

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Wednesday 25th January 2017 at 7.00pm**

Present:	Councillors Ashley, B Brown, J Brown, Calver, Fay, Fowler, 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:	3 members of the public, 1 member of the press, the Rev. Rosie Tallowin and Inspector Russ Cole, District Commander for Tendring

Prayers were said by the Rev. Rosie Tallowin.

120/16	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None – All present
121/16	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
122/16	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> <p>Dr Rogers said given that tourism appears to be given high priority with regard to future prosperity of the town, he asked if the Council could give consideration to three areas for improvement – 1. improve cleanliness, 2. refurbishment of the white promenade images, and 3. measures to clean up the bird mess affecting the properties along the High Street opposite the traffic lights and going upwards toward Iceland. Cllr I Henderson said he would take it away and discuss with those whose remit it was to address these issues. He did state that some surfaces required speciality cleaning. Dr Rogers asked if the Council could ask the building owners to take some defensive action to discourage the birds mess. Cllr Henderson confirmed that some tasks can be taken on by the district council with the support of the county council (i.e. Highway Rangers). He further confirmed that in regard to signage, this is being focused on, as are roadsides and verges etc. in to raise the profile of the area. Cllr J Henderson said the Scouts usually clean the promenade images and she would be happy to approach them again once the weather improves. Dr Rogers emphasised that the lines need delineating, as they lose definition over time. Cllr Calver agreed he'd request from Trevor Mills that the work is carried out to tidy the grassed area around the images.</p> <p>Betty Holbrook thanked Cllr Geoff Smith for organising the Public Meeting on policing back in November. She asked if next time, a picture could be put in the paper so people could come and thank him personally.</p>

123/16	<p><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>The Mayor informed all that she wasn't able to provide any information on recent engagements but that she would ensure the Clerk was issued with a copy to be circulated to all in due course.</p>
124/16	<p><u>POLICE BRIEFING</u></p> <p>Inspector Russ Cole, District Commander for Tendring, presented members and the public with a brief update of local policing issues. The Mayor asked members if they were content she suspend standing orders to permit members of the public to ask questions – all agreed.</p> <p>Insp. Cole firstly thanked all involved in the public meeting on policing back in November and commented on how encouraging it was to see such a turnout and that it was good to see people so passionate about their community. He wants to encourage those numbers in the future. The main focus that evening was on dwelling burglaries and he discussed the measures taken to tackle these, including resourcing, and confirmed that a number of arrests have since been made with those apprehended still in custody awaiting sentencing. He confirmed they've taken positive steps to curb the burglaries since those arrested were instrumental in the recent incidents. The common factor that drives these crimes is drugs, often class A. There's more of a problem with crime coming out of the capital, and the supply of drugs into the county but it's hard to catch people in the act so the force are reliant on the community reporting any suspicious or criminal behaviour so they can ensure the right resources are deployed in the right places. He confirmed that the police station in Harwich is staffed 24/7, there's the 101 contact number as well as the community portal within Harwich Library or people can email him direct. He said that Essex Community Messaging is a great way of communicating what's going on but he needs people to register. One of his key desires is to set up more Neighbourhood Watch schemes.</p> <p>Insp. Cole referred to the recent floods in Jaywick, stating that it was a very busy time. The information received from the Environment Agency was that 2900 homes could've been affected and on the first evening there were about 30 people staying in one of the reception centers. One of the challenges was communicating effectively to the public.</p> <p>Stan Box, local resident asked if it was disappointing when much work is conducted to lead to arrests then the justice system sometimes lets them down. He asked if there was any way the system could be changed, to prevent some criminals getting away with their crimes. Insp Cole said he couldn't personally change the system and that it would need to be lobbied at a higher level. He said there's a lot of reliance on intelligence and community coherence. Mr Box also asked about vehicle crime and whether there were any statistics available. Insp Cole said its very drug driven, often low value goods/loose change is taken, by largely, young criminals. The Police use covert tactics to address this. Insp. Cole reported that more recently a known London gang member, having moved to the area, had been arrested.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson said many youngsters are committing crimes and it's the early intervention that pays off most. One issue being faced is the financial cuts to essential services (£106m cut with ECC). These services are intended to address issues that could lead to criminal activity such as family services (i.e.drug and alcohol prevention). He feels there's insufficient support for victims of crime and the resources aren't there for the support services (i.e. mental health). Insp. Cole said he knows of people who have broken away</p>

	<p>from the crime cycle and now work with the police in the community. He offered to arrange for someone to talk to the Council. He said when the other services do retract, it does have an impact on police resources and will continue to. He agrees it's all about prevention and investment is required in these rehabilitation services. He said many of the more serious crimes aren't being committed by the younger criminals, plus there's crime spikes that allow him to see where the peaks and troughs are.</p> <p>Betty Holbrook said there's still a lot of uninsured drivers about. Insp. Cole said he's got another operation planned to crack down on this.</p> <p>Rev. Rosie Tallowin asked about the drug-related crimes and how some people are often forced into that lifestyle but she said lifestyle is often a choice. She asked if there were other measures to encourage youngsters to make the right choices (i.e. primary schools). Insp. Cole said yes, he's working with his PCSOs, Specials and volunteers to get the message across, plus they're starting a police cadets scheme in Tendring soon. There is a children and young person's officer with lots of experience operating within the areas, and they're also working with the Fire Service to help with briefings in the schools. They want to link with driving instructors to make use of their dash cams, to assist with motoring offences. Cllr I Henderson said there are dash cams in all the London buses so it might be an idea to liaise with local bus companies.</p> <p>Cllr Smith said it's been noted since the public meeting there appears to be an increase in police presence. He asked whether he was aware of the problems occurring in the car park at the retail park. Insp. Cole said he is aware and it's being tackled. He has increased resources and whilst 20% of crime in the district is based in Harwich, he has committed 30% of his officers to the area. Also response times have increased. Cllr Smith also referred to the ongoing problems with revelers leaving the drinking premises of an evening. Insp. Cole said that would be dealt with at an operational level.</p> <p>Cllr Morrison confirmed that the CCTV provision will be discussed at the next Full Council meeting. She said how hard the local police work but was disappointed with the comment from the platform raised at the public meeting, that we have the cheapest police force. Cllr Morrison clarified that we need the best not the cheapest.</p> <p>The Mayor thanked Insp. Cole for his attendance.</p>
125/16	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13th December 2016 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Town Council held on 4th January 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p>
126/16	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 095/16 – Cllr I Henderson offered a response to the public question raised at the previous meeting, in relation to the 'Blue Roundabout' by Morrisons. He said that before Christmas he had met with Ringway Jacobs, who are working in partnership with TDC on the project. He said there's needed to be a number of surveys and risk assessments carried out but the foundations are about to go down and he hopes the delivery is much closer now. As it's off the back of the Mayflower 2020 celebrations, it will be

	<p>advertised in America. He said it should be completed in time for this year's tourist season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 098/16 – Members noted a response from Bernard Jenkin MP in relation to a letter sent to him after the last meeting regarding Harwich Maternity Unit, which the Clerk read aloud. Cllr I Henderson it's reassuring that his immediate focus is on opposing any changes to the MIU, but he hopes his stance will change to 'opposing closure of the MIU'. • MIN 098/16 – No responses received from either TDC or Hutchinson Ports. Clerk agreed to chase up.
127/16	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> None</p>
128/16	<p><u>MINOR INJURIES UNIT</u></p> <p>Members discussed the consultation on the proposals for the future of the Minor Injuries Unit at Harwich. Cllr I Henderson referred to a public meeting recently, which was well attended. Since the meeting, people have raised comments about the questionnaire and how it appears to be loaded instead of targeted towards the minor injuries service. It doesn't mention anything about minor injuries, rather immediate healthcare. Cllr Henderson read aloud one of the questions as an example. He asked if the questionnaire is actually fit for purpose. When they receive the results it won't be aligned to the fears that people have. He urges all to complete the free text field with comments about where they would go with a minor injury. He suggested setting up a small working party to put together a formal response to the consultation on behalf of the Council and it was suggested to appoint Cllrs Calver, Urwin and Morrison. Cllr I Henderson said it would be a good idea to write to the CCG to raise our concerns about the questionnaire and it not addressing the issue about the Minor Injuries Unit. Cllr Urwin said the whole section needs challenging and urged all to attend the next two public meetings, which are scheduled for 4th and 17th February, at the Electric Palace.</p> <p>Cllr Calver said it's vital that those meetings are packed and the surveys are returned in their thousands. He was very disappointed with the consultation thus far and felt the decision had already been decided, and that we need to do everything possible to prevent them from being able to justify their decision, which is to look towards a single Tendring provision, based at Clacton Hospital. Cllr Calver added that everything except the MIU was discussed at the meeting, and he felt that if this service in particular was included in the questionnaire, it would lead to a very different outcome to what suits their needs. He also said that the CCG were unaware of the views of GPs serving the area and since they represent their patients, they should also be consulted. Cllr Calver proposed that we write to the CCG asking them to withdraw the survey and stop the consultation; and replace it with something that's fit for purpose, which is one that is fair and based purely on Minor Injury needs within the district and nothing else. He further propose we write to the MP to inform him of our actions and ask him to use his office to bring those changes about. Cllr Calver also proposed that HTC write to all GPs based in the parish and ask that they make us aware whether they support retaining the MIU and if they do whether they have made the CCG aware of their views.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To appoint Cllrs Calver, Morrison and Urwin to formulate a formal response to be submitted on behalf of the Council. And to send letters to the CCG, MP and local GPs.</p>

129/16	<p><u>HTC REPRESENTATIVE ON THE HENRY SMITH CHARITY</u> The Clerk confirmed that since the last meeting, Cllr Sean Fay had volunteered to take up the vacancy left by former councillor Andy Erskine. It was RESOLVED: To accept Cllr Fay's offer.</p>
130/16	<p><u>GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE</u> Members reviewed the model Grievance Procedure from the SLCC and, pending further scrutiny, RESOLVED: To adopt the policy for Harwich Town Council.</p>
131/16	<p><u>HARWICH PUBLIC REALM WORKS</u> Cllr I Henderson briefed members on the news that Tendring District Council (TDC) have agreed to commit £1m of investment into public realm works in Dovercourt town centre, as was reported in the Harwich & Manningtree Standard last week. Cllr Henderson said he was very pleased about the proposals, which have resulted from many months of discussions with the Chief Executive of TDC and portfolio holders. He feels a presentation should be put the Council and proposed we invite Ian Davidson and the portfolio holder, Giles Watling, to attend the next Council meeting to present their ideas of what the money could be spent on in the town centre. Cllr Henderson said the improvements should further encourage more outlets to the town.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To invite Ian Davidson, Chief Executive of TDC and Cllr Giles Watling, portfolio Holder for Planning & Regeneration, to the next meeting of the Council to present their ideas to members.</p>
132/16	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 6th December 2016 (previously circulated) be received. E46/16 – Cllr Fowler reported that Cath Bicknell of TDC attended the meeting and had promised to return to a future meeting.</p>
133/16	<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 17th January 2017 (previously circulated) be received.</p>
134/16	<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>
135/16	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES</u> • Cllr McLeod attended a TDALC meeting – he pushed about the MIU consultation asking all to urge residents to voice their concerns about any closures. All were supportive. The LED lights were also mentioned. Cllr J Brown raised concern about the newly installed LEDs in the town, as they're overpowering and not directed towards the pavements. Cllr McLeod said the installation isn't complete, although he agreed some are very bright. Cllr I Henderson said many councils around the country have moved to LED lighting</p>

	<p>and keep their lights on. He will push for the budget to facilitate the money to support the case for keeping the lights on. Finally there were a couple of planning concerns regarding inconsistencies in determinations on planning applications, which he felt was due to their being no Local Plan currently in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr J Henderson attended a Teen Talk committee meeting. They are very pleased with their county councillor for addressing their concerns over mental health referral waiting times. Funding streams are getting tighter. She appealed to all for information on any grant bids. Cllr I Henderson confirmed there are currently long waits for assessments for mental health. The NELFT attended a meeting and was good at listening to concerns about the waiting times. They're keeping in contact and looking into a networking event locally so they can better understand the issues and ensure the proper support is available. • Cllr Fowler reported the date of the next meeting of the RBL, and the Port Liaison meeting will be held in March. The Residents Association will be as and when but no date has been set for the AGM of the Harwich & District Community Association.
136/16	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Clerk updated members on the new contact for the Dovercourt Friday Market. Don Piper has taken over the licence for the Friday market and will be the main contact for stallholders. Cllr I Henderson said Lesley Pollard is stepping down as Chair of the Harwich & Dovercourt Partnership and the Council should write her a letter of appreciation for all the good work she's done and ask her who will be the new Chair of the HDP. • The Clerk appealed for suggestions for a response to a question for a survey being carried out on behalf of the district council regarding open spaces. The Clerk felt she wasn't able to respond on behalf of the Council. Cllr Ashley was wary about the results being in the public domain and said it needs to be carefully worded. Members agreed to give it some consideration and assist the Clerk with a suitable response. • Cllr Calver reported on a meeting he and Cllr Morrison attended upon request from the Deputy Mayor, with Andrea King, and Mike Carran of TDC about utilising local open space in the area for a big charity event to be held later in the year. They located of interest was actually Harwich Green, which is the responsibility of the district council and as such it fell under the auspices of Mike Carran, who was very supportive towards the idea.
137/16	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 7th March 2017 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
138/16	<p>Exclusion of Public and Press</p> <p>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"> • Apprentice Administrative Assistant

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.41 pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE