

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
 held at  
**The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**  
 on  
**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.00pm**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors Ashley, Carr, Fay, McLeod, Powell and Smith
<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor Fowler
<b>Clerk:</b>	Mrs Michelle Townsend
<b>Also present:</b>	Chris Greenfield . Voluntary Horticultural Adviser 6 members of the public and no press

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

None

<b>E36/15</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> Apologies were received from Councillors I Henderson and Morrison
<b>E37/15</b>	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u></b> None
<b>E38/15</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record. <b>FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the confidential minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
<b>E39/15</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></b> <b>E23/15 – Tree Planting &amp; Outdoor Spaces</b> . TDC have been instructed to carry out the planting and maintenance for the beds located by the Putting Green. <b>E24/15 – Disused Train Ferry Terminal – Harwich</b> . Further letter sent to Hutchinson Port UK . item to be revisited early 2016. <b>E30/15 – Overgrown Vegetation</b> . Members reviewed the response received from Dave Hill, Interim Chief Executive, ECC and agreed that they would utilise the reporting system on the ECC website as and when issues arise. Councillor McLeod asked the Clerk to forward information on the Rangers service to all members. <b>E31/15 – Flooding – Low Road</b> – Letter requesting investigation sent to Terry Knights . Essex County Highways . holding response received. <b>E34/15 – New Horticultural Advisers</b> . The Chairman notified members that due to personal reasons, Mr and Mrs Knights have had to sadly declined the voluntary position.
<b>E40/15</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b> <b>E16/15 . Winter Salt Bag Scheme</b> . Still awaiting delivery of 2 pallets of salt bags to The Mayflower Project.

<p><b>E41/15</b></p>	<p><b><u>TREE PLANTING &amp; OUTDOOR SPACES</u></b>  Members were briefed on the process for TDC's tree grant application and tree planting recommendations. Councillor Carr raised concerns regarding the species of trees chosen however the Clerk and Horticultural Adviser confirmed that advice had be sought from the relevant officers at TDC.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the tree planting recommendation and submit to TDC as part of their Tree Grant Programme. Clerk to place an order for supply, delivery and planting at a cost of £1521 (£663-funded by HTC, £429-funded by Harwich Town Residents Association, £429-funded by Harwich Secret Gardens).  <b>FURTHER RESOLVED:</b> To approve the inclusion of trees to be funded by HTRA and HSG as part of HTC's Tree Planting Grant application.</p>
<p><b>E42/15</b></p>	<p><b><u>PUTTING GREEN</u></b>  Councillor Powell confirmed that HTC are still chasing Essex County Highways regarding permissions to upgrade the public footpath. The installation of electrics is nearly complete and the application for a new supplier has been submitted. Councillor Powell made members aware that there is rubble showing on the surface of the putting green along the back filled area which he was happy to clear. The working party are due to start investigating the installation of new crazy golf hazards. At present, costing are unknown, however in order to aid budget setting for the next financial year, a recommendation was made for the Council to earmark funds for this project.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> To seek consideration from the Finance &amp; General Purposes committee to earmark funds to be utilised for this project. Amount to be determined by the F&amp;GP committee.</p>
<p><b>E43/15</b></p>	<p><b><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></b>  Councillor Powell confirmed that they are holding a meeting with Damian Williams TDC on 28<sup>th</sup> October, to discuss ideas for promoting flood awareness.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> Councillors Carr, Ashley and Fay to join the Emergency Planning Working Party.</p>
<p><b>E44/15</b></p>	<p><b><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></b>  Councillor I Henderson provided members with a written update:  ~<b>Williamsburg Ave</b> . Site meeting has taken place.  ~<b>Ingestre Street Junction</b> . Work programmed for June 2016.  ~<b>Blue Roundabout – Off A120 Harwich – St Nicholas Roundabout</b> . Completion date to be confirmed. ECC and TDC are undertaking a site visit next week to discuss design.  ~<b>George Street</b> . Completion date April 2016.  ~<b>Parkeston Road</b> . Existing signage to be enhanced . completion date to be confirmed.  ~<b>Low Road</b> . Speed Survey . Members reviewed the traffic survey which indicated that the mean speed at both sites is around 32mph which is good compliance of the 30mph speed limit. Because of concerns raised, officers have agreed to carry out a site visit to consider what if any safety measures could be put in place.</p> <p>The Clerk provided details of a project submitted to the LHP asking the panel to consider investigating the feasibility of installing a brown tourist sign on the A120 just before the Clacton turn off, promoting attractions located in Harwich and Dovercourt. All current signage directs drivers to Clacton and not Harwich/Dovercourt.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> Approval given for this project to proceed should the LHP agree to fund the design and installation of a brown tourist sign.</p> <p>The Clerk prompted members to forward to the office, future suggestions for projects which they feel the Local Highways Panel may consider.</p>
<p><b>E45/15</b></p>	<p><b><u>BLACK BIN BAGS PROVIDED BY TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL</u></b>  Councillor McLeod made members aware of TDC's possible intentions to cease issuing black bin bags to residents in Tendring. Members felt that this action will have a detrimental affect on the cleanliness of the local area, an increased fly tipping, strewn rubbish from the use of inadequate quality bags which will then attract vermin and an increased cost to clear the mess.</p>

	<b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to write to TDC requesting that this service is continued.						
<b>E46/15</b>	<p><b><u>BUDGET FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17</u></b>  The Chairman provided members with an update on budgets spent year to date and expenditure due to be incurred for 2015/2016. Members discussed possible future projects and proposed budgets for 2016/17.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:</b> Budget for the Municipal Year 2016/17</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND</td> <td style="text-align: right;">500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2500</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">TREE &amp; SHRUB PLANTING</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1000</td> </tr> </table>	MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND	500	ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS	2500	TREE & SHRUB PLANTING	1000
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<b>E47/15</b>	<p><b><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b>  The Chairman congratulated the Station Adopters for their recent award from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships for their hard work with improvements and planting at the Harwich Station garden.</p> <p>Councillor Ashley highlighted the tap by the beach huts which is regularly out of use.</p> <p>Councillor Smith advised members that there was still no signage on the disabled hut facility.</p> <p>Councillor Fowler agreed to deal with both these matters in her capacity of District Councillor.</p> <p>Councillor McLeod confirmed that Patricks Lane residents have been advised that work will commence in November.</p>						
<b>E48/15</b>	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b>  The next meeting of the Environment &amp; Community Committee will be held at the <b>Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich</b> on <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015</b> at <b>7pm</b>.</p>						

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**