

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
 held at  
**The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**  
**on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.00pm**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors Ashley, B Brown, J Brown (from 7.25pm), Calver, Carr, Erskine, Fay, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson (from 8.20pm), Morrison, Powell, Smith and Todd</b>
<b>In the Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor McLeod</b>
<b>Clerk:</b>	<b>Ms Lucy Ballard</b>
<b>Also present:</b>	<b>2 members of the public and 1 member of the press</b>

<b>086/15</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> None
<b>087/15</b>	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u></b> None
<b>088/15</b>	<b><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></b> None
<b>089/15</b>	<b><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></b> The Mayor gave an account of some of the engagements attended since the last meeting, including attending the Motorcycle Run; hosting a plaque presentation evening for former councillors and the recently retired Canon Peter Mann; attending The HIYA Hoody Festival; an Engine naming ceremony, TDC Chairman's Civic Service; Teen Talk Open Day; the Marine Management Organisation meeting in Ipswich; a cheque presentation evening for the Secret Gardens; Sudbury Civic Service; Peter Mann's final service and Exhibition of Art at the Fryatt Hospital. Also opened the Art Exhibition at the Waterfront, and attended the opening of the new Family Shopper in the High Street and Brentwood Cathedral Justice Service. Cllr P Morrison, as Deputy Chair, attended the Ramsey War Memorial Fun Day. The Mayor announced the forthcoming charity music quiz night on 22 <sup>nd</sup> October in aid of the Mayoress Appeal.
<b>090/15</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record. <b>FURTHER RESOLVED:</b> That the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated) be approved

	<p>by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p> <p><b>FURTHER RESOLVED:</b> That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p>
091/15	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MIN 062/15 – Community Wardens</b> . Members noted a reply from Jonathan Hamlet.</li> <li>• <b>MIN 065/15 - Harwich Food Bank</b> . Cllrs Smith and Calver updated members on the request to overturn the decision of TDC not to grant a lease to the Harwich Food Bank. He confirmed that both he and Cllr I Henderson attended where the case was put forwarded that the decision was flawed in terms of social and community and financial need. The committee asked the portfolio holder to reconsider his decision, however he refused, despite there being a statutory obligation to do this, and which as confirmed by The Monitoring Officer. Cllr Smith asked what the offers were that were turned down by the food bank, and Cllr B Brown was asked if he had further information on this but he confirmed not. Cllr I Henderson said that TDC is one of the highest areas of deprivation in the area, recognised nationally, with the highest number of families that are working poor, and with some of the lowest wage rates, some people do rely on these organisations and that TDC recognise that the need for food banks is increasing. Cllr McLeod read aloud a late response from the Assets Manager at TDC confirming the original decision taken was upheld. Cllr Morrison asked Cllr Fay for his comments on his view on employment that was stated in the local paper. She asked what is going into the vacant Waddesdon Road premises. Cllr Fay confirmed he wasnt aware of everything in the newspaper statement but said the more opportunities brought into the town to create the right sort of jobs must be beneficial and aim to reduce the need for food banks. He further confirmed that whatever goes into the Waddesdon Road premises also needs to be right and we need to encourage the right businesses in. Cllr Smith said there is the need for the food bank now whereas job creation could take years. Cllr Erskine referred to the low pay element and said some people are still in bad situations and are not always first in line for those jobs even if they are available. Cllr Powell said the premises has been empty for years and now a use has been found, there's a lot of other takers for the space. Cllr Henderson said there's also the issue surrounding those who can't work through no fault of their own (mental health issues). If benefits cease through sanctions, they have no means of getting by. Cllr Erskine said a person's dignity needs preserving. They don't want to use a food bank. Cllr Morrison mentioned that the children from All Saints had a collection as part of their Harvest Festival activities which were donated to the Food bank and asked that we send a letter to the school commending them on behalf of HTC.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To send a letter to All Saints school</p> <p>Cllr Todd asked what can HTC do to push this forward with finding a new premises.</p> <p>Cllr Calver proposed that we invite reps for the Harwich Food Bank committee to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> to send a letter inviting the Food Bank representatives to the next meeting.</p>

	<p>• <b>MIN 084/15</b> – Cllr I Henderson provided an update on the measures taken to have Christmas Lighting installed in the Town Centre and the Quay. He referred to the new Town Centre Hub who will take over future events in the town and have talked to the contractor who is storing the existing lighting. He asked if, given the reduction in the quotation due to the 4 lamp posts we can't use, that this year HTC could fund the installation of those existing lights with a view to the Town Centre Hub being financially independent next year and raising the funds needed to cover the cost going forward. Members further considered additional expenditure for the purchase of a Christmas tree and lights for the Guildhall.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To vote a further £600 to the Christmas Lights EMR to ensure all activities can be adequately covered.</p> <p>“Cllr Morrison referred to the previous public question about the Loop System and brought members up to date with the measures taken so far to have the system installed.</p> <p>“Cllr I Henderson referred to concerns raised about Christmas Eve and NYE with the lights not staying on overnight, He has raised this again with ECC today and a decision will be forthcoming. He also mentioned about the clock changes and Cllr Bass said he didn't expect this to have an impact on the timing of the lights. He also attended a PNSL Working party meeting at which HTC's report was discussed. He urged all members to submit their comments to the Working Party.</p>
<b>092/15</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b></p> <p>“<b>MIN 19/15</b> – Members noted the adoption notification for the Essex CC Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).</p> <p>“<b>MIN 36/15 – All Saints House</b> . Members considered a letter from Andrew Geldard and were content this answered the concerns originally raised but that the situation should remain monitored.</p>
<b>093/15</b>	<p><b>LEASE RENEWAL</b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To sign and seal the renewal lease for the tenants of Building 4 at the former Hill School site.</p>
<b>094/15</b>	<p><b>HAVEN HERITAGE PROJECT</b></p> <p>Members considered proposals by New Heritage Solutions Community Interest Company, who wish to conduct a project of the history of Harwich Haven and request the support in principle of the Council. Cllr Calver gave a background on the briefing with the company and the impetus for the project.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To send a letter of support in principle.</p>
<b>095/15</b>	<p><b>MAYOR'S CHAPLAIN</b></p> <p>Following the retirement of the Mayor's Chaplain, the Canon Peter Mann, the Mayor announced Astrid Tiesema as his chaplain for the remainder of the Mayoral year.</p>
<b>096/15</b>	<p><b>RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>Members noted the recent resignation of former Cllr, Stephen Harriss and considered his letter of resignation accordingly. The Mayor asked if Cllr Brown wanted to provide any explanation for the resignation. Cllr Brown said Stephen Harriss' work commitments had changed moving him further away meaning he couldn't commit the time.</p> <p>Cllr Calver felt the resignation was largely due to a criticism of the Conservative party rather than of HTC and now tax payers will be subjected to a large bill for a by-election.</p>

	<p>Cllr Morrison felt that councillors need to understand what's involved in the position and give the commitment. Cllr Carr echoed Cllr Morrison's feelings stating that a former serviceman should be used to being committed.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson said it was a shame he didn't stay and use HTC to progress some of his concerns through the proper channels, which HTC would have supported.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley said perhaps his reasons aren't particularly clear because of what he's been through during his service, and that perhaps members shouldn't be too hard on him.</p> <p>Cllr J Brown said the commitment and expectations should be explained to candidates at an early stage.</p> <p>Cllr Fay said Stephen Harriss wasn't expecting the HTC role to have such an impact on his time. And his employment obligations have grown considerably in recent months.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson suggested HTC write to the Secretary of State to highlight the concerns raised by the former councillor.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To write to the Secretary of State for Defence, supporting the comments on Cllr Harriss' letter and request a response.</p>
097/15	<p><b><u>ANNUAL SAUSAGE FESTIVAL</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Calver briefed members on the forthcoming event on 7 November and proposed that the Mayor invite the chairs of other local parish/town councils to a small reception at The Guildhall prior to the commencement of the festival, at which they would be welcome to join him in watching the event.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To send invites to the chairs of all Tendring district parish councils.</p>
098/15	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT &amp; COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Environment &amp; Community Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated) be received.</p> <p>Brief updates were provided on some of the business transacted.</p>
099/15	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE &amp; GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated) be received.</p> <p>Members also considered the recommendations of the Committee in terms of grant funding to The Citizens Advice Bureau.</p> <p><b>FURTHER RESOLVED:</b> To accept the recommendations and grant £5416 s137 funding.</p>
100/15	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 (previously circulated) be received.</p>
101/15	<p><b><u>ACCOUNTS</u></b></p> <p>Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> to authorise payments as presented.</p>

102/15	<p><b><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Fowler reported that the Harwich Conservation Panel meeting would be held in due course so nothing to report at this time.</li> <li>“ Cllr Fowler also confirmed that the neither the RBL services committee nor the Harwich &amp; District Community Association (HDCA) have provided any meeting dates, with no correspondence received either. Cllr B Brown has not received any information either as TDC representative for the HDCA.</li> <li>“ Cllr J Brown met with the RBL and they asked why no one is attending the meetings and will take this up with them.</li> <li>“ Cllr Fowler attended the Harwich International Port LALC meeting and reported that Hutchison Ports have been rebranded to CK Hutchison Holdings from January 2016. Stena Line Hoek routes saw record volumes, up by 20%. Rotterdam route also a record month in July. Petrochem Carless also being rebranded. She gave the numbers of the cruise ships and announced even fewer proposed for the 2016 season. She referred to offshore wind projects, with enquiries increasing, and the success of the LED lights being used. No progress with the Regina Line who were expected to take over the Harwich-Esbjerg route. Sulphur emissions are a contributing factor in the reduction of vessels coming into the port, choosing to go elsewhere.</li> <li>“ Cllr Todd referred to the disused Train Ferry Gantry and felt it fell on deaf ears. Works should have been carried out in 2013.</li> <li>“ Cllr Powell said they discussed lorry parking at the port but that the Port weren't keen to make further provision because they have no space to accommodate any more and it was felt that the lorries parking in local lay-bys were from the Harwich port not Parkesfon and that there is land available at Harwich Quay but this is chargeable and drivers don't want to pay.</li> <li>“ Cllr Erskine attended the TDALC meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Concerns were discussed regarding PCSOs and the then proposed policing cuts. The EALC are pressing for more social media within parishes and with members. Waste Management was also discussed with the portfolio holder for Environment, Michael Talbot, where ECC intend to commence discussions with all 12 district and borough councils about the possibility of a single waste collection agency, throughout Essex. They also discussed a provisional complete stop to the black bin bag deliveries to all households, with potential savings of between £120k and £130k per annum.</li> <li>“ Cllr Erskine has been invited to the Henry Smith Charity AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November.</li> <li>“ Cllr Powell met with the Harwich Festival of the Arts Committee who are concentrating their efforts on setting up the hub at the library to take on bookings for all events in Harwich.</li> <li>“ Cllr J Henderson attended the Teen Talk AGM. They are doing tremendous work within the district. There is an ongoing maintenance programme in progress and a lot of refurbishment. Harwich Community Consortium is going from strength to strength with a lot more shared working. She finally reported another successful Hoody Festival.</li> </ul>
103/15	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“ Members noted a letter of thanks from Peter Mann for the Town Plaque that was gifted to him prior to his retirement, in recognition of his services to and relationship with Harwich Town Council.</li> </ul>
104/15	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm</b>, or at</p>

	the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.
<b>105/15</b>	<p><b><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></b></p> <p>Pursuant to Sub-Section 2 of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under-mentioned business:</p> <p><b>“Flooring in the Guildhall Gaol”</b></p>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.50pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**