

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL held at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich on Wednesday 8th June 2011 commencing at 7pm

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

In the Chair: Councillor B Brown

Clerk: Mrs L Ballard

Also present: 5 members of the public and 1 member of the press

Mrs B Holbrook referred to an article in the EADT regarding £123k, which includes S106 money, to be spent on 2 play areas in the Harwich area. In relation to Harwich Green she asked the intention for the use of the money. Cllr Thurlow suggested it was for new swings. Cllr I Henderson added that it might be used on a maritime theme. Cllr Calver said Tendring District Council had received a press release about this and understood that the money would be spent on replacing/upgrading equipment within the existing play area only. Mrs Holbrook said she'd contacted both TDC and Essex County Council about a public enquiry as she is concerned about it being used for parking. Cllr I Henderson added that the fencing needed attention also, and perhaps could be added to any requests. Cllr Brown agreed to look into the situation and try to obtain further information from TDC. Cllr McLeod said the improvements should be welcomed.

Mr Bunton from Lime Avenue raised concerns about the noise from the Rock School over the past 2 ½ years and provided the Chair with copies of correspondence sent to TDC. He confirmed he has no objection to the rock school but would like them to improve insulation.

Mr Woods, who is a trustee of the rock school, said TDC had conducted a full investigation of the insulation levels and spent £5k on improvements such as boarding and sealing. Following further checks, it was deemed the noise levels were reasonable/acceptable and confirmed the rock school are doing everything they can, as have the Environmental Agency, who has complied with all necessary requirements. Mr Bunton said there has been no improvement. Cllr I Henderson suggested that perhaps the doors has been left open and Mr Woods said he'd make enquiries and offered to show Mr Bunton the works already carried out to alleviate the problem. Mrs Holbrook praised the rock school.

Prayers were said by Reverend Peter Mann

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10/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Double.

11//11 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

12/11 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked everyone for a great Mayormaking and confirmed his diary is filling fast and will have more to report at the next meeting.

13/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th March 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

14/11 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2011 (previously circulated) were received.

15/11 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL STATUTORY MAYORMAKING MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Statutory Mayormaking meeting held on 26th May 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

16/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Further to minute 176/10 Cllr I Henderson informed members of incidences when passengers using the 8.28am from Harwich National Express East Anglia rail service had previously been asked to leave the train further up the line because their Cheap Day tickets didn't apply at these times, despite a dispensation that allows this. Cllr Henderson wrote to NXEA and has since received confirmation that these tickets do apply and passengers departing from the Harwich line can continue to use these services in order to arrive in London at a decent time, using the Cheap Day tickets.

Further to minute 175/10 Cllr Calver asked if any progress has been made in obtaining information about the Dovercourt Town study. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted TDC and was awaiting a response.

Further to minute 122/10 Cllr I Henderson said that he was still receiving complaints/concerns about the decision to decommission the Flood siren in Harwich and that the issue should be pursued. It was **RESOLVED** to write to Anglian Water to seek assurance that the Fernlea Road flood pump houses were still in working order.

17/11 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED:

- (a) to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.
- (b) to approve the Annual Return year end March 2011 complete the Annual Return.
- (c) to approve the Internal Audit dated 21st May 2011 and noted that there is a sound system of internal control in place.

18/11 INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Members discussed the recommendations of the IRP for Councillors' allowances and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the level recommended of £744

for the ensuing year as detailed in Appendix B and **FURTHER RESOLVED** to freeze the allowance for the lifetime of this council so that no increases would be proposed until after the next election.

19/11 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members discussed the various organisations to which HTC belong and the benefits of membership.

RESOLVED: to approve annual subscriptions as listed in Appendix C.

20/11 TENDRING DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Chair called for nominations for a representative for the TDALC.

RESOLVED: to elect Councillor Todd as HTC representative for the ensuing year. **action**

21/11 HARWICH INSPIRED YOUTH FORUM

Councillor Calver provided members with an overview of the HIYA and their need for a meeting place.

RESOLVED: to offer free use of the Guildhall for HIYA meetings on the understanding that 1 adult is always present and that times are mutually agreeable and to ensure the availability of the Caretaker, Fraser Morrison.

22/11 LIGHTHOUSE WALK

Councillor Calver provided background information on the charity walk in aid of St Helena Hospice.

RESOLVED: to write to the organisers to express the full support of HTC and that if the council can assist in any way that it will.

23/11 NEIGHBOURING NETWORK MEETINGS

Members discussed the issue of meeting with neighbouring councils to discuss ideas.

RESOLVED: to seek further information as to the issues to be discussed to ensure there is no overlap with the TDALC.

24/11 BLACKEBERG STUDENTS' VISIT

Councillor Brown informed members of the forthcoming bi-annual visit to the Guildhall from students from Blackeberg Gymnasium and asked if HTC would be willing to gift each student with a copy of 'The Harwich Story' book.

RESOLVED: to defer to a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes committee.

25/10 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Members discussed a request from Mr D Rutson to investigate the spend of funds provided by HTC for Christmas lights in conjunction with information obtained from TDC.

RESOLVED: (a) to accept the findings of TDC's investigation
(b) to write to Mr Rutson to inform that the independent enquiry he requested has already been carried out by TDC and the findings accepted.

26/11 BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS

Councillor Flavell reported that he'd recently attended a meeting of the Harwich Conservation Panel and mentioned that TDC had informed the Chair (Mrs B Holbrook) that they objected to the registration of Harwich Green as Common Land and a public enquiry is likely next year. Cllr Flavell also informed members that consultants for Hutchinson Whampoa had submitted

detailed proposals to TDC for the work necessary to restore/maintain the Train Ferry Gantry following an agreement to allow an extension of permission to develop Bathside bay.

27/11 POLLING STATIONS

Councillor Calver informed members of a resident's concern over the closure of Spring Meadow School to use it as a polling station on Election Day. It was suggested that a working party, comprising the Mayor and 4 further members (to be advised), be set up to discuss appropriate locations for future polling stations, making recommendations to Full Council and then to TDC.

28/11 HARWICH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

The Council noted a letter of thanks for receipt of a grant of £2500

29/11 HARWICH SOCIETY

The Council noted a letter of thanks for receipt of a grant of £1200

30/11 OFFICE FOR NATIONAL STATISTICS

The Council noted a letter of thanks for the free use of the Guildhall for weekly meetings following the 2011 Census.

31/11 CAR PARKING

The Council noted a letter from Mr Elwyn Morris written to TDC. Members discussed previous assurances by TDC to tackle the parking problem in Harwich but have yet to do so. Councillor R Callender confirmed that TDC were trying to secure Harwich Station but have experienced holdups. It was proposed to write to TDC immediately reminding them of the assurances they've made and provide a comprehensive announcement of what action they've taken, to be reported at a Special Meeting of the Council following the next Planning Committee meeting. It was further proposed to write to both Harwich Haven Authority and Navy yard Wharf to ask if they are able to assist in alleviating the problem.

32/11 WIND FARM

Members noted an offer from Bernard Jenkin MP to attend a future meeting of the Council to discuss the Wind Farm Developments.

33/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 20th July 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 8.11pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE