

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 7.00pm**

Present:	Councillors B Brown, Calver, Fay, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, C Powell, F Powell, Smith, Struth, Todd and Urwin
In the Chair:	Councillor Morrison
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	1 member of the public, 0 members of the press

116/16	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Ashley, J Brown and Fowler
117/16	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
118/16	<u>ELECTORAL REVIEW OF TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL</u> <p>Members considered the forthcoming Electoral Review of Tendring District Council (TDC) and discussed a proposal to submit to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). Cllr I Henderson provided some background on the consultation and the 2011/12 decision by TDC to look into a boundary review. The first consultation was to inform people how it would be carried out, and then in September 2015 TDC had to come up with a submission on what a workable number of councillors would be, and it was agreed that 48 would be an acceptable number for the LGBCE to consider. Subsequent to this the next stage was for TDC to look at how the councillors would be spread across the district. There are variances of up to 10% throughout the district, and it's based on the number of electors. There should be c2400 electors per ward. The initial deadline for submission of comments to the LGBCE is 9th January then a consultation on the draft submission will open on 14th March and will last until May. The final recommendation will be considered by the LGBCE on 20th June and published on 11th July and then an order laid to Parliament in October, and then made in December. TDC councillors are aware of TDC's proposals and this will help influence the submission from HTC.</p> <p>Cllr Calver explained that TDC recommends that HTC put in a proposal at this stage of the consultation to enable HTC to have an influence over how we will be affected. He further explained that the overall parish boundary won't alter, just the wards within it, which will increase from 4 to 6 wards, but one ward will include an area outside of the Harwich and Dovercourt parish, however there is no intention or method in place for bringing Parkeston into the Harwich parish. The final ward boundaries are not yet confirmed, however TDC expect their proposal to be accepted as the process was relatively straightforward for Harwich and Dovercourt.</p>

	<p>The proposal includes a request the LGBCE use its powers under paragraph 3.18 of their guidance to make a recommendation that the town/parish ward boundaries are made coterminous with District boundaries. It further includes a request that under 3.19 of the guidance, that the LGBCE make recommendations about town/parish electoral arrangements in terms of the number and allocation of councillors across the wards.</p> <p>RESOVLED: To make the submission in Appendix A</p>
119/16	<p><u>SOLICITOR MEETING</u></p> <p>Members agreed to authorise up to £700, to be expended from the External Support Contingency Fund, for the purposes of a meeting with the Council's solicitors to review documentation in relation to allotment land managed by the Town Council. Cllr Calver commended the Assistant Clerk and Administrative Assistant for the extensive investigatory work they've carried out jointly, thus far, which has saved the Council money.</p> <p>RESOVLED: To authorised the expenditure</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.41pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE

Cllr P Morrison