

MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 22nd December 2015 at 7.00pm

Present:	Councillors Ashley, Carr, Fay, McLeod, C Powell, F Powell, I Henderson and Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	No members of the public or press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E49/15	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Councillor Morrison
E50/15	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
E51/15	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 26 th October 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E52/15	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> E30/15 . Overgrown vegetation . Information on the Rangers service has been sent to members. Cllr McLeod prompted members to utilise their services. E41/15 . HTC tree planting scheme has been submitted to TDC. TDC have confirmed a grant award of £760.50. Trees have been ordered and Trevor Mills has met with the relevant parties to discuss location. E42/15 . Following discussions had by Cllr C Powell and the Town Clerk, it was decided not to earmark funds for phase 3 of the putting green improvements as this project is still in its infancy. Community Initiatives Fund has advised that we may meet the criteria for match funding. The working party are now in a position to start sourcing costs.
E53/15	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E16/15 . Winter Salt Bag Scheme . 2 pallets of salt bags have been delivered to The Mayflower Project. E24/15 – Disused Train Ferry Terminal – Harwich . Further letter sent to Hutchinson Port UK . item to be revisited early 2016. E31/15 – Flooding – Low Road – Letter requesting investigation sent to Terry Knights . Essex County Highways . holding response received. Emergency Planning Working Party has asked Damian Williams TDC to investigate.
E54/15	<u>TREE PLANTING & OUTDOOR SPACES</u>

	Nothing to report.
E55/15	<p><u>PARISH & TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM</u></p> <p>Councillor C Powell confirmed his attendance at the last meeting held on 8th December 2015 and gave a brief update on the topics discussed . human trafficking and cold weather plan. It was agreed that the Cold Weather Plan will not feature in HTC's emergency plan but will be displayed for information on HTC's new website.</p> <p>Cllr Powell confirmed that TDC were pleased with the progress HTC has made. An informal meeting will be held to discuss the emergency plan and a test run will be undertaken shortly.</p>
E56/15	<p><u>PUTTING GREEN</u></p> <p>Electric supply is installed and work to the footpath is likely to be undertaken early spring. HTC is awaiting a response from the contractor. Concerns were raised with the condition of the grass following the land being utilised by the skating rink.</p>
E57/15	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></p> <p>TDC are steering away from organising Get Ready for Winter Events although they would be happy to attend. The Working Party is looking to arrange an event in September 2016. It was felt that a more targeted approach needed to be taken which promoted flood areas, risks and evacuation and therefore the £Get Ready for Winter event may not be appropriate.</p> <p>Damian (TDC) has discussed the Working Party's ideas for an information credit card and will highlight at the next Essex Resilience Forum. He also highlighted the effectiveness of a recent campaign in Jaywick where year 6 pupils were given flood awareness training and a grab bag. At this age they are open to ideas and disseminate the information to the rest of the family. It is hoped that by targeting children, planning for an emergency becomes a life skill. The cost for grab bags is approximately £5 each but it is hoped that this cost could be driven down if further parish councils wished to be included in the initiative.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Not to host a £Get Ready for Winter event but enquire whether the Environment Agency is able to host an event.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: To approve the revised draft Emergency Plan Version 2.2 (confidential and public copies) for submission to Full Council for adoption.</p>
E58/15	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>Councillor I Henderson provided members with an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Williamsburg Ave . Site meeting has taken place and a request has been put forward to the Parking Partnership for waiting restrictions. ~ Ingestre Street Junction . Work programmed for June 2016. ~ Blue Roundabout – Off A120 Harwich – St Nicholas Roundabout . Completion date to be confirmed. ~ George Street . Installation of light up give way signs - completion date April 2016. ~ Parkeston Road . Existing signage to be enhanced . completion date to be confirmed. ~ Low Road . Request for flashing 30mph signs. <p>It was noted that the following proposals previously submitted to the LHP are not recorded and the LHP website does not hold up to date information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ Gateway Signs . welcome to Historic Harwich ~ Brown Tourist Sign . A120 just before the Clacton turn off <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to resubmit the above proposals and e-mail all members and request suggestions for projects which they feel the Local Highways Panel may consider.</p>

	The next LHP meeting will be held on 28 th January 2016.
E59/15	<p><u>BLACK BIN BAGS PROVIDED BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the reply received from Mr Fox (TDC) but still felt that this action would have a detrimental affect on the cleanliness of the local area, an increase of fly tipping, strewn rubbish for the use of inadequate quality bags which will then attract vermin and an increased cost to the District Council for the clearance. This service is paid for via Council Tax and the local residents are receiving an unacceptable level of service from Tendring District Council. Cllr Ivan Henderson advised members that he, along with Cllr John Brown and Cllr Mark Stephenson, will be calling in for further scrutiny and challenging this decision with the portfolio holder. It was agreed to review the situation following the outcome of the call in.</p>
E60/15	<p><u>FUTURE PROJECTS</u></p> <p>In aid to promote cycling and a healthy lifestyle, Cllr Fay felt that additional cycle rails were required in the town centre. Costs sourced to purchase one set of five rails were in the region of £175 plus VAT, plus installation. The car park, railway station and the hard standing area by the old Job Centre (corner of Hill Road), were all suggested locations.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To submit a proposal to the Local Highways Panel for additional cycle rails at the above suggested locations.</p>
E61/15	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>Cllr McLeod raised his concerns again regarding the poor condition of the Park Pavilion building leased by the Harwich & District Community Association.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson confirmed that he has recently had a site visit with Ian Taylor and is hoping that benches will be installed by the amusement arcade.</p>
E62/15	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich on Tuesday 23rd February 2016 at 7pm.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE