

**AT A MEETING of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
held at THE GUILDHALL, HARWICH, ESSEX on
TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2006 at 7.05pm.**

PRESENT

The Mayor of Harwich Councillor J Thurlow in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor Councillor D McLeod

Councillors:

W Bleakley

A Morrison

V Williams

L Double

M Gardner

W Rose

J Ford

P Brand

G Calver

M Gibbins

H Markham-Lee

Clerk to the Council Mrs E Novorol

Assistant to the Clerk to the Council Mrs S Anderson

Also present was one member of the press

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
Payne and Henderson

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| 62/06 | PRAYERS | Prayers were said by Reverend Erwin Lammens |
| 63/06 | REPRESENTATIONS
FROM MEMBERS OF
THE PUBLIC | None |
| 64/06 | DECLARATIONS OF
INTEREST | None |
| 65/06 | MAYOR'S
ANNOUNCEMENTS | The Mayor gave details of engagements undertaken since
the last meeting. |
| 66/06 | MINUTES | RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on
the 5 th September 2006 (previously circulated) be
approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record. |
| 67/06 | GRASS CUTTING
DOVERCOURT
SEAFRONT | Further to minute 47/06, a letter from Tendring District
Council was considered. RESOLVED: to write to
Tendring District Council asking if there is a set schedule
for grass cutting and if so, requesting a copy. |

- 68/06 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES DOVERCOURT SEAFRONT** Further to minute 49/06, a response from Tendring District Council was read out to members. **RESOLVED:** to write to Tendring District Council expressing this Council's belief that Harwich has been treated unfairly in having its overwhelming need for new toilets set aside in favour of Frinton. The letter is to request that funding to provide Dovercourt Bay with a new seafront toilet block be allocated within the next budget.
- 69/06 SEAFRONT SAFETY** With reference to minute 51/06, the response from Tendring District Council regarding provision of hand railing on promenades at Harwich was noted. Appreciation of the amount of detail contained within the letter was expressed.
- 70/06 FUNDING OF DENTISTRY** A response from Tendring NHS Primary Care Trust regarding minute 52/06, funding of dentistry, was read to members. **RESOLVED:** to write to the PCT, enclosing a copy of their reply, and ask what level of service can Clearsprings practice provide to residents of Harwich and Dovercourt through the allocated funding. Also, to write to the new body, North East Essex PCT, and request that their Chief Executive visit a future meeting of Harwich Town Council.
- 71/06 INVESTMENT FOR HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT** Further to minute 57/06, a reply from the Leader of Tendring District Council was considered. **RESOLVED:** to reply, enclosing a copy of the letter from Tendring District Council dated 15th December 2005, advising the Leader of the Council that the recent response does not square with the former comments.
- 72/06 COX'S POND** Reference minute 22/06, the response from Tendring District Council was noted.
- 73/06 FRIENDS OF THE EARTH/UPGRADING OF THE A120** Councillors were advised that no response has been received from Friends of the Earth since providing them with a copy of the statistics on collisions on the A120. **RESOLVED:** to again write to Friends of the Earth, marking the letter for the attention of Mr Tony Juniper, demanding a response.
- 74/06 PROVISION FOR PETANQUES** **The meeting was advised that an opportunity had arisen to obtain funding for the provision of a petanque facility at the putting greens. RESOLVED:** that Councillor Double can bid for funding from the East Area Forums and utilise the budget surplus from this season's leisure facilities to go ahead with this initiative.

75/06	LIME COURT/ STAFFING ISSUES	Members considered a letter from staff employed at Lime Court outlining the situation with new contracts of employment under TUPE transfer. Subject to the Local Government Act 1972 and supporting case law, a council cannot lawfully decide any matter not specified on the agenda. The Chairman agreed to take the item and after a full debate on the contents of the letter and a recent motion carried at a meeting of the County Council it was RESOLVED: to write to Essex County Council advising them that Harwich Town Council totally support the enquiry into this situation and request for it to be as rigorous and open as possible. Also, to write to Excelcare, with a copy to Lime Court Dovercourt Healthcare Ltd., requesting that no further action regarding contracts and terms of employment be taken until Essex County Council's enquiry is completed. FURTHER RESOLVED: to write to both the proposer and seconder of the County Council motion advising of the support of Harwich Town Council.
76/06	ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE	Councillor Williams presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19 th September 2006. RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.
77/06	CARS FOR SALE MAIN ROAD/TOP AINGER ROAD DOVERCOURT	Reference minute E07/06, Harwich Town Council welcome Essex County Council's decision. RESOLVED: to write to Harwich Police asking them to ensure that there is no obstruction at this junction until Essex County Council have taken action.
78/06	TREES IN HARBOUR CRESCENT	Reference minute E20/06, damage to pathways and the highway by trees in Harbour Crescent was considered. RESOLVED: It was agreed that remedial action was needed with a scheme for replacing any lost trees, possibly on the grass area in front of the wooden 'Norwegian' houses and the mound adjacent Old London Road. Councillor Double to pursue the matter with Essex County Council.
79/06	HILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE	Councillor Brand presented the minutes of the meeting held on 27 th September, 2006. RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.
80/06	ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE	Councillor Markham-Lee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 27 th September, 2006. RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted except to amend minute A30/06, Vacant Positions for Co-Opted Members to read minute A30A/06.

Councillor Double declared a personal interest in A27/06.

- 81/06 FINANCIAL UPDATE** Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.
- 82/06 EXTERNAL AUDIT** The Clerk advised that the Annual Return of the External Audit for the year ended 31st March 2006 has been signed off by the external auditors with two comments. A review of the Standing Orders/Financial Regulations and a Financial Risk Assessment to be carried out before the end of the current financial year.
- 83/06 RETIREMENT OF MR BADEN RUDLAND CRUCIFER OF ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH** A letter from Mr Baden Rudland, advising of his retirement as Crucifer of St. Nicholas Church was read to members. **RESOLVED:** to ask Mr Rudland to attend the next meeting of the Full Council, when he will be presented with a Town Plaque by the Mayor and the High Steward.
- 84/06 NALC ANNUAL CONFERENCE** The Clerk gave a brief report on her attendance of the Annual Conference of the NALC. Councillors were also advised that the Clerk had attended a short course on Budgets and Precepts and the Annual Conference of the SLCC. **RESOLVED:** that the Clerk register for the Essex Equals Five course to obtain the CiLCA qualification and subsequently Quality Parish Status for Harwich Town Council.
- 85/06 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:

Recruitment of the Assistant to the Clerk to the Council.

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE