

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Susan Anderson
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 21st JULY 2010 at 7.15pm
at THE 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH**

**Present: The Mayor, Councillor S Tyrer
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor B Brown in the Chair
Councillors J Brown, P Burke, R Callender, G Calver, S Henderson,
D McLeod, A Morrison (7.30pm), L Payne and D Rutson**

**Clerk to the Council, Mrs S Anderson
Inspector K Griggs of Harwich Police**

Also present: 2 members of the press and 20 members of the public

The Mayor welcomed Inspector K Griggs and Reverend Mann.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs B Holloway asked why Councillors Henderson, Rutson, Callender and J Brown had voted against proposals for Harwich at Tendring District Council and asked for those councillors to resign with immediate effect.

The Mayor stated that as the councillors concerned were serving in their last year of service, it would be impractical to call for resignations at this time and that no councillor could be made to resign because of the way he/she voted.

Councillor Callender replied that he had never voted against any proposals for Harwich.

Councillor Henderson requested that the question be put in writing as it is relative to District Council.

Councillor J Brown stated that he is a Harwich Town Councillor; Councillor of Parkeston and Ramsey Parish Council and a Tendring District Councillor voted in by the majority, not by minority and confirmed that he did not vote against the Dovercourt Swimming Pool.

Prayers were said by the Reverend P Mann

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18/10 EMERGENCY ITEMS

The Mayor asked members if the following emergency items could be included for discussion:-

- (a) Hook of Holland update
- (b) Report from Inspector K Griggs
- (c) Jet Skis (Councillor G Calver)
- (d) £85,000 from Tendring District Council (Councillor D McLeod)
- (e) Letter of apology (Councillor D Rutson)

19/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Colbourne, L Double, B Howlett and J Wares.

20//10 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

21/10 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave a comprehensive report on engagements undertaken since the last council meeting including attending nearly every event in the week of The Harwich Festival of the Arts.

The Council agreed to a proposal from The Mayor to invite local charities and organisations to give a speech at forthcoming meetings. Speakers will be invited before the start of the meeting at 6.00pm. The Citizens Advice Bureau will be invited to attend the next Council meeting on 1st September 2010.

The Mayor informed members that the goldsmith, Mr Ron Chapman, has taken the Mayoress Chain for engraving. The Mayoral badge has also been taken for repair as the small enamel waves had fallen off.

The Council agreed for a letter of thanks to be sent to The Harwich Festival Committee.

22/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 9th June 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record after an amendment was made to change the surname of Bradford to Bradnum on the item 'Public Question Time'.

23/10 20 MPH ZONE IN OLD HARWICH

Further to Minute 11/10, a response was noted from Essex County Council regarding the implementation of a 20mph zone in Old Harwich. Members agreed to wait eight weeks before contacting the Highways Department to allow time for the Speed Management Strategy to be published. Councillor Callender confirmed that Harwich Town Council's proposal was under discussion at County Council level.

24/10 DOVERCOURT BOATING LAKE

Councillor Calver expressed his concerns that the Dovercourt Boating Lake would not be open for this summer. **RESOLVED:** to write to Tendring District Council requesting an immediate review of the decision not to open the boating lake this summer on the basis of information given to the Mayor at a meeting held on 5th July 2010.

Councillor J Brown stated that building at the Boating Lake should not have been allowed to fall into disrepair as the leases, granted by Tendring District Council, state "full repair".

25/10 MILTON ROAD CAR PARK

Further to Minute 10/10 Councillor Payne reported that at a meeting held at Tendring District Council the matter of reinstating the 10p first hour car parking charge at Milton Road is on hold awaiting further reports.

26/10 PROGRESS REPORT FROM INSPECTOR K GRIGGS

Inspector K Griggs gave a comprehensive progress report to members on anti-social behaviour in Harwich and confirmed that a Dispersal Order, in force for six months, had led to several arrests.

Harwich Town Council members were invited to attend the next Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting at Long Meadows Community Centre on 22nd September 2010.

Inspector Griggs answered questions from members.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Griggs for attending the meeting.

27/10 HOOK OF HOLLAND

Further to Minutes 30/09 the Clerk read the final decision of the Hearing Sub-Committee dated 19th July 2010, Item 4.1 stated that Councillor David Rutson issue a letter of apology to Harwich Town Council, via its Clerk, within the next seven days.

The Council noted the letter of apology written by Councillor Rutson.

Councillor Calver asked permission for an email to be read regarding a letter written to a local paper by a Harwich Town Councillor which stated that the case against Councillor Rutson was politically motivated and if he was suspended, would result in altering the balance of power at Tendring District Council. The email was noted.

28/10 JET SKIS

Councillor Calver reported on jet skis not abiding to the guidelines set by Tendring District Council, resulting in the situation getting worse.

RESOLVED: to seek advice from Tendring District Council as to the current Jet Ski guidelines.

29/10 HARWICH MAGISTRATES COURT

The Hill School Sub-Committee informed members that it was felt necessary to seek legal advice regarding the request received from King Sturge, Her Majesty's Court Service's to move the boundary fence closer to the council owned buildings at the Hill School site.

RESOLVED: the Sub-Committee seek legal advice.

30/10 £85,000 ALLOCATED S106 MONEY

Councillor McLeod informed members of £85,000 allocated S106 money was being held at Tendring District Council, for the Harwich. It was suggested that as money can only be spent in very specific areas, Tendring District Council be asked to set up a joint briefing with local traders and Harwich Town Council. **RESOLVED:** for The Mayor to arrange a meeting.

31/10 SALT BINS

An email received from a resident of Sweden Close, Dovercourt, concerning a request for a larger salt bin at Norway Crescent, Dovercourt, was discussed.

RESOLVED: to ask ward councillors to look at the town in its entirety and for the matter to be referred to the next meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee.

32/10 MARINE PARADE DOVERCOURT – ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Inspector Griggs informed members that since the Dispersal Order came into force on 1st July 2010, the problem has moved. The Council congratulated Harwich Police as the Dispersal Order has achieved what the town needed.

33/10 ROSPA INSPECTION REPORT

The Council noted the recommendations contained within the ROSPA Inspection report concerning the skate park.

34/10 HARWICH AND DISTRICT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

A letter, received on behalf of the Harwich Pensioners Association regarding their wish to no longer have a member of Harwich Town Council on their committee, was noted. **RESOLVED:** (a) to acknowledge receipt of the letter and (b) to write to all local organisations asking if it was their wish to have a Harwich Town Council representative sitting on their committee.

35/10 TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL – LICENSING DEPARTMENT

The Council expressed concerns regarding the disruption of the annual Children's Carnival recently which was a result of a double booking made in the Licensing Department at Tendring District Council. **RESOLVED:** to write to the Licensing Department requesting that Harwich Town Council is consulted on all forthcoming events in Harwich.

36/10 STANDING ORDERS

The Council agreed for the review of Standing Orders to be deferred until the next meeting on 1st September 2010.

37/10 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Meeting held on 14th June 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

38/10 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting held on 23rd June 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

39/10 ACCOUNTS

Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted. **RESOLVED:** to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

40/10 EAST ESSEX AREA FORUM

The Council noted a letter from East Essex Area Forum regarding £50,000 of funding available for local projects.

41/10 HARWICH AND DISTRICT PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

The Council noted a letter of thanks from The Harwich and District Pensioners Association for receipt of a grant of £1000.

42/10 ST. NICHOLAS WELCOME COMMITTEE

The Council noted a letter of thanks from St. Nicholas Welcome Committee for receipt of a grant of £150.00.

43/10 ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Council noted a letter of thanks for the hospitality shown to visitors from Ghana by The Mayor and Mayoress, Councillors, the High Steward and Mr Ray Plummer, Archivist, on a recent tour of the Guildhall, Church Street. The Mayor, Councillor Tyrer, expressed a wish for Harwich to be linked with Kumasi. **RESOLVED:** for the item to be placed on the next agenda.

44/10 TEEN TALK

The Council noted a letter of thanks and copy of the latest newsletter from Teen Talk.

45/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 1st September 2010 at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

The Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 9.15pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE