

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 7.00pm**

Present:	Councillors Ashley, J Brown (from 7.15pm), Calver, Carr, Fay, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, Morrison, C Powell, F Powell, Smith and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor McLeod
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	2 members of the public and 1 member of the press

The Mayor called for a minute's silence in the memory of Linda Vince who was a former Clerk to Harwich Town Council and who died recently. Cllr Morrison mentioned that she attended Linda's funeral yesterday.

The Mayor announced the outcome of the recent by-election for Harwich West Ward, and welcomed back Cllr Fiona Powell to Harwich Town Council.

107/15	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs B Brown and Erskine
108/15	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
109/15	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> Betty Holbrook asked Cllr I Henderson if he had received any news about having the street lights kept on, for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. On the latter, with the fireworks, safety of the revellers getting home is paramount. Cllr Henderson did raise it at the last ECC meeting on 13 th October and the Portfolio holder was going to give it consideration but he had not had a reply so he has contacted the council again and requested a decision. He agreed that for locally organised events to be successful, we need for the lights to stay on so people feel safe travelling home afterwards. Cllr Henderson added there will be additional (festive) lights funded by Harwich Town Council . on 8 on the lampposts on the seaward side. When asked by Cllr Ashley, Cllr I Henderson gave his thoughts on why it seems necessary to make another request this year if ECC agreed to this last year. Dr Rogers raised concerns about the amount of rubbish that collects on the sides of the highway, particularly between the A133/A120 junction and the Ardleigh interchange, and thought that most, at least, of the rubbish is domestic rubbish that has quite possibly come from bin lorries. He said that whatever the source of the rubbish it provides for a very poor introduction to the Tendring District for visitors and a continuing source of annoyance to Tendring District

	<p>residents, and asked if this Council, along with Harwich Town Councillors who represent the town at TDC and ECC, could raise this issue with the appropriate authorities and departments to get the mess cleared up and also to investigate its cause to enable the problem to be properly fixed at source so that it does not continually recur.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson said Cllr Erskine has been onto ECC to get this sorted but that HTC could formulate a letter to send to the necessary authorities. Cllr Carr felt it's the responsibility of the Highways Agency.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson felt it was probably the recycling lorries as they're not being covered properly.</p> <p>Cllr J Brown said he's familiar with the road and has seen objects come off vehicles. He informed members of a report that Essex County Highways had inspected the road and found there to be no problems.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley said it's the bulk tippers and mostly when they're empty because they're not emptied properly and the residual debris is blown about. He felt the load isn't being effectively secured.</p> <p>Cllr Calver proposed that HTC write to TDC and ECC and find out who's responsible and what they're going to do about it.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to write to TDC and ECC</p>
110/15	<p><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>The Mayor gave an account of some of the engagements attended since the last meeting, including attending the civic day at the Mayflower Project, annual Trafalgar Night dinner, Harwich Connexions AGM, Mayoressquiz night raising £180 with thanks to those who supported. He attended a new venture at the former Westwing premises. Attended the Naval Trafalgar College dinner, the Teen Talk awards evening, 25th birthday of the Crusaders, Sausage throwing festival, Remembrance civic service and memorial wreath laying in the morning. He welcomed Blackberge students at the Guildhall, opened the Winter Wonderland event at the Skating Rink, opened the newly refurbished post office, and awarded certificates to HDHS students who worked recently with the county council to improve media for the younger generations. Cllr McLeod reported that he had been appointed as a Trustee to the Grass Roots charity.</p>
111/15	<p><u>HARWICH FOODBANK</u></p> <p>Members welcome Les Nicoll who gave a history about his role at the Foodbank. As a community builder, he went along to a foodbank meeting and Father Michael Stokes said they needed to look at a new premises and Les was subsequently elected Chairman. They currently share a cupboard with the salvation army, but said it's not a great location at which to hold interviews/discuss people's situations. The current setup is degrading so they need new premises. They want a new community hub, offering other community services along with the foodbank. He is aware of the support from HTC is and very grateful but he accepts the decision of TDC. He's had great offers from the CAB and the Co-op. He reported that it seems like they'll move into a new premises in the new year. They can then address what they want to do with it to make best use of it for the benefit of those people using it, to make them feel welcome. They'll offer hot drinks, advice, solutions and talk to the people. He added that there are many old people who are too proud to use the foodbank and they want to reach those people too. He's talked to the people in the People's Kitchen about their plans and if the older people won't come to them, then can the kitchen cook extra meals which will be delivered to those in need to ensure they get a hot meal. These might be people who don't have the facilities</p>

	<p>or ability to cook for themselves. The foodbank has got to progress as it's not enough just to give someone a bag of food. He says HTC has certainly raised the profile of the foodbank.</p> <p>Cllr McLeod said what an excellent job he's doing, and Cllr Calver said the enthusiasm Les has is a credit to him. He asked if Les would take back the thanks of the Council for everything they're doing. Les said it's the volunteers that make the real difference.</p> <p>Cllr Smith referred to the figures he quoted at the previous meeting about who uses the foodbank, was underestimated, as that was the number of bags handed out and not the number of people it helped, which was 103 people in Sept and 137 in October.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson asked if the collection points could be publicised. Les said that it's hard to get collection points, and they're already competing with the larger organisations such as the Trussell Trust. They've given out over 3 tonnes in food. Local supermarkets have been active in contributing foodstuffs also. They put a shopping list out there to ensure the foods can be used and they have a sufficient balance of items. Cllr Smith said the website gives a list of items needed.</p> <p>Cllr Morrison asked whether cash donations could be given. Les confirmed yes and they buy items they need to make up the food parcels which haven't been donated.</p> <p>Cllr Carr said he saw the director of Surya foods, who have come on board with the foodbank and were going to give them pallets but given the storage issues will now look at putting together packs that are a complete meal (rice and sauce) along with cooking instructions. Les thanked Cllr Carr for his efforts.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson referred to the new service of providing hot meals and kitchen fires and older people not getting the support they need and said it was a good way forward. He also referred to the early days of SureStart, where they taught people how to cook the right foods for their families.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Les Nicoll for coming along.</p> <p>Les left some information on becoming a Fire Cadet, which was handed to the Clerk for circulation, and the H&M Standard.</p>
111/15	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13th October 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p>
112/15	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 096/15 – Cllr Morrison proposed that following the election of Cllr Fiona Powell at the recent by-election for Harwich West Ward, she fill the vacant seat on the Environment & Community Committee. <p>RESOLVED: Cllr F Powell to fill the vacancy on E&C Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 096/15 - The Clerk confirmed no response had been received from the Secretary of State following our letter of 22 October. <p>~ MIN 106/15 . Gaol flooring . Members approved the additional cost of £72 in the price for the selected contractor for carrying out the flooring in the Gaol as a result of a misunderstanding of the quotation. This contractor still remained the best value for money.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 094/15 – Haven Heritage Project . Confirmation was received that a pre-application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund before Christmas with a meeting to be held in Harwich in the new year. <p>~ MIN 091/15 . Part Night Street Lighting . Cllr I Henderson provided an update on the issues of Part Night Street Lighting (PNSL) following his</p>

	<p>attendance at a meeting of Tendring District Council (TDC). He reported that off the back of Harwich Town Council's comments, matters are moving forward and a meeting will now take place with the Essex CC portfolio holder responsible. An amendment was passed at TDC that in the event that ECC did not accept for full night lighting to parts of district, the Leader and Chief Executive of TDC have been instructed to implement the original motion, to include £160k in the budget, to completely reinstate full night lighting across the district. Cllr Smith wanted to ask Cllr B Brown why he hadn't responded to the consultation document from TDC regarding PNSL after he had supported Harwich Town Council when they reaffirmed the previous views in September. Cllr Brown was not in attendance to respond. Cllr Morrison asked Cllr Henderson asked, why, if every member of the cabinet supported it back in March, was it not followed through to the current administration. Cllr Henderson said that the decision came from the cabinet back to Full Council to put £160k into the budget and start discussions to bring back full lighting to the district. It was agreed back then but since March, there's been an election and felt that people are given false hopes beforehand and then the decisions have subsequently changed, when the new leader was elected. He said the original consultation results have been ignored but the cost to tax payers would equate to 4p per week per household. Cllr Calver added that it's important to note that some believe the tax payer shouldn't have to pay twice for something that was originally covered in the Council tax, and confirmed there is nobody that believes it's right to have to pay twice but unless we do, the lights won't go back on. Most believe the safety and wellbeing is worth that. It was reported that some argue that crime hasn't increased but there have been parishes that pay for their own PCSOs, which contradicts this. Cllr Ashley said it would've been better to research a more efficient street lamp than spend money on putting the timers on.</p>
113/15	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> None</p>
114/15	<p><u>COMMUNITY MAPS</u> Members considered the provision of a Harwich Community Map. Cllr Fowler asked why we need another map, as we have two already, in the Discover Dovercourt leaflet and the Town Guide. She proposed that we don't need any more. Cllr J Henderson referred to the idea of branding that the Tourism group are looking into and suggested that perhaps HTC should revisit this next year after the Tourism Group have come up with the brand. Cllr J Brown said it could place more pressure on the Clerks with the additional work involved. RESOLVED: To defer the decision until next year.</p>
115/15	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Community Committee held on 26th October 2015 (previously circulated) be received. Brief updates were provided on some of the business transacted including: Cllr C Powell updated members on the Putting Green refurbishment and said it's just the matter of the resurfacing of the footpath and then the picnic area can be completed. Cllr C Powell confirmed that the black bag provision will be ceasing and residents will now need to buy their own, even though the cost is covered in the Council Tax. Cllr J Henderson said that to buy 60 bags of a decent quality is £8.97 from one local retailer and £7.23 from another, which is roughly a 6%</p>

	<p>increase in the council tax if we have to buy them ourselves.</p> <p>Cllr J Brown attended the cabinet meeting last week which discussed this issue where it was claimed that the council can't afford the provision but the cost is largely due to the delivery of the bags. The report says however that, following feedback about the food caddies, TDC will soon be issuing bags for these.</p> <p>Cllr F Powell asked if we can ask for the cost breakdown for the bags and Cllr Calver suggested that HTC write to TDC to request the costings. The individual councillors at the call-on have the right to request all supporting information and this would then form part of it.</p> <p>Cllr Todd said that a few years ago this was discussed and that people were told they had to use particular types of bags/boxes and this may lead to increased fly tipping if this is to be the case. If they are specifying the type of bags to be used then they'll have to expend money sending out a leaflet to all residents, which is an added cost.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson said they've not gone out to consultation.</p> <p>Cllr Morrison said TDC are trying to encourage recycling but there's so much that isn't taken still.</p> <p>Cllr Ashley said a single truck to collect everything would be the most efficient method.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC to chase up previous letter (sent by E&C committee) and ask for a cost breakdown of the provision of black bags.</p>
<p>116/15</p>	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to authorise payments as presented.</p>
<p>117/15</p>	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p>" Cllr J Henderson attended a Teen Talk Committee meeting. They're getting short of trustees and want people who will be active in the community to apply.</p> <p>" Cllr McLeod said he's sat on his first meeting as a trustee on Grassroots.</p> <p>" Cllr Fowler said there was nothing to report from the Harwich conservation panel, and that she still was yet to receive any correspondence or meeting dates from either the RBL or HDCA.</p>
<p>118/15</p>	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>" Members received a letter of retirement from Mr Ron Laurie, who has been serving as Internal Auditor for Harwich Town Council since 2010. Members agreed it would be a nice gesture to provide a small gift to Mr Laurie as a token of the Council's appreciation, along with a letter thanking him for his services.</p> <p>" Cllr I Henderson referred to a group of HDHS students that spent a few days with ECC working on Facebook stories and Apps on how they perceive the Library to be and how it could be improved, which is now online. The ECC officers were very impressed and members felt a letter to the school would be appropriate.</p> <p>" Cllr Ashley referred to the site off Williamsburg Avenue and that the hoardings had come down. He referred to a paper report about an anomaly over land on the hangings and the determination of boundaries. The build was never completed and with the hoarding down it's not acceptable. Cllr Fay said he's spoken to the new developers who have finalised the purchase of the land, who have sent someone round to have it repaired. Cllr J Henderson said she and Cllr Fowler have been involved with this as ward councillors. She has reported the hoardings down on the highway also, to the county councillor.</p> <p>" Members considered a letter received from the Harwich & Dovercourt Model</p>

	<p>Boat Club with a request to use the HTC Coat of Arms. Cllr C Powell raised concern over HTC having no control over what is included in the website. Cllr Fowler confirmed it is the Council's logo and so would not be right for someone else to use it.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to decline in line with the existing Council policy.</p> <p>" Cllr Carr made members aware that the district nurse service is under increased pressure and has noted a decline in the service of late. The office is closed at the local hospital and you have to ring a separate number. He asked members to enquire within their wards if anyone else has experienced the same problems. Cllr Carr agreed to provide the information to Cllr I Henderson as to which part of the NHS provides this service.</p>
<p>119/15</p>	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 5th January 2016 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.48pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE