

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
 held at  
**The Club Room, Park Pavilion, Harwich**  
 on  
**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

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| <b>Present:</b>      | Councillors Morrison, J Brown (from 7.15pm), J Henderson, C Powell, Smith and Fay |
| <b>In the Chair:</b> | Councillor Fowler   |
| <b>Clerk:</b>        | Mrs Michelle Townsend   |
| <b>Also present:</b> | 2 members of the public and no press  |

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

Dr Rogers asked why his query regarding the overgrown vegetation at the entrance to West End Lane was not placed on the agenda. The Chairman informed Dr Rogers that an e-mail had been sent to him last week providing an update and confirming that she had taken immediate action by reporting the issue to Essex County Highways. Members were pleased to see that work was carried out immediately.

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| <b>E01/16</b> | <b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b><br>Apologies received from Councillors F Powell (being substituted by Cllr J Henderson), I Henderson, Carr, and Ashley   |
| <b>E02/16</b> | <b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u></b><br>None   |
| <b>E03/16</b> | <b><u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</u></b><br><b>RESOLVED:</b> To appoint Cllr F Powell as Vice-Chair of the Environment & Community Committee.  |
| <b>E04/16</b> | <b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b><br><b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2016 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.   |
| <b>E05/16</b> | <b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></b><br>"E83/15 - Outdoor clock has been purchased and installed on the Putting Green Kiosk.<br>"E85/15 . Two project requests seeking investigation and additional signage to highlight no through road for King Georges Avenue and Williamsburg Avenue have been submitted to the LHP. |

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| E06/16 | <p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b><br/> <b>E24/15 – Disused Train Ferry Terminal – Harwich</b> . At the last Port Liaison meeting, Hutchinson Port UK confirmed that they were awaiting a further specialist survey.<br/> <b>E57/15</b> . Environment Agency have been contacted to enquire whether they are able to host a flood awareness event. Meeting has been held with Cllr C Powell and Clerk.<br/> <b>Reinstatement of Salt Bin</b> . Following a resident's request for a salt bin to be located by the Minesweepers Memorial, an enquiry has been sent to Essex County Highways.</p>  |
| E07/16 | <p><b><u>TREE PLANTING &amp; OUTDOOR SPACES</u></b><br/> Cheryl Thompson provided an update on the following:<br/> "Following her meeting with Ian Taylor and Trevor Mills regarding the reinstatement of the flower beds along the seafront, Trevor Mills has apologised for the lack of action to clear the beds.<br/> "TDC has now planted the flower beds by the Putting Green Kiosk. Mrs Thompson made a request for HTC's Leisure Attendants to water the beds regularly.<br/> "A tree has been broken due to storm damage by the new toilets at West End.<br/> "No outcome has been received following a meeting with TDC and judges on 5<sup>th</sup> May for the Green Flag Award Scheme.<br/> "Mrs Thompson asked who owned and had responsibility for the land by the mural wall of the Mayflower Project as it was very overgrown. Cllr C Powell advised that a gateway sign will be installed in the very near future. Cllr Fowler agreed to investigate.</p> |
| E08/16 | <p><b><u>PUTTING GREEN</u></b><br/> Councillor C Powell confirmed that the resurfacing of the public footpath and installation of the new path and picnic area has been carried out. The picnic benches and dustbins will be installed next week. The Clerk advised that there has been an additional cost of £480 plus VAT to have the furniture secured, however this cost has fallen within the contingency previously agreed.</p>  |
| E09/16 | <p><b><u>FLOOD AWARENESS EVENT</u></b><br/> Councillor C Powell updated members on the discussions at a very productive meeting held with the Environment Agency. Although they are unable to organise the event, they are happy to assist HTC and take part. It has been suggested to hold an event in Historic Harwich and invite relevant organisations so that they can disseminate information into the community. Guest speakers would be the Environment Agency, Tendring District Council and the Met Office. This would be a good opportunity to launch HTC's Emergency Information Card, should the Council wish to proceed with this initiative.<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Working Party set up to progress and organise a Flood Awareness Event and information literature. Members to include Cllr C Powell and Cllr M Fowler. Clerk to forward a request to all councillors.</p>   |
| E10/16 | <p><b><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></b><br/> Councillor I Henderson is attending the LHP meeting tonight and will provide an update at the next Full Council meeting.<br/> "Williamsburg Ave . A new Traffic Regulation Order has been agreed at the NEPP for adoption.<br/> "Ingestre Street Junction . Work complete.<br/> "Blue Roundabout – Off A120 Harwich – St Nicholas Roundabout . Modelling done, safety audit being carried out. Scheme due to be in place after the summer.<br/> "George Street . Installation of light up give way signs . awaiting UKPN connection - completion date July 2016.<br/> "Parkeston Road . Existing signage to be enhanced . mobilising works.</p>   |

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|        | <p>"<b>Low Road</b> . Request for flashing 30mph signs . in validation.<br/> "<b>Gateway Signs – Historic Harwich</b> . In validation.<br/> "<b>Brown Tourist Sign – A120 by Clacton turn off</b> . In validation.<br/> "<b>Cycling Storage/Provisions</b> . In validation.<br/> "<b>Signage – Williamsburg Avenue &amp; King Georges Avenue</b> . Submitted and going through validation.</p> <p>Members considered the request from a local resident to install a salt bin by the minesweepers memorial and reviewed Essex County Highways response regarding criteria, application process and local support. Members felt that as this area had not been raised as a safety concern before and that the LHP budget had been drastically reduced, the Council were unable to support an application.<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Not to proceed with a request to the Local Highways Panel.</p>   |
| E11/16 | <p><b><u>79 STOUR ROAD</u></b><br/> Councillor Smith updated members on the ongoing issues with the above land which was given a formal notice by Environment Department at TDC. Although the site had been secured and the fly-tipping removed, Cllr Smith felt that the owners had not complied with the enforcement notice as the overgrowth had not been cleared. TDC feel that the notice has been sufficiently complied with. Even though the vegetation hasn't been cut back, the health risk to persons (which the two pieces of legislation was used for) has been reduced to an acceptable level, as having long grass on its own isn't a risk to harbourage of vermin. No further action will be taken by TDC at this stage regarding the property, assuming everything remains the same.<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to write to the owner expressing the Council's concerns for this untidy site and ask that they clear the vegetation and confirm their intended timescale for developing the site.</p> |
| E12/16 | <p><b><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b><br/> Cllr G Smith made members aware of his concerns for the derelict property in Market Street. Residents are worried that the crack in the wall is dangerous and TDC are aware.</p>   |
| E13/16 | <p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b><br/> The next meeting of the Environment &amp; Community Committee will be held at the <b>Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich</b> on <b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b> commencing at 7pm.</p>   |

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20:05pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**