

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Tuesday 16th February 2016 at 7.30pm**

Present:	Councillors B Brown, J Brown, Calver, Carr, 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, 1 members of the press and Rev. Tiesema

Prayers were taken prior to the commencement of the meeting.
 The Mayor agreed to consider a letter, after Item 16, in order to expedite the matter.

144/15	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Ashley, Erskine, and Fay
145/15	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllr I Henderson declared an interest in item 10 as he holds membership of Essex Fire authority. Cllrs Fowler and Calver declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 16, as members of The Harwich Society Executive Committee.
146/15	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> Betty Holbrook thanked Harwich Town Council for the lovely Christmas Lights in the town centre and along the Quay.
147/15	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor gave an account of some of the engagements attended since the last meeting, including attending the New Year celebrations on the Stena Hollandica; visiting aqMazeqmeeting, which is a new group funded by Grassroots for Autistic Children; helping the Mayoress with a fundraising dance, which raised just under £300 for local charities. He also attended the Pride of Tendring Awards, acknowledging HTC's Honorary Archivists as well as Andrea King. He wished former councillor, Malcolm Nicholson, well as he emigrates to Australia. He finally welcomed everyone to the Barn Dance fundraiser for the Mayoress Appeal on 19 th March.
148/15	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 5 th January 2016 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.
149/15	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> • MIN 130/15 – Members considered a response from TDC about litter forming

	<p>on the A120. The Clerk agreed to send a copy to Dr Rogers, who initiated this issue. Cllr Calver confirmed that talks are in place and it's done the job we'd hoped, and that we've done as much as we can at this time.</p>
150/15	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> None</p>
151/15	<p><u>USE OF THE CHAMBER</u> Members considered offering New Heritage Solutions free use of the Council Chamber for their meetings in relation to the Haven Heritage Project for Harwich. Cllr Calver gave a briefing on the project to be undertaken by NHS. RESOLVED: To grant free use of the Chamber.</p>
152/15	<p><u>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2016</u> Members discussed dates for the display of seasonal lighting for Christmas 2016, since the application for permissions needed to be submitted by 31st March. RESOLVED: To arrange for the lights to be installed/tested a week before the switch-on date of 2nd December, and for them to remain lit until 5th January 2017 inclusive.</p>
153/15	<p><u>ESSEX FIRE & RESCUE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT</u> Members considered the ECFRS consultation document, which provided options for the future of Essex Fire & Rescue, and which would have an impact on Harwich & Dovercourt Fire Station. Cllr I Henderson left the room during the debate and vote. Members discussed the importance of retaining full time provision despite the retained fire-fighters doing a great job. Concerns were raised about the ability to operate the necessary number of appliances/pumps using just retained staff, because at present there's less than the required numbers of available fire-fighters at any one time for up to 40% of the day, meaning the 2nd pump is unavailable. Cllr Calver mentioned that without the 2nd pump to arrive on scene to support the first, this makes rescue attempts harder. They further stressed the difficulties in recruiting enough local people to become retained fire-fighters. Members felt the presence of Carless, and the Port was sufficient justification in itself to retain a full-time crew, as well as the safety of the crews with fewer numbers. Members agreed that the message needs to get out, to respond to the consultation. Cllr Morrison proposed the following be submitted in response to the consultation: Harwich Town Council advises the Essex fire authority that as all 3 options put out to consultation would leave Harwich & Dovercourt without the guarantee of an immediate response to an incident, none of the options are acceptable and that further proposals should be drawn up that will ensure Dovercourt Fire Station retains its full time fire-fighters. RESOLVED: To submit proposal to Essex Fire Authority.</p>
154/15	<p><u>CAREER TRACK</u> Members discussed the feasibility of a Career Track apprentice for Harwich Town Council. Cllr Calver gave an update on the negotiations to make this practical. RESOLVED: To agree in principle to seek to appoint a Career Track apprentice to Harwich Town Council.</p>
155/15	<p><u>DISBANDING WORKING PARTIES</u> RESOLVED: To disband the following Working parties and continue the work</p>

	<p>under the relevant committee: " The WW1 Working Party " The Mayflower 400 Working Party</p>
156/15	<p><u>STANDING ORDERS</u> Following amendments to the Standing Orders due to changes in legislation, it was RESOLVED: To adopt the revised Standing Orders, dated February 2016.</p>
157/15	<p><u>HARWICH FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS</u> Cllr I Henderson supported the application as the event draws many crowds to the town each year and much work goes into delivering the festival and the activities they are requested funding for, are eligible. Cllr C Powell added that at a meeting last week, the HFA Committee is concentrating on a programme of works throughout the year. Cllr J Brown has always supported the festival. He remarked how far people come from to attend the various events. <u>RESOLVED:</u> To award £5380 s137 grant from the 2016/17 financial year.</p>
158/15	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 3rd February 2016 (previously circulated) be received.</p>
159/15	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10th February 2016 (previously circulated) be received. Members also considered the recommendations of the Committee in terms of grant funding to The Harwich Society (Harwich in Bloom) and Harwich International Shanty Festival. FURTHER RESOLVED: To accept the recommendations and grant £1500 s137 funding to the Harwich Society from the 2016/17 financial year); and further sponsor the Harwich in Bloom scheme £3000 from the 2016/17 Economic Development budget. And to grant £2500 s137 funding to the Harwich International Shanty Festival from the 2016/17 financial year. Members also considered the recommendations of the Committee in terms of the civic protocols for Harwich Town Council and FURTHER RESOLVED: To ratify the decision of the committee and adopt the Flag, Mayor Making and Regalia protocols. Cllr Morrison informed members that she had omitted to have the opening hours of the Leisure facility agreed at the recent F&GP and wanted to recommend a reduction in the hours. Cllr Smith proposed 10.30am until 5.30pm. Cllr C Powell said he would be prepared to undertake a survey to gauge fluctuations in customer numbers during each shift. Cllr I Henderson referred to Min F107/15 in relation to the Shuttle buses and how HTC are again offering this service to encourage people to the town and encourage Economic Development.</p>
160/15	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted. RESOLVED: to authorise payments as presented.</p>
161/15	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES</u> " Cllr C Powell referred to the meeting of the HFA Committee and said they are</p>

	<p>discussing events on 1st July and the number of coinciding events, including the kindertransport, the school prom, the HFA events and also the Childrensq Carnival.</p> <p>“ Cllr Fowler informed members that the next Harwich Conservation Panel will be held on 10th March and the HIP Liaison Committee is on 23rd March, but was still yet to receive contact from either the RBL or the HDCA, regarding meeting dates.</p> <p>“ Cllr I Henderson attended a meeting, along with Cllr C Powell, of the Tourism Group last week and referred to the forthcoming event on 29th February. Now chaired by Paul Milsom, the group is moving fast with their objectives, which include a new branding for Harwich & Dovercourt, as well as contributing towards a new tourism website. All businesses, voluntary groups etc within the town will be invited to this event. There is a short advertising film being developed also, which will be showcased at the event.</p> <p>“ Cllr J Henderson attended a Teen Talk Committee meeting. They raised concerns over issues with the changes in mental health provisions. However they have had names put forward for new trustees and they need to recruit another member of staff.</p>
162/15	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>“ Members received a letter of thanks from Kirsti Ayling</p> <p>“ Members received a letter from a visitor to Harwich which the Clerk read aloud.</p>
163/15	<p><u>CLOSURE OF COURTS AND POLICE STATIONS</u></p> <p>The Chairman read aloud a letter of request from TDALC to support them in writing to the MPS for Tendring to request support in deploring the closure of some courts and police stations. Cllr I Henderson referred to when Harwich had the Magistrates Court and the Government was conducting a review, which sparked an outcry. There was concern over local knowledge drifting away and witnesses needing to travel to attend court. Furthermore, the need to issue warrants and arrest those who fail to attend court, then needing to transport them, which is a waste of police resources. RESOLVED: to send a letter of support to TDALC.</p> <p>“ Cllr Carr raised the issue concern over the impact on staff to allowing free use of the chamber for New Heritage Solutions. Cllr Calver said it will be at the convenience of the Council.</p> <p>“ Cllr Calver informed members that HTC had submitted a pre-application to the War Memorials Trust to ascertain eligibility to obtain funds to refurbish Capt. Fryatt’s memorial. The pre-application has been successful and Cllr Calver proposed that HTC proceed with submitting a full application to seek the funding that would enable the works to the memorial to be carried out. Cllr Calver further mentioned the intention to hold a church service on 27th July to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Fryatt’s death, although not a full civic service.</p> <p>“ The Chairman referred to the refurbishment of the Guildhall and how well this has gone, and acknowledged how well the staff had coped during the works and disruption.</p>
164/15	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 29th March 2016 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p> <p>Upon closing, the Mayor encourage everyone to respond to the invite to the tourism event on 29th February.</p>
165/15	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></p> <p>Pursuant to Sub-Section 2 of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to</p>

	Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under-mentioned business: " Appointment of Internal Auditor • Shuttle Buses
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The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.49pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE