

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 28th OCTOBER 2009 at 7.00pm at THE 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH

Present: The Mayor, Councillor J Wares, in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Tyrer
Councillors B Brown, J Brown, P Burke, R Callender, G Calver,
A Colbourne, L Double, M Gardner, B Howlett from 7.05pm, D
McLeod, A Morrison from 7.40pm, L Payne and D Rutson

Acting Clerk to the Council, Mrs S Anderson

**Also present: Mr T Daly (Guest Speaker), Inspector K Griggs (Harwich Police Force),
1 member of the press and 10 members of the public.**

A question was raised by Mrs Cheryl Thompson regarding the lack of litter bins in Dovercourt town centre and by the memorial garden situated opposite The Cliff Hotel in Marine Parade. The Committee agreed to write to the Environment Department of Tendring District Council requesting provision of more litter bins for the High Street and one in Marine Parade, Dovercourt.

85/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Henderson and Reverend E Lammens.

86/09 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Rutson declared a personal interest on Minute 92/09 as he is an allotment tenant. Councillor J Brown declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Minute 97/09.

87/09 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave details of engagements she has recently undertaken and requested that the press and public be excluded at the end of the meeting because of the likelihood that confidential information could be disclosed.

88/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 16th September 2009 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

89/09 NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE – FEASIBILITY STUDY

Further to Minute 69/09, the Council agreed to defer this item until a report was received from Ingleton Wood.

90/09 GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' PRESCRIPTIONS ON SUNDAYS

The Acting Clerk reported that no response had been received from Harmoni. **RESOLVED:** to write to Harmoni expressing the Council's disappointment and to request a response before the next meeting.

91/09 MEN'S HEALTH CLINIC AT THE FRYATT HOSPITAL, HARWICH

A report of a recent meeting, to discuss the proposal of a Men's Health Clinic at The Fryatt Hospital was read.

The Mayor allowed Mrs Cheryl Thompson to address the meeting. Mrs Thompson, reported that Harwich and District Fellowship of the Sick has pledged a large sum of money towards this project and asked councillors to join her at the East Essex Area Forum meeting on 3rd November 2009 at Colchester Football Ground 2.00pm.

The Council gave their full support and, after lengthy discussion, **RESOLVED:** to invite Dr P Zollinger-Read and Professor C Booth to attend the next Council meeting, when Standing Orders will be suspended to allow public participation.

92/09 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Councillor A Colbourne presented the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2009 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted and Plot 15 Boatswains Call to be discussed at the next meeting.

93/09 REPLICA OF THE MAYFLOWER

The members welcomed Mr Tom Daly who gave a comprehensive presentation on a proposal to build a replica of The Mayflower. The Council were informed that the project would create jobs and training for the town, it would also, when finished, be used for academy training.

The replica will be made of oak at an estimated building cost of £4 Million and charity registration status was currently being sourced.

The Council supported the project and agreed that the Mayor of the day will represent Harwich Town Council when relevant meetings occurred. The Mayor thanked Mr Daly for his informative presentation.

94/09 HARWICH MASTER PLAN

A member raised concerns that funding, earmarked for car parking at Gas

House Creek, was no longer available and had been withdrawn. Councillor Double expressed his concern that Councillor Payne, as the Council's representative of the Harwich Master Plan committee, had not been invited to a recent working party meeting. **RESOLVED:** to invite Councillor N Stock, Portfolio Holder to attend the next meeting to give an update on the Harwich Master Plan.

95/09 HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED: s.137 Grant of £5000 for purchase of Christmas Lights and installation of new fittings to enable use of throughout the year, subject to provision of expenditure to Harwich Town Council in accordance with Clause 9 of the Grant Aid Policy form.

96/09 ANNUAL ARRIVAL OF SAINT NICHOLAS AT HARWICH QUAY

RESOLVED: s.137 Grant of £100 to part-fund the cost of sweets.

97/09 DOVERCOURT LEISURE FACILITIES

Councillor McLeod expressed concerns regarding the cutbacks in funding for leisure facilities in Dovercourt. The Council discussed at length the lack of improvements to the swimming pool, sports hall and the current condition of the skating rink. **RESOLVED:** to write to Councillor S Mayzes, Leisure Portfolio Holder requesting improvements to Dovercourt leisure facilities.

98/09 MUSIC FESTIVAL PROPOSAL – JUNE 2010

The Council supported, in principle, the idea of a proposed Music Festival in June 2010, received from Mr B Woods, and looked forward to hearing news from him as his plans progressed.

99/09 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – INVESTMENT INTO HIGH STREETS

Councillor Calver expressed his concerns over the recent article in The Gazette regarding a £2.88 Million spend intended for Connaught Avenue, Frinton and posed the question why this money could not have been invested in Dovercourt High Street. **RESOLVED:** to invite Lord Hanningfield, Leader of Essex County Council to attend the next Council meeting to discuss to explain Essex County Councils policy on investment into High Streets. armo

100/09 ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE BLIND

The Council noted a letter from the RNIB requesting the Council's support regarding a campaign on the dangers of cars parking on and blocking the pavement. **RESOLVED:** to write to the Chief Constable Barker-McCardle supporting the campaign.

101/09 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Councillor J Brown attended a presentation regarding wind turbines and handed out leaflets to all councillors.

Councillor Morrison gave details of a recent meeting of Harwich International Port Liaison Committee and the proposal of only 23 cruise ships visiting Harwich next year. It was agreed that Councillor Double be nominated as a representative on the Harwich International Port LALC at the next Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Rutson attended a Tourist Board meeting where it was confirmed that the drop in cruise ships was due to the recession.

102/09 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

103/09 LANDSLIP BETWEEN MANNINGTREE AND HARWICH RAILWAY

A member reported that a landslip had occurred on the railway between Manningtree and Harwich causing the track and overhead power lines to move therefore disrupting passenger services. **RESOLVED:** to write to Network Rail regarding the disruption and inconvenience to commuters.

104/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 9th December 2009 at The 1912 Centre, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

105/09 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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:

Part 'B' by Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor L Double, to discuss personnel issues.

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE

PART 'B'

105/09 REVIEW OF PERSONNEL ISSUES

Personnel Issues

Councillor Double opened discussion with regard to the recruitment of a new Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer for the council. After discussion it was agreed to fill the position by internal promotion offering the substantive position to Mrs Susan Anderson who is presently Acting Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.

The terms and conditions attached to the position being as for the present acting up role. Agreed unanimously.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN:

DATE: