

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, Essex CO12 3DS
 Tel: 01255 507211
 email: info@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk

MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 6th December 2016

Present:	Councillors J Henderson (substituting for Cllr C Powell), Urwin, I Henderson, J Brown, F Powell, Smith and Fay
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	No members of the public and no press Councillor Calver Mrs Cath Bicknell, Head of Planning Services TDC

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E41/16	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Councillors Morrison, Ashley and C Powell
E42/16	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
E43/16	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 12 th October 2016 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E44/16	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> • E32/16 – Tree order submitted and tree grant application forwarded to Clive Dawson, TDC. Planting took place in Cliff Park on Saturday 26 th November at 9.30am. • E33/16 – Harwich Community Primary School have been notified that Fraser Morrison is no longer able to assist with planting and that Cheryl Thompson has kindly offered to assist. • E37/16 – Third community notice board has been ordered and location agreed with Ian Taylor – Upper Dovercourt Green.
E45/16	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E24/15 – Disused Train Ferry Terminal – Harwich – At the last Port Liaison meeting, Hutchinson Port UK confirmed that they were awaiting a further specialist survey. Cllr Todd requested, via Full Council, a letter to be sent asking for maintenance work to be carried out. The Chairman advised members that this item will now be removed from future E&C agendas as the matter is being dealt with via Full Council.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT

Members welcomed Cath Bicknell, Head of Planning Services. Mrs Bicknell provided a brief overview of TDC's procedures and confirmed that any action taken is in line with the Government Planning Framework. The District Council would look to resolve any issues prior to taking action and assess whether that action is sensible, reasonable and proportionate. Any action to be taken should be in the public interest. Cllr Urwin asked for clarification on the process for compulsory purchases. Cllr I Henderson raised concerns that these unkempt untidy sites have a huge detrimental effect on the economy as Harwich and Dovercourt rely heavily on tourists and visitors to the town along with the fact that many of these sites are within a conservation area which creates an adverse visual impact.

The following sites were highlighted by members:

79 Stour Rd, Bathside – Mrs Bicknell advised members that the conditions have been discharged recently which would indicate that they plan to start developing the site. **Mrs Bicknell agreed to contact the developer and report back.**

The Victoria Hotel Site – Members raised concerns that this untidy site would be the first thing that visitors to area see when they come out of Dovercourt Station. Mrs Bicknell advised members that English Heritage are looking at de-listing this listed building and that the overgrowth protruding on to the footpath would need to be dealt with by ECC. **Cllr Fowler agreed to take photographs and report to ECC.**

20 Victoria Street – Mrs Bicknell felt that demolition would be difficult as the dwelling is attached to another building. She advised that the building is not deemed as dangerous and the owner is unknown. Members raised concerns that this untidy site attracts anti-social behaviour. **Mrs Bicknell was unable to provide any positive suggestion for action regarding this site but agreed to speak to the appropriate agency regarding the anti-social behaviour.**

The Starlings site, High Street – Mrs Bicknell advised the committee that vegetation growing through the hoardings deeming part of the pathway unusable would need to be dealt with by ECC. **Cllr Fowler agreed to take photographs and submit a complaint to ECC. If sections of the hoarding were found to have fallen down, Cllr Fowler agreed to notify TDC to deal with.**

The site immediately north of 13 Orwell Road – Mrs Bicknell advised the committee that overgrowth protruding onto the pathway will need to be highlighted to ECC for action. **Cllr Fowler agreed to take photos and submit to ECC for action.** Mrs Bicknell advised that TDC are investigating the unauthorised structures in the land adjoining this property.

Disused Train Ferry Terminal – Mrs Bicknell confirmed that TDC have received a reply from Hutchinson Port today. She advised that the survey undertaken confirms that the cost for refurbishing is in the region of £2.5 million. She also advised that due to the high cost, Hutchinson Port do not feel they are able to undertake the work and welcomed suggestions for a way forward from the Town and District Council.

Land adjacent to 1 Orwell Road – Members raised concerns regarding the negative visual impact this site has as it is located by the entrance to Cliff Park and the sea front, along with safety issues due to the inadequate hoarding. **Mrs Bicknell suggested that solid fencing would alleviate some of these issues and agreed to investigate.**

	<p>Pound Farm House 12/00844/LBC – This site has been an ongoing concern for members and local residents alike due to the lack to work carried out on the listed building. Mrs Bicknell confirmed that 7 dwellings were occupied and that the trigger for work to commence on the listed building was 25. Cllr J Henderson stressed that the covering on the scaffolding was inadequate and needed replacing immediately as it provided no protection for the building and it could be some time before work commences. Mrs Bicknell agreed to investigate.</p> <p>Mrs Bicknell agreed to provide an update following this discussion in due course and agreed to attend a future meeting of the E&C committee where progress on the above can be reviewed.</p>
E47/16	<p><u>TREE PLANTING & OUTDOOR SPACES</u></p> <p>The report from the Horticultural Adviser detailed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Planting in Cliff Park was well attended from all sections of the community. Good choice tree planted and bulbs planted near the park entrance as per recommendations of the Green Flag Award judges. •Vandalised trees in Harbour Crescent have topped and trunks left about a metre high. It is believed that TDC will replant. •The boat has been replanted and the raised beds tidied in the Flood Memorial Garden. •Hedging by the Putting Green has been replanted and a chestnut paling fence has been erected to give the pants shelter and safety. <p>The report also made reference to issues not relating to this topic. On this occasion, the Clerk agreed to investigate a number of questions raised but the Chairman reiterated that any future issues will only be considered by the committee if detailed on the agenda.</p> <p>The Chairman gave thanks to Cheryl Thompson and Chris Greenfield for their invaluable time given over the past year.</p>
E48/16	<p><u>EMERGENCY GUIDELINES CARD</u></p> <p>No further progress to be reported since the last meeting.</p>
E49/16	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>Councillor I Henderson provided the Chairman with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Williamsburg Ave – parking restrictions – complete. Members felt that the provision undertaken has not been successful as many lorries have been seen parking in this area and will continue to report the matter to EPP. •Gateway Sign – Historic Harwich – no further update. •George Street Junction – lines have been done. •Brown Tourist Sign – A120 by Clacton Turn Off - Tourist Group are looking at an overall signage project for the area. •Cycle Racks Dovercourt Town Centre – no update. •Blue Roundabout – Following a meeting in Colchester, this project should now get underway. The foundations should be put in soon ready for the sculpture. •No Through Road Sign – King Georges Avenue – new signage due to be going up. •No Through Road Sign – Williamsburg Avenue – New signage erected. •Parkeston Road – Speed survey carried out over 2 years ago. Action needs to be chased.

	<p>Cllr I Henderson advised a further project had been submitted to the LHP for a bus stop cage/shelter along Main Road (upper Dovercourt).</p> <p>Cllr G Smith raised concerns over the right of way at the end of Church Street. There have been regular near misses due to the lack of visibility and narrowing of the road. This causes safety issues to car users as cars exiting Church Street at this blind bend, are unaware of vehicles travelling along Wellington Road. The Clerk advised that a request was made by HTC to the LHP in June 2014 but no action was deemed necessary.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to resubmit report to the Local Highways Panel.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: Clerk to write to the LHP expressing HTC's concerns for the lack of action and time taken to progress projects to completion and request an update on HTC's submitted proposals.</p> <p>The next meeting of the LHP is scheduled for 5th January 2017</p>
E50/16	<p><u>INTRODUCTION TO THE HPN (HIGHWAYS PRACTICE NOTE) TO LOCAL FLOODED ROADS</u></p> <p>Members reviewed correspondence received along with TDC's response and highlighted the lack of resources available to undertake what is needed at Parish and District level.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to ECC stating that HTC believes this to be a very important function, and should the responsibility for carrying out this function be transferred to another authority, HTC wishes to be advised of contact details so that HTC can advise that authority if we become aware of any flooded roads in our area.</p>
E51/16	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Chairman made members aware of a consultation received from Essex Highways regarding A120 Harwich Road Improvements and confirmed that it will be considered at the next Full Council meeting. •Councillor Fay suggested that another test of HTC's emergency plan should be carried out now that two new councillors have joined the Town Council. •The Chairman thanked the Clerk on behalf of the members for her assistance over the past year.
E52/16	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich on 23rd February 2017 commencing at 7pm.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE