

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**

Clerk: Elaine Novorol  
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008 at 7.00pm  
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, D McLeod,  
A Colbourne, A Morrison, S Henderson, J Wares, S Tyrer  
and L Payne (until 7.30pm)

**The Clerk to the Council, Mrs E Novorol**

**Also present: 1 member of the press and 4 members of the public.**

**Prayers were said by the Reverend E Lammens**

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**106/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**107/08 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Double declared a personal interest in the item regarding INTend – Tendring Regeneration Ltd.

**108/08 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave details of engagements he has recently undertaken.

**109/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record except to amend 88/08 to read 'to allow Councillor Henderson the opportunity to substantiate his allegations'.

**110/08 INCORRECT NAMING OF BUS STOPS**

Further to minute 87/08 and the incorrect labelling of bus stops on Fronks Road, Dovercourt, the meeting was advised that Essex County Council have responded that the errors are to be rectified.

**111/08 THE BILLY PUBLIC HOUSE, HARWICH**

Further to minute 89/08, members noted confirmation from Tendring

District Council that the required works at The Billy Public House, Harwich have been carried out.

**112/08 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, HIGH STREET, DOVERCOURT**

Further to minute 96/08, the Christmas lights, Dovercourt High Street, Councillor Wares referred to a press report stating ‘some councillors have said the lights are a waste of money’, and asked which councillors had complained. Councillor Tyrer distributed copies of a letter regarding festive lights at Upper Dovercourt and alleged comments made by Councillor McLeod. Councillor Tyrer advised members that she believed the author of the letter was Councillor Donn a member of Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council.

**RESOLVED:** to write to Councillor Donn, with a copy of the letter, asking if he accepts authorship and requesting his views. **FURTHER RESOLVED:** to write to Dovercourt Traders, with a copy of the letter, asking if they have previous knowledge of it and requesting their views.

Councillor McLeod advised the meeting that the total cost of the festive lights was £3516 + VAT and that the surplus funding would be returned to Harwich Town Council.

Councillor L Payne left the meeting at 7.30pm

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor McLeod, together with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and East Central Ward councillors meet with Dovercourt Traders to discuss festive lighting and that a working party is set up to deal with the matter for next year.

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** to agenda the item early in 2009.

**113/08 MACE PARK, DOVERCOURT**

Councillor Calver advised members that confirmation had been received that funding of £100,000 is now in place for the proposed development of Mace Park, Dovercourt and that Harwich Town Council should be pleased with the role it had played in securing this new facility. **RESOLVED:** to assure Tendring District Council that it has the full support of Harwich Town Council for this development and to thank Councillor Pierre Oxley and the all the officers involved for their hard work in bringing the scheme to fruition.

**114/08 MINUTES OF THE GUILDHALL COMMITTEE**

Councillor B Brown presented the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 (previously circulated).

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes be adopted.

**115/08 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES**

## **COMMITTEE**

Councillor Wares presented the minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 (previously circulated).

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes and all recommendations be adopted.

### **116/08 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

**RESOLVED:** to adopt, on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009, the new publication scheme produced by the Information Commissioner's Office.

### **117/08 HARWICH MASTERPLAN**

Councillor Rutson raised his concerns regarding reports to Harwich Town Council from Councillor Payne, the representative on the Harwich Masterplan's working party.

**RESOLVED:** to defer the matter to the next meeting of this council.

### **118/08 Intend – Tendring Regeneration Ltd.**

**RESOLVED:** to request that Councillor David Lines visit Harwich Town Council to provide more information on Intend.

### **119/08 MAYFLOWER SCHOOL SITE, DOVERCOURT**

Councillor Rutson requested funding of £500 from Harwich Town Council towards a feasibility study regarding possible development at the Mayflower School Site, Dovercourt.

**RESOLVED:** to defer the item to the next meeting of this council.

### **120/08 FREE USE OF THE GUILDHALL**

**RESOLVED:** to allow NACRO free use of the Guildhall on 13<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

### **121/08 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS**

None were given.

### **122/08 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'.

### **123/08 EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The Annual Return of the External Audit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008, which has been signed off by the external auditor, was noted.

### **124/08 INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Internal Audit dated 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008 was noted.

### **125/08 STUDENTS FROM BLACKEBERG GYMNASIUM SWEDEN**

Members noted a letter from Ann Evander thanking the Mayor and the Guildhall staff for receiving the visiting students from Blackeberg Gymnasium, Sweden.

**126/08 ELECTRIC PALACE – FESTIVAL OF SILENT FILM**

Councillors welcomed information regarding the Festival of Silent Film to be held from May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and considered a request for free use of the Guildhall to host receptions during this period.

**RESOLVED:** to allow free use of the Guildhall 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2009.

**128/08 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2009 at the 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich at 7.00pm or at the rise of the Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

**TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**