

MINUTES of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL held at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich on Wednesday 20th July 2011 commencing at 7 pm

Present: Councillors C Callender, Calver, Day, Double, Flavell, Gibbins, I Henderson, J Henderson, King, McLeod, O'Neill, Thompson and Todd

In the Chair: Councillor B Brown

Clerk: Mrs L Ballard

Also present: 6 members of the public and 2 members of the press

Mrs B Holbrook thanked Councillors Flavell and I. Henderson for cleaning up Bathside. This was a joint effort, with Tendring District Council to assist residents to clean up the area where they live. Mrs Holbrook suggested they might encourage other Councillors to do the same in their wards. Cllr Henderson confirmed that discussions had already taken place with residents, who has shown a willingness to keep this going, and look towards making it a permanent thing.

Mrs Holbrook also raised concerns about the pavement in Albemarle Street having not yet been made up following the construction of flats in the street, and suggested this be looked into.

Mr Stanford raised concerns over the haphazard parking witnessed by some motorists in Old Harwich, including near to the Electric Palace and the 1912 Centre, and in particular some parking too close to the entrance of Wellington Road car park, which causes other motorists to overtake on the apex of the road and potentially into oncoming traffic. He said that the poor parking had prevented a Fire Service exercise because they couldn't manoeuvre around the cars. He also mentioned having seen cars park too close to junctions, including in Cow Lane, and not within the minimum limits imposed by the Highway Code. Councillor Flavell said he spoke with the Essex Parking Partnership who deny responsibility for this and claim it's a Police matter, but who are claiming to be showing leniency. Councillor I Henderson said that due to outsourcing, it was difficult to find who is responsible. Councillor Brown expressed concern that introducing double yellow lines would only serve to further reduce the available parking in Harwich. Councillor Double said that the Police should simply enforce the law and move on those motorists who are parking dangerously.

Mrs Holbrook raised a further concern over motorists parking on the quay in that there are no barriers to prevent cars driving up too far and potentially crushing someone's legs who might be sitting on the benches. Councillor I Henderson said he'd spoken with Beverley Gould who said ECC didn't want to install bollards. A risk assessment is expected but has yet to be carried out.

Prayers were said by Reverend Peter Mann.

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The Chairman announced that 2 emergency items would be included in the agenda; 1 re: Minute 48/11 and one of which would be after moving to exclude the press and public on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of that business.

37/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Callender and Thurlow.

38//11 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

39/11 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor announced that he had attended 34 events since the last meeting, and gave a brief account of a few including the Children's Carnival Parade, various events as part of the Harwich Festival of the Arts, and the opening of Oxley's of Dovercourt and the LV18. It was **RESOLVED:** to write a letter of appreciation to Anna Rendell-Knights for her efforts with the Festival.

40/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 8th June 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record, following an amendment to the number of press present, a correction to the Chairman and correction to one of the members present.

41/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Members noted a letter of confirmation from Anglian Water that the Flood Pumping Station in, Fernlea Road, which is part of the Anglian Water sewerage network, was in working order, is operational 24 hrs a day and monitored by their Operational Management Centre via telemetry.

The Chairman read a reply from Tendring District Council confirming that the Lidl S106 money was held by them, on deposit and accrues interest annually, until such time as it's spent. A further confirmation was read regarding the status of the Dovercourt Town Centre Study had been completed by the consultants and Tendring Regeneration Ltd will be submitting it to the Council (Planning) for use as a material consideration in planning matters. Completing this formal process will make the document publically available and enable the s106 monies to be expended.

A member asked if a meeting of the Working Party for the 'Polling Stations' has yet been arranged. The Chairman confirmed that he will move quickly with this.

42/11 ADOPT A KIOSK

Members discussed an invitation from BT to adopt the Telephone Kiosk on the junction of St Helen's Green on Main Road, as well as the potential uses, implications and concerns. It was **RESOLVED:** to request an extension to the deadline for applications whilst further consideration could be given to the best use if HTC were to adopt the kiosk.

43/11 COMMUNITY RAIL

Members discussed an invitation, from Essex County Council's Passenger Transport Rail Manager, to attend a meeting with community groups and other parties interested in looking into improvements to the Mayflower Line. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Councillor Dave McLeod as HTC representative.

44/11 TICKET OFFICE CLOSURE

Members discussed concerns over the potential closure of Dovercourt and Harwich International rail ticket offices, especially in the run up to the Olympics next year when Harwich will become an international gateway for visitors to the events. It was noted that staffing the ticket offices enabled more than just ticket sales, but also route-planning and travel information, and customer assistance. It was **RESOLVED:** to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon. Philip Hammond, to express the concerns of HTC and that the ticket offices should remain open.

45/11 QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Members discussed how best to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and it was **RESOLVED:** to form a working party consisting of the Mayor, Deputy-Mayor, and Chairs of both the Guildhall Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee, and for the Clerk to research appropriate ideas.

46/11 HARWICH POLICE STATION

A member brought to the Council's attention a newspaper report regarding the closure of Harwich Police Station. He further mentioned that a recent meeting of the Police Authority, held to discuss closures and a reduction on police numbers, had been held behind closed doors and without consulting residents. It was **RESOLVED:** to write to the Clerk of the Police Authority to ask under what criteria of the Local Government Act permitted the meeting to be moved into confidential business and to confirm that Harwich Police Station will not be closing or police numbers affected.

47/11 ELECTRIC PALACE GRANT

Councillor Double informed members of a request from Chris Strachan to broaden the terms of the original grant from HTC, to include all equipment as opposed to just the projector as originally agreed (Minute Ref:71/10).
RESOLVED: To re-profile the grant to 'Support the digitisation project'.

48/11 RECYCLING CENTRES FOR HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Councillor Calver briefly discussed an email received from ECC regarding proposals to close or reduce the opening times/days of recycling centres throughout Essex, which included that of Dovercourt amenity centre.
RESOLVED: to write to Essex County Council to request all the survey data on which they made their proposal and agenda for discussion at the next meeting of the Town Council.

49/11 STANDING ORDERS

Notice was given to members that the amendments to the Council's Standing Orders was in progress and would be presented for adoption at the next meeting of the Town Council.

50/11 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 16th June 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted.

51/11 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 21st June 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted. It was

FURTHER RESOLVED: to proceed with making the payment to Harwich Community Primary School for the garden surrounding the flood victims' memorial, as all arrangements were in place and the money had previously been budgeted.

52/11 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 27th June 2011 (previously circulated) be accepted.

53/11 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Special meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 29th June 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

54/11 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

55/11 BRIEF REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Councillor Flavell informed members of his attendance at the AGM of the Harwich Conservation Panel, and following the recent rescue on Harwich Quay it was noted that, although there were lifebelts on the Ha'Penny Pier, there were none on the Quay, and a request was to be made to TDC to provide these.

Councillor Todd informed members of his attendance at a meeting of the Merchant Navy Seaboard and made Council aware that currently between 700 and 1000 merchant seamen are being held by Somali pirates, and have been for months, even years, however this appeared to go unnoticed. He said it was only a matter of time before a cruise ship was taken and then it would make headline news.

Councillor O'Neill said her meeting with Teen Talk had been re-scheduled to 11th August 2011.

Councillor Brown informed members that further to minute ref: 23/11 he and the Clerk had attended an initial informal meeting with other local parish councils in order to find out how, if at all, HTC could benefit from further meetings. It was deemed to be useful and not thought to overlap the work of the TDALC. The item will be agendered for the next meeting of the Town Council.

56/11 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS

Members noted a number of pieces of correspondence including an email from ECC regarding the 2011 Love Where you Love Campaign, The RNLI Wellie Walk Fundraising event and a letter of thanks from Ann Evander organiser of the Blackeberg Students' visits.

A Letter from Bernard Jenkin MP, regarding car parking, was discussed and it was **RESOLVED:** to write to Harwich Police to raise concerns over motorists parking on the apex of narrow roads in Old Harwich and the effect this could have on emergency vehicles and write to Bernard Jenkin to take up his offer of a meeting regarding ownership of the property surrounding Harwich Train Station. It was also discussed that no response had been received, from TDC, to a letter of 5th July and it was **RESOLVED:** to write to TDC asking for an urgent response and to consider a proposal to immediately withdraw the

charges for use of the Wellington road car park to alleviate the problem in the short term, with a copy to Bernard Jenkin MP.

57/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 31st August 2011 at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

58/10 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Sub-section (2) of section (1) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting is closed to the press and public on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of that business.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE