

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Tuesday 26th July 2016 at 7.08pm**

Present:	Councillors Ashley, B Brown (until 8.55pm), Calver, Erskine, Fay, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, C Powell, F Powell, Smith and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor Morrison
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	4 members of the public, 1 member of the press and the Rev. Rosie Tallowin

Prayers were said by the Rev. Rosie Tallowin.

The Mayor announced that she was in receipt of a letter of resignation from Dennis Carr, which was read aloud. It was agreed to send a letter of response to Dennis and to present his Town plaque in accordance with Council procedure.

029/16	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr J Brown
030/16	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllr I Henderson declared an interest in item 6 as a member of the Fire Authority but has received a dispensation to speak on and take part in the debate.
031/16	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> Betty Holbrook asked if anyone has decided on the name of the new development at the former Bernards site. The Mayor said that was under the jurisdiction of the district council. Cllr C Powell said the ward councillors have been consulted and had submitted their views. There was a preference towards Bernards Mewsq Dr Rogers said that given that planning application 16/01009/FUL, that was discussed during the preceding Planning meeting, states on its application form that the land off George Street is in a flood risk area, he asked if Harwich Town Council had received a response from Tendring District Council about a previous application which had been queried, as it was in the vicinity of George Street but the application had stated that it wasn't in a flood risk area. The Clerk confirmed no response had been received.
032/16	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor gave an account of some of her engagements since the last meeting, including welcoming the Beavers to the Guildhall, attending various Arts Festival

	<p>events, including the opening and closing events and many of the lunch time and evening performances; the Kindertransport event on 1st July, where she welcomed several of the original Kindertransport which included a service given at St Nicholas church. The Children's carnival on the same afternoon, was blighted by rain. She attended a Darryl's Day event at Landguard Fort, and opened the Dementia café at Central Church. She also attended a number of commemorative events surrounding the centenary of Capt Fryatt's execution, including afternoon tea at the Guildhall in London followed by a service at St Pauls Cathedral, and a commemorative service at the Fryatt memorial at Liverpool Street Station, as well as viewing the local exhibition on Fryatt at the Masonic Hall in Harwich. Finally, she attended the Harwich Haven luncheon and the summer fete at Don Thompson House.</p>
<p>033/16</p>	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 21st June 2016 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p>
<p>034/16</p>	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 017/16 . Members considered a response to a letter sent to Bernard Jenkin MP regarding the EFRS consultation. Cllr Smith referred to the MP's claim that he's only received 1 form of correspondence, but has seemingly excluded the numerous letters in the H&M standard. Cllr I Henderson took exception to the comment regarding how HTC can direct their comments to the Fire Service, and that our fears were unfounded, providing a few statistics on non-dwelling and roadside fires. He stressed there's been no uptake of retained fire fighters, which is what Option 2 is reliant on. Cllr Erskine raised concern about the inability to recruit retained staff. If there's no retained then they have to keep the whole time staff as they can't reduce the service. Cllr Calver stated that Option 2 is still not ok, even if sufficient numbers of retained staff are recruited because all evidence shows that retained fire fighters can't provide the level of service needed. Cllr Erskine said they've we need to be careful that we are not giving the perception that the fire station is closing or that the residents will lose their service. Cllr Morrison confirmed that it was made clear to people, at the consultation events, that the service won't be lost and that it's the current level of service that needs to be retained. Cllr Ashley said there's nothing in the letter that addresses Harwich being a special case . with the expected rising population, ports, oil refinery and explosives factory. Cllr McLeod said we have a road heavily used by port traffic and increased housing. He raised concern about the ability to cope if multiple incidences happen at once. Cllr C Powell raised concern that HTC are trying to best serve the needs of our local residents but the MP won't come and talk to them. Cllr Todd is concerned that the MP won't call a public meeting. Cllr Calver said It might be interesting to ask him how he proposes to make representation on HTC's behalf if he's directing us to the fire authority for answers. We should ask if he's aware how many residents voiced their concerns, marched on the streets and responded to the consultation, and will he reconsider his decision not to hold a public meeting. Cllr J Henderson referred to a previous article from the MP which showed ignorance to how our service works so residents may not be inclined to write to

	<p>him. RESOLVED: To write back to the MP.</p>
035/16	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> MIN 175/15 Cllr I Henderson raised sadness that having made an effort on behalf of HTC to oppose the proposals under the children's centre consultation, at a recent call in, members failed to convince Essex County Council that our children centres weren't needed in Harwich, and he read aloud an extract from HTC's submission under the consultation. He quoted 81% of Essex residents disagreed with the core principals of those proposals. He also quoted that parental isolation, domestic violence, parenting skills and family management issues were reasons why the service is used and reasons why the library isn't a suitable location. Cllr I Henderson read from a case study, and in making reference to some of the outcome recommendations claimed why these aren't possible using the Library. Some of the now or soon to be vacant buildings will be used for commercial childcare purposes. He feels the parents and stakeholders haven't been listened to and Essex have given up their support. Cllr Smith asked Cllr Erskine how he was able to assist with a case for opposing the proposals at town level only to vote the other way at county level. Cllr Erskine said he's a county councillor for Tendring Rural East and not for Harwich. As a town councillor he fights for things that are important to the town, but at county level, his boundary is outside of the town. Cllr Calver expressed dissatisfaction at the response and said that when the council's views were discussed at town level, he was pleased that there was cross party agreement and support, then to feel let down by Cllr Erskine voting another way outside of the Guildhall. Cllr Erskine said he was deeply concerned with the how the consultation was written and how it was put together. This concern on how the consultation was written and how it was received was notice by Cllr Erskine at the call in. He went on to say that the consultation doesn't close centres it makes them redundant. Sometimes the venues aren't suitable for the specific age range that being catered for. Families can't be supported without a central hub in town. He felt it was not productive to continue to butt heads with County, and that we need to work with them rather than just say it can't happen that way. Harwich isn't the only place this is happening in. Cllr J Henderson picked up on Cllr Erskine's reference to changes in Jaywick and said the he doesn't represent Jaywick, he represents Harwich. Cllr Erskine said he voted against the call in not against HTC's views. Cllr I Henderson said he familiarises himself with the facts before making decisions. He said that changing the way in which these centres work is isolating people because they can't necessarily afford the new, commercial, services that will be provided in place of the children's centres.</p>
036/16	<p><u>WW1 COMMEMORATIONS</u> The chair deferred this item to a later date pending the receipt of further information.</p>
037/16	<p><u>ESPLANADE HALL</u> Cllrs Calver and Fowler declared an interest as members on the Executive Committee of the Harwich Society. Members considered a letter from the Archdeacon of Colchester in response to a letter sent from the Clerk regarding the deterioration of Esplanade Hall. RESOLVED: To invite the Archdeacon to come to Harwich to meet with Cllr I Henderson, Colin Farnell and Canon Margaret Shaw to discuss the future plans</p>

	for Esplanade Hall in person and clarify a few points raised in her letter.
038/16	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 19th July 2016 (previously circulated) be received.</p> <p>In relation to Min F029/16 a recommendation was put forward to proceed with publishing the Town Guide for 2017. Cllr McLeod proposed to accept the recommendation, but with no seconder and an objection to the recommendation put forward by Cllr J Henderson, Cllr McLeod withdrew his proposal.</p> <p>Cllr Calver referred to previous problems in that members were supportive in principle but were then not committed to the work. He said, under the new reforms, a lead member should be identified and as well as sufficient member support.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson said there is the new tourism guide and the new tourism website to provide this type of information, and feels the guide is now redundant. Cllr C Powell agreed that if members aren't willing to take on the work then it won't get done.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson proposed and Cllr Fowler seconded that we don't accept the recommendation to proceed.</p> <p>Cllr Calver and Morrison voted for the recommendation. On this basis it was agreed not to proceed with producing the Harwich & Dovercourt Town Guide for 2017.</p> <p>In relation to Min F035/16 members also accepted the recommendations of the committee to contract with Bruce Parsons to carry out the external decoration to the Guildhall at a cost of £6115 to be expended from the Guildhall Improvements budget.</p>
039/16	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to authorise payments as presented.</p>
040/16	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <p>" Cllr Todd attended a MNWB meeting at Felixstowe, who again expressed gratitude at HTC for providing the shuttle buses for cruise ship crews. He asked the Maritime Coastal Agency (MCA) rep about the outcome of the vessel that failed the sulphur emission test but she didn't know as the Government hadn't sent them the results of what the penalties were. Cllr Todd is awaiting a response from the MP. The MCA said the sulphur emission issue has cost us some cruise ships.</p> <p>" Cllr McLeod attended the Arts Festival meeting and expressed how much work went into this year's events. They propose an even better festival next year. He suggested <u>a letter of thanks</u> be sent to those who have organised it this year.</p> <p>" Cllr C Powell Attended a Tourism group meeting, and reported that the website has been improved and is being updated. There's a film being put together on all the different events happening in the town and what to do in Harwich and Dovercourt.</p> <p>" Cllr J Henderson attended the Teen Talk AGM and referred to there being quite a few summer events going on. Some issues were reported in that they haven't got round to write to the MP and there are still grave concerns on the holding period. They are doing such positive work and we are lucky to have the service.</p>
041/16	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted some correspondence from the Essex Coastal Forum

	<p>“ The Chair reiterated the need for volunteers for this weekend’s exhibition at the Guildhall. Cllr C Powell can attend on Saturday and Cllr Ashley will inform the Clerk tomorrow whether he can attend on Sunday. Cllr B Brown also confirmed he could possibly attend on Sunday.</p>
042/16	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 7th September 2016 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
043/16	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career Track • Staff Appraisals

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.40pm and then reconvened again at 9.05pm to report a matter which had been brought to her attention.

The Chairman read aloud a letter from Cllr Erskine advising of his change of political affiliation to the Conservatives and to step down as ward member with immediate effect. Council accepted Cllr Erskine’s resignation from Harwich Town Council.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

Cllr P Morrison