

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Elaine Novorol
Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich CO12 3DS
Telephone: 01255 507211 email: harwichtown_co@btconnect.com

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28th JANUARY 2009 at 7.02pm at the 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH

Present: The Mayor, Councillor D Rutson, in the Chair

**Councillors: B Brown, L Double, G Calver, A Colbourne,
A Morrison, S Henderson, B Howlett, J Wares, S Tyrer,
R Callender, P Burke and M Gardner**

The Clerk to the Council, Mrs E Novorol

Also present: 1 member of the press and 12 members of the public.

Mr G Wallington-Hayes, Chairman of Harwich and District Community Association, referred to the item regarding a proposed feasibility study at the Mayflower School Site. He stated that the present community facilities at the Park Pavilion are not fit for purpose and that he would support a development at the new site. Debbie England gave her support for the feasibility study and mentioned the advantages of location and space which she believes are better than offered at the present site.

Prayers were said by the Reverend E Lammens

133/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Brown, D McLeod and L Payne

134/08 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Double declared a personal interest in the Harwich and District Community Association. Councillor Rutson declared a personal interest, as previous owner of land in Ashley Road close to the Mayflower School site.

135/08 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave details of engagements he has recently undertaken. Councillor Double raised concerns that recent articles in the local newspaper had referred to the Harwich Town Mayor, pictured in civic robes, when reporting matters which had taken place prior to Councillor Rutson's year in that position.

136/08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on 17th December 2008 and 7th January 2009 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

137/08 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, HIGH STREET, DOVERCOURT

Further to minute 112/08, the response from Mr Terry Howlett of Dovercourt Bay Traders was noted. A letter from Councillor Martyn Donn (Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council) was read to the meeting. Councillor B Brown requested that, as the response was only received on 26th January, the matter should be deferred to the next meeting of this council. Councillor S Tyrer stated that she wished to deal the matter at once and read a statement detailing her concerns that there had been a motivated attack on an individual councillor and that members of the public had been used for the political purposes of raising profiles. Councillor Tyrer also read an extract from a signed statement provided by a local trader. Councillor Calver asked for a response from the Community Representatives Party. Councillor Henderson requested and it was **RESOLVED:** to defer the matter to the next meeting of this council to allow all those involved the opportunity to respond and for Councillors McLeod and Donn and Mr Dave Smith to be able to give a statement.

138/08 THE FRYATT HOSPITAL

Further to minute 131/08, Councillor Rutson advised members that all local doctors were fully supportive of the proposal to provide a drop-in centre for men's health problems at the local hospital and thanked everyone on Harwich Town Council for their support. Councillor Tyrer referred to the agenda of the meeting held on 7th January and the allegations made by Councillor Henderson. She asked if any evidence to substantiate these allegations could be provided: Councillor Henderson declined to comment but following a request from Councillor Calver, offered to bring further information to a later meeting of this council.

139/08 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Councillor A Colbourne presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19th January 2009 (previously circulated) and, reference A96/08, thanked Councillor Double for his work regarding proposals for the Willow Way site.

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

140/08 INTend –TENDRING REGENERATION LTD

Councillor David Lines and Mr Mike Bateson gave a presentation regarding INTend, detailing how the company functions and the services it will deliver. Following questions from Harwich Town Councillors, the meeting was advised that INTend will publish an

Annual Report on 22nd July and that the website will provide further information.

141/08 FEASIBILITY STUDY, MAYFLOWER SCHOOL SITE

The Mayor, Councillor D Rutson, presented information regarding a feasibility study and the development of a new community centre. A discussion regarding funding from Harwich Town Council followed.

RESOLVED: to contribute £1733 towards the feasibility study for a new community centre for Harwich and Dovercourt, providing the required balance of £4000 has been received and that the necessary process to deal with VAT had been carried out.

142/08 WAITING RESTRICTIONS – PROPOSALS FOR HARWICH

Members noted the proposals for waiting restrictions (previously circulated) and the opportunity to comment directly to Essex County Council. Councillor Tyrer emphasised the importance of parking restrictions in Kingsway and the need to provide spaces for shoppers.

143/08 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Members gave details of meetings attended and Councillor Calver reported that Councillor Payne had recently attended the meeting of the Harwich Masterplan working party. Councillor B Brown gave details of the St. Nicholas Church Annual Pancake Race to be held on 21st February at 12 noon and the invitation to Harwich Town Council to enter a team.

144/08 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’.

145/08 NEW YEAR’S EVE FIREWORKS, HARWICH QUAY

Councillor Calver advised the meeting that there had been excellent feedback regarding the fireworks and that local people had enjoyed a good evening. **RESOLVED:** to write to the Harwich Quay Fireworks Display organisation, thanking it for the hard work in providing the entertainment and advising that Harwich Town Council will be minded to support the event at the end of this year.

146/08 ELECTRIC PALACE (HARWICH) LTD

Members considered the request for funding towards the planning and delivery of the ‘Electric Silents’ film festival. **RESOLVED:** s.137 grant funding of £1000, payable immediately, with an agreement to underwrite up to a further £1000 should there be any losses.

147/08 COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: A CONSULTATION

Members noted the opportunity to comment (to Communities and Local Government) on the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity by 12th March 2009 and that information was available at the Guildhall.

148/08 HARWICH INTERNATIONAL PORT LOCAL AUTHORITY LIAISON COMMITTEE

The meeting noted the invitation to appoint three representatives to the Harwich International Port LALC. **RESOLVED:** that Councillors Morrison, Tyrer and Callender are appointed as representatives.

149/08 THE ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION

A letter of thanks for the grant funding of £360 towards the cost of the meeting venue was noted.

150/08 HARWICH AND DISTRICT RAILWAY SOCIETY

A letter of thanks for the grant funding of £150 towards the Society's exhibition was noted.

151/08 HARWICH AND DISTRICT CRIME PREVENTION PANEL

A letter of thanks for the grant funding of £250 towards the local schools' Gardening Competition was noted.

152/08 HARWICH SEA FESTIVAL – 26th JULY 2009

Members noted the invitation from Harwich and Dovercourt Rotary Club to offer ideas as to how the Sea Festival could be made more attractive to people and better represent Harwich's interests.

153/08 MINERALS AND WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The meeting considered the invitation from Essex County Council to respond to the Minerals Development Document by 12th March 2009. **RESOLVED:** to delegate the matter to the Environment and Highways Committee and to request an extension to the deadline, if required.

154/08 STREET CLEANING, HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT

A statement provided by Councillor McLeod, regarding comments in the local press that local streets are not being cleaned and that a member of Harwich Town Council had stated that 'Councillors should be taking more responsibility for their wards' was read out. **RESOLVED:** to defer the matter to the next meeting of this council.

155/08 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on 11th March, 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 8.55pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE