

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Wednesday 9th September 2015 at 7.00pm

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E18/15	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None
E19/15	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Councillor Fay declared an interest in relation to E28/15 . he is a resident of Williamsburg Ave.
E20/15	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 16 th June 2015 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E21/15	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.</u> E07/15 – Tree Planting & Outdoor Spaces . Further vacancy for a Horticultural Adviser has been advertised. E91/14 – Emergency Planning . Revised plan (version 2) has been approved and adopted by Full Council. E08/15 – Lifting of Parking Restrictions in The Drive – Brief report has been submitted to TDC expressing that HTC does not wish any further action to be taken. All residents of The Drive have been written to thanking them for their time given to respond to HTC. E11/15 – Putting Green . Triangular signage ordered and installed on the eaves of the putting green kiosk. Open windless banner ordered and delivered. Open Day took place on 15 th August. E14/15 . Provision of Recycling Boxes . Harwich Library will now be the designated collection point. E16/15 . Winter Salt Bag Scheme . As there is still a stock of salt located in the High Street for use by the traders, 2 tonne of salt has been ordered and will be delivered to the Mayflower Project.

E22/15	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E75/14 – Provision For Second Community Notice Board – Notice board has been installed by the Dovercourt Putting Green.</p>
E23/15	<p><u>TREE PLANTING & OUTDOOR SPACES</u> Members discussed the suggestions for planting and reviewed a quotation received from TDC. RESOLVED: Clerk to instruct TDC for the provision of plants and maintenance on an annual basis at a cost of £152.49. FURTHER RESOLVED: Clerk to send a letter of thanks to The Harwich Society Gardening Group for their assistance with providing and displaying potted plants for the open day.</p>
E24/15	<p><u>DISUSED TRAIN FERRY TERMINAL - HARWICH</u> Members reviewed the response received from TDC Planning Services and Hutchinson Ports (UK). Councillor I Henderson felt that this was good news but required monitoring and will raise the issue at the next Port Liaison meeting. RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Hutchinson Port UK and ask that HTC is kept informed of the commencement date for work to be carried out.</p>
E25/15	<p><u>ONE WAY VALVE ON THE SURFACE WATER SYSTEM AT HARWICH QUAY</u> Members were satisfied with the update received from TDC and agreed that HTC will continue to monitor.</p>
E26/15	<p><u>PUTTING GREEN</u> Councillor Powell confirmed that the open day on 15th August 2015, which was opened by Sally Lookers, was a great success. The electricity installation has now been instructed and is likely to take up to 10 weeks. HTC are still chasing Essex County Highways regarding permissions to upgrade the public footpath. Members thanked Councillor Powell for his involvement with this project and praised the Leisure attendants for their commitment and positive and proactive approach to work. RESOLVED: Clerk to send letters of thanks to Sally Looker and the Leisure Attendants.</p>
E27/15	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u> The Clerk confirmed that Councillor S Harriss was unable to attend and it was agreed that the Working Party will need to meet to discuss promoting and putting in place a flooding awareness initiative.</p>
E28/15	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u> Councillor I Henderson provided members with the following update: “Williamsburg Avenue . The next meeting of the Parking Partnership will be held in October and it is hoped that Williamsburg Ave will be discussed. Councillor I Henderson has arranged to meet on site with Ian Taylor from TDC. Councillor Ashley raised the issue of no overnight parking available for those visiting Harwich Docks and Councillor I Henderson agreed to raise this at the next Port Liaison meeting and suggest opening up access to Harwich International Port. “Feasibility Study – Kings Head Street – Members considered the implications for local residents should the suggested ways forward be put in place which would included the reduction in width of the pathways and/or reduction in the number of parking spaces. RESOLVED: Having considered the feasibility report, HTC recommend no further action. “Gateway Sign – Historic Harwich – Still under review. “George Street Junction – Still under review.</p> <p>Councillor McLeod raised concerns over some of the new 20 MPH signs which seem to be covering existing road signs. Councillor I Henderson agreed to take this back to the LHP.</p>

	<p>Councillor I Henderson has submitted a report directly to the LHP requesting a speed survey along Low Road.</p> <p>The next Local Highways Panel will be held on 22nd October.</p>
E29/15	<p><u>PLANNING FOR FUTURE PROJECTS</u> Members agreed for the following suggestions to be discussed at a future meeting: ~Cycle rails . Dovercourt High Street ~Dogs not on leads . West End ~Unauthorised vehicles at skate park area/Dovercourt Seafront</p>
E30/15	<p><u>OVERGROWN VEGETATION</u> Members agreed that an unacceptable level of service was being received by Essex County Highways. RESOLVED: Clerk to send a letter to the Chief Executive of Essex County Council to express HTC's dissatisfaction with the lack of clearance and upkeep of the grass verges, footpaths and roundabouts and request immediate action. Copy to be sent to Ramsey & Parkeston Parish Council.</p>
E31/15	<p><u>FLOODING – LOW ROAD</u> Following contact from a local resident who expressed concerns regarding regular flooding of the area, members discussed the issues/problems which arise each time, damage caused to local properties, possible causes and who is responsible for maintenance and action. This area is prone to surface water flooding and the last occurrence resulted in a blown manhole cover. RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Essex County Highways and request that a full investigation is undertaken.</p>
E32/15	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> Councillor McLeod highlighted the lack of progress made regarding Patricks Lane. Councillor I Henderson agreed to chase.</p>
E33/15	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich on Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 7pm.</p>
E34/15	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS</u> 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: Voluntary position to assist the Committee with all aspects of tree and shrub planting for the Dovercourt and Harwich area ~ To review letter of interest received for the voluntary position</p>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.05pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE

