.45 pm
at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich**

**Present: Mayor Councillor S Tyrer – Chair
Deputy Mayor Councillor B Brown
Councillors G Calver, A Colbourne, L Double, S Henderson,
D McLeod, A Morrison, L Payne, P Burke, D Rutson and J Wares**

Acting Clerk to the Council Ms L Keeley

**Also present: Reverend Peter Mann, High Steward C Strachan, 10 members of the public
and 1 member of the press**

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs B Holbrook asked whether halving the number of Harwich Town Councillors would assist in cutting down expenditure and reduction of debt. Mrs Holbrook was informed that the Council is not in debt and that cost to the rate payer is minimal.

Mrs Holbrook also asked for information as to Councillors’ attending during the past 3 years at Full Council meetings and **RESOLVED** the Clerk to make this information available for the next meeting.

Prayers were said by Reverend Peter Mann.

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The Chairman informed members of two additional items for the Agenda

- Resignation of Chairman of Guildhall Committee and
- Letter from Paul Skeet regarding Establishment of a Friends’ Group for Restoration and Improvement of Cliff Seafront.

141/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

142/10 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS

Councillor Payne declared prejudicial interest at agenda items 11 and 12 as Director of ACE.

142/10 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a report on engagements carried out since last meeting.

143/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5th January 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by Council and signed by the Mayor as a true record.

144/10 FLOOD WARNING SIRENS

Further to minutes 89/10 and 122/10, Councillor Tyrer awaits response from Bernard Jenkin MP.

RESOLVED: Matter for Agenda at next meeting.

145/10 MACE PARK

Further minute 130/10, letter from Play Officer, TDC, dated 21 January 2011, confirming plans to form a disabled access route through Mace Park was noted.

146/10 FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

RESOLVED: To authorise payments as listed in Appendix A.

147/10 RESIGNATION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE GUILDHALL COMMITTEE

Councillor S Henderson announced his resignation as Chairman of the Guildhall Committee. Elections being soon it was agreed for the Committee to function without a Chairman for the interim period and for Councillor Calver to lead as Vice Chairman. Councillor Calver called for a meeting of the Guildhall Committee on Thursday, 24th February, 2011, at 7 pm at the Park Pavilion Board Room.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to notify all members of the meeting and that disabled access at the Guildhall will be included for discussion.

148/10 ESTABLISHMENT OF A 'FRIENDS' GROUP FOR THE RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF CLIFF SEAFRONT

Councillor Tyrer read a letter from Paul Skeet, dated 7th February 2011, with information on setting up a 'Friends Group' or similar.

It was agreed to seek a meeting of a co-ordination committee to assist interested parties in moving something tangible forward and **RESOLVED** to ask the Harwich and Manningtree Standard to run an article highlighting opportunities for the Town and call for volunteers to contact Harwich Town Council.

149/10 HOOK OF HOLLAND EXCHANGE VISIT

Further to minute 125/10, in consideration of the length of deferment and no further response received it was **RESOLVED** to close the matter.

It was agreed that formation of links between the Councils is beneficial to both communities and to tourism and consideration given to re-introducing links in the near future.

150/10 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU HARWICH

A letter was received from the Chief Executive Officer, CAB Tendring, dated 30th January 2011, (previously circulated), and application form for financial assistance towards legal expenses in relocating premises in Harwich. TDC is cutting back CAB Tendring's core grant in 2011/2012 which puts at risk the continuation of the Harwich Bureau post 31st March 2011. Fortunately, Harwich Connexions has offered to gift the TIC portacabin to the CAB Tendring and Morrisons plc has agreed a long term site lease at a peppercorn rent. It was agreed highly beneficial that a Bureau remains in the Town and **RESOLVED** to approve the grant application for financial assistance of £4000 subject to completion of business with Harwich Connexions and site lease with Morrisons plc.

Further **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to Harwich Connexions and to Morrisons plc for their help in retaining a Bureau in the Town.

151/10 WIND PORT SUMMIT

A letter was received from Bernard Jenkin MP dated 31st January with apologies for a mis-quotation in the local press regarding invitations to a wind port summit chaired by Mr Jenkin. The quote in the press read "... all Harwich Councillors were invited" and Mr Jenkin intended the quote to read "... invited Harwich Councillors of all political parties".

It was agreed important that communications remain open between management of the wind farm and the community and **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to Bernard Jenkin MP asking if he would attend a meeting of Harwich Town Council for open discussion.

152/10 HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

A communication was received from English Heritage (previously circulated) inviting applications by national and regional organisations who can demonstrate their ability to co-ordinate a large-scale, high profile programme and to show interest by 8th April 2011.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to respond indicating that Harwich Town Council is very supportive and, as in previous years, the Guildhall will be open for an exhibition entitled 'Festival of Britain 1951' during Heritage Open Days period 8-11 September 2011 as will many other local historic sites.

Councillor Payne left the meeting for discussion of the following two matters.

153/10 NORTH EAST ESSEX GP COMMISSIONING PCC

Public and Patient Engagement Strategy Discussion Document and questionnaire was received from North East Essex GP Commissioning dated 21st January 2011 (previously circulated). for response by 13th March 2011.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to send a response asking re-assurance that no commissioning decision be made until all consultation bodies are in place to make these decisions.

154/10 FRYATT HOSPITAL

It was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write and invite Dr Gary Sweeney, GP from Clacton elected by Tendring GPs as their representative on the Commissioning Board, to a special meeting of Harwich Town Council in order to explain the process and how they see the future for Fryatt Hospital.

Standing Orders will be suspended for this meeting.

155/10 HARWICH RBL BRASS BAND

A letter was received from the Harwich Royal British Legion Brass Band asking if Council is willing to donate a suitable gift to be presented to their friends at Harwich MA during a tour with the RBL Victory Brass Band (Portsmouth) in July/August 2011.

RESOLVED: The Mayor and Deputy Mayor to purchase an appropriate gift to the value of £150 purely because the visit is to Harwich MA.

156/10 BIG SOCIETY AND POSSIBLE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A letter was received from Executive Leader and Deputy Executive Leader TDC dated 27th January 2011 regarding a £500,000 Big Society Fund offering opportunity to bid for a share of the cash.

Councillor Payne said this is a good opportunity to help the Electric Palace Cinema Harwich in purchasing necessary digital projection equipment which is necessary as from 2012/2013 to ensure continuation of the local Cinema.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the Executive Leader informing him that Harwich Town Council welcomes an opportunity to benefit the community and help deliver a service better and more cheaply and recommends funding of £45,000 be considered towards the cost of a digital projector for the Electric Palace Cinema.

156/10 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 3rd February 2011 (previously circulated) were received and noted by the Council.

157/10 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: Minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 7th February 2011 (previously circulated) were received and noted by the Council.

158/10 BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Councillor Morrison said many users of the train line to and from Harwich are finding the changed time-table unaccommodating due to the short time period between connecting trains at Manningtree and it was **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to write to the MD National Express with these comments.

Councillor Double informed the Committee that members of "Museums in Essex" are meeting at the Guildhall on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2011.

Councillor Burke was pleased to announce her success in obtaining a venue at Fryatt Hospital and instructor to enable gym sessions for the elderly commencing at the end of March. Councillor Burke said that Bernard Jenkin MP was instrumental in obtaining a suitable room at the Hospital.

159/10 MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS

Members noted letters of thanks received as listed at Agenda item 18.

160/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 30th March 2011 at Esplanade Hall, Wellington Road, Harwich at 7 pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the latter.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE