

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Susan Anderson

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON 24th NOVEMBER 2010 at 7.50pm**

at

THE 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH

**Present: The Mayor, Councillor S Tyrer in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor B Brown
Councillors J Brown, R Callender, G Calver, A Colbourne, L Double,
S Henderson, D McLeod, L Payne and D Rutson.**

Clerk to the Council, Mrs S Anderson

Also present: Reverend Peter Mann, 14 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Rogers asked the committee what criteria will be used to measure the success of the local Friday market. The Committee suggested the question should be directed to Essex County Council but it had been suggested to Harwich and Dovercourt Traders Association that they monitor the results from neighbouring shops.

Mrs Steele asked who was responsible for the decision to stop sounding the flood sirens. Councillor Payne stated that the Environment Agency is responsible for flood warnings. Councillor Callender offered to speak with Tracy Chapman, the Portfolio Holder of Essex County Council Environment, and will advise Mrs Steele of the response.

Mr Flavell requested the Council ask Mr Nick Turner from Tendring District Council for a complete parking review in Old Harwich. Councillor Rutson stated that this matter was on the agenda to be discussed, and meeting his comments would be taken into account.

Ray Lovett, a local fisherman, expressed his concern regarding the proposed lack of parking spaces on Harwich Quay and asked members if Tendring District Council would consider issuing parking permits to overcome this situation.

Prayers were said by Reverend Peter Mann.

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85/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Howlett, M Gardner, P Burke, A Morrison and J Wares.

86//10 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

87/10 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Double read, on behalf of the Mayor, a summary of her engagements carried out since the last council meeting.

88/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13th October 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

89/10 FLOOD WARNING SIRENS

The Mayor agreed to take this matter as an emergency item.

Councillor Payne informed members of the decision by the Environmental Department of Essex County Council not to replace the flood warning siren on top of the Harwich Police Station. The Council **RESOLVED:** to write to the Environmental Portfolio Holder at Essex County Council to request to a new one.

90/10 ELECTRIC PALACE

Further to Minute 71/10, Councillor Payne informed members that the Electric Palace Trust was delighted with the generous one-off grant of £20,000. Members noted an invitation from Mr Chris Strachan to a tour of the Electric Palace.

91/10 HARWICH QUAYSIDE DESIGN

Further to Minute 69/10, the matter was discussed in the Planning Meeting under Minute P55/10. It was **RESOLVED:** to write to EDI, copy to Essex County Council, requesting the proposal is not determined until meaningful discussions have taken place with Harwich Town Council and for questions to be allowed from members of the public.

92/10 REGISTRY OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

Members were informed that a new Registry Office is to be installed at the Fryatt Hospital, Dovercourt in December 2010.

93/10 HARWICH MAYFLOWER PROJECT

Further to Minute 75/10, the Council **RESOLVED:** that the request to use images of Harwich Town Charters within The Records Office online catalogue, be granted.

94/10 £85,000 ALLOCATED S106 MONEY

Further to Minute 68/10, Councillor Calver thanked The Mayor for her comprehensive report regarding the s.106 money which currently stands at £102,234.17 and needs to be spent by 13 January 2014.

Members noted the letter received from Mr Matthew Hill, Managing Director of INTend and his intention to attend a council meeting at a later date. Councillor Henderson stated that he had attended a presentation recently where the monies have been applied, which will give a great boost to the town.

Councillor J Brown informed members that he had attended a presentation given by Hutchison Ports regarding changes within the container port to encompass the wind farm for the next 10 years. Councillor J Brown suggested that a public meeting be held either 10th, 17th or 21st January 2011. **RESOLVED:** for the Clerk and Councillor J Brown to organise a presentation and a notice to be placed in the local newspaper.

95/10 WELLINGTON ROAD, HARWICH – PARKING CONGESTION

The Council discussed the urgent need of a thorough review of parking requirements in old Harwich. **RESOLVED:** that letters be sent to Mr Nick Turner and Mr Ian Taylor at Tendring District Council, requesting an immediate review of the parking strategy in old Harwich.

96/10 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SALT BAG PILOT SCHEME

Members supported the scheme in principle and **RESOLVED:** for the item to be discussed at the next Environment and Highways Committee meeting.

97/10 PROPOSED MUSICAL EVENT “C AND SONGS”

An invitation for councillors to participate in the proposed musical event “C & Song” scheduled for summer 2011, was noted.

98/10 SEX ESTABLISHMENT POLICY

The Council noted notice from Tendring District Council regarding the changes in the legislation and introduction of a new policy.

99/10 GUILDHALL CLOSURE

Members **RESOLVED:** that the Guildhall will be closed from 28th December 2010 and re-open on 4th January 2011.

100/10 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Highways Committee held on 7th October 2010 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

101/10 ACCOUNTS

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

102/10 BRIEF REPORT OF MEMBERS

Councillor Double reported his attendance at the recent Annual General Meeting of Museums in Essex where a working party has been set up to source funding.

Councillor Rutson expressed his concern regarding the lack of Christmas lights in Dovercourt Town Centre. Councillor Calver stated that the Harwich and Dovercourt Partnership had experienced problems which have been sorted with the help of Councillors McLeod and Payne.

Further to Minute 79/10 and Councillor Calver’s request for any outstanding projects should be placed on the agenda for a conclusion or, for the proposal to be dropped. The following items were discussed.

Councillor Rutson was asked to comment on the situation regarding a new Community Centre within the Mayflower School grounds. Councillor Rutson stated that he was still awaiting answers.

Councillor Callender was asked for an update regarding enhancing a local roundabout. Councillors Callender informed members that there was no funding therefore the project would have to be dropped.

Councillor Rutson was asked to comment on the 10,000 Euros pledged by the Hook of Holland Council in May 2009 Minute 11/09, for tourism projects in Harwich. Councillor Rutson stated that the project was taken over by the next Mayor, Councillor J Wares. **RESOLVED:** for the item to be discussed at the next meeting.

Councillor L Payne asked if there was any further news regarding the Council holding a future meeting at the Harwich School as suggested in Minute 43/09 because this is a good opportunity to get very young people motivated in politics. **RESOLVED:** Clerk to check the minutes.

103/10 HARWICH SOCIETY

The Council noted a letter of thanks from The Harwich Society for the grant of £248.50 towards the Cliff House plaque in Cliff Park, Dovercourt.

104/10 HARWICH AND DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

The Council noted a letter of thanks from Harwich and District Crime Prevention Panel for the grant of £250.00 towards the Primary Schools Garden Competition 2011.

105/10 HARWICH AND DISTRICT RAIL SOCIETY

The Council noted a letter of thanks from the Harwich and District Rail Society for the grant of £200.00 towards costs to hold an exhibition February 2011.

106/10 TEEN TALK

The Council noted a letter of thanks from Teen Talk for the grant of £10,000.00 toward the new “drop-in” programme.

107/10 CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE

The Clerk informed members that the Planning meeting 9th March and Planning and Full Council meeting 30th March 2011 will be held at Esplanade Hall, Harwich.

108/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 5th January 2011 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 the meeting at 9.00pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE