

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 27th June 2017

Present:	Councillors Fowler, McLeod, Smith, Todd (sub for Urwin) and Calver (sub for Morrison)
In the Chair:	Councillor C Powell
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	One member of the public and no press Cheryl Thompson – Horticultural Adviser Councillor I Henderson – Essex County Councillor and member of the LHP

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Cheryl Thompson asked members what ideas they had for enforcing dog fouling as following a freedom of information request to TDC, there have been very few prosecutions. Councillor Calver confirmed that a request had been received from a TDC portfolio holder for members to consider displaying signage and that this was not a project that has arisen from this committee.

Cheryl Thompson asked Councillor McLeod for details of progress he has made with contacting landlords to highlight the issue of fly-tipping when changeover of tenants take place. Councillor McLeod stated that all action for regulation and enforcement would need to be done by the responsible authority, TDC, however this will be discussed later at this meeting.

E01/17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Councillors Urwin (sub Todd), Morrison (sub Calver), J Brown and Ashley
E02/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E03/17	<u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</u> RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr McLeod as Vice-Chair of the Environment & Community Committee.
E04/17	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 27 th April 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

E05/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> E72/16 – Concrete Bunker in Cliff Park – Contact details for Teen Talk Wildlife Group have been passed to TDC.</p>
E06/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> None</p>
E07/17	<p><u>TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT</u> Members welcomed Cath Bicknell, Head of Planning Services.</p> <p>Cath Bicknell provided further updates on the three sites highlighted by members but was happy to discuss any other sites which had enforcement action taking place.</p> <p>8 Church Street – The agent has advised TDC that the property has been sold subject to contract but they will keep the case open.</p> <p>79 Stour Road – Following the submission of photographs from Councillor Smith, TDC have spoken with the developer again who has agreed to clear the site within the next week. Councillor Smith felt that this action was inadequate. He regularly receives complaints from residents who are not only troubled by the appearance of the site but the ongoing fly tipping is attracting vermin. Cath Bicknell advised that TDC cannot force the developers to implement the planning permission but the developers are in talks with TDC about an alternative scheme. Other members raised the inadequate and unsightly hoarding surrounding the site which is not stable and made a request for it to be replaced. Mrs Bicknell suggested that replacing with solid hoarding would alleviate some of these issues and agreed to investigate and report back.</p> <p>Disused Train Ferry Terminal – Councillor Todd stressed his disappointment and frustration with the lack of response from TDC, Hutchinson Port (HP) and the MP following numerous occasions HTC has written to them and not one reply received. Following the survey being carried out, it seems that no further action or work has been carried out other than removing broken glass which has now left the gantry open to the elements. HP agreed to move it from category C to category E and it needs to be preserved, not necessarily restored. Members believe that HP do not intend to carry out any work and HTC feel strongly that TDC should take enforcement action against HP. Councillor Todd stated that although the survey undertaken confirms that the cost for refurbishment is in the region of £2.5 million, works detailed to preserve the gantry would cost in the region of £360,000. Councillor Calver stated that not only is the gantry important to Harwich, it is of national significance. Whilst we should accept the figures of 2.2 million, if HP had kept on top of it and not allowed it to deteriorate, the cost would have been lower. Cath Bicknell confirmed that TDC are not in a position to take enforcement action but would work with all parties and agreed to make further contact with HP and ask for a meeting. Councillor Todd confirmed that he would like to attend as a representative for HTC and the clerk agreed to forward details of the minimum works Councillor Todd has suggested which need to be carried out. It was highlighted that HP had made no effort to investigate other sources of funding to assist with the renovation and Cath Bicknell agreed to speak with TDC’s funding officer for advice.</p>

	<p>Illegal Advertising Signs – TDC have undertaken a mass clean-up/removal of illegal advertising signs in the area. The associated companies have been contacted and if they wish to have their signs returned, they can be collected from Weeley and a charge will be levied.</p> <p>Members thanked Cath Bicknell for her time and feedback.</p>
E08/17	<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"> •New trees in Harbour Crescent – Have be watered regularly, however, they have lost almost all their leaves. Trevor Mills feels it may be wind burn from the strong easterly winds some while back. •Hedging plants in Cliff Park and Barrack Field – These are surviving quite well. •Planting on the seafront – On 15th June a group of Harwich and Dovercourt High School students came along and worked with Cheryl in her capacity as Gardening Group leader of the Harwich Society to clear and plant up six of the ‘pockets’ on the seafront in front of the shelter at the top of Orwell Road. They were very proud of their days work and some felt they would like to do more. Trevor Mills was more than generous with plants, compost and the gardeners’ time to help with the project. •Harwich in Bloom – Rachel Fryer has been very helping with advice regarding approvals and applications to place planters on the highway. At present, HSGG are unable to source someone to hang the hanging baskets so may have to proceed with planters. Hopefully arrangements may be in place ready for next year. •The missing lead for the shelter in Marine Parade was reported to TDC 18 months ago and no action has been taken. Councillor Calver agreed to pursue this with TDC. •Replacement bench by the tunnel has been provided by TDC and has been spruced up.
E09/17	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>Councillor I Henderson confirmed that the LHP were not due to meet until 29th June 2017 at 10am but provided the Chairman with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gateway Sign – Historic Harwich – This is now on order. •Blue Roundabout – £60k has been allocated however more funds are required due to increased costs. •No Through Road Sign – King Georges Avenue – Complete. •Bus Stop Cage – Main Road – This has been fully validated by the Passenger Transport Department and is awaiting panel consideration for funding. •Church Street Right of Way – In validation. •Parkeston Road – Both Chief Inspector Russ Cole and ECC School Crossing Patrol Services have written to the LHP expressing their concerns. This request was not showing on the LHP report so Councillor I Henderson agreed to chase. <p>Members briefly discussed Councillor I Henderson’s request to consider submitting a proposal to the LHP asking for improvements to be made to the public footpath connecting Deanes Close and Long Meadows.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to submit a report to the Local Highways Panel requesting an upgrade and to the public footpath connecting Deanes Close and Long Meadows.</p>
E10/17	<p><u>FLY-TIPPING – OLD VICTORIA HOTEL CAR PARK</u></p> <p>Cllr McLeod expressed his annoyance and frustration with the on-going fly-tipping at this location. Councillor Calver advised that he has had continual communication and correspondence with TDC due to the impact it has on nearby residents.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that some is localised tipping, however the site is subject to commercial fly-tipping and it is therefore too simplistic to blame local residents.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC complaining about the ongoing state of the site and ask TDC to prevent the site being available for fly tipping.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC to ask for the CCTV to be rotated to a different angle towards Victoria Street Car Park and seek an update in one month.</p>
E11/17	<p><u>WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the information received from Essex County Highways to participate in the 2017/18 partnership scheme and following confirmation from the Mayflower Project that they are happy to house a further two pallets of salt, it was agreed to participate under the same conditions and arrangements agreed last year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange HTC's participation in the 2017/2018 Winter Salt Bag Scheme.</p>
E12/17	<p><u>EMERGENCY GUIDELINES CARD</u></p> <p>Councillor Calver advised members that the Clerk, as responsible Finance Officer was happy with the financial outcome.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Royal Mail and accept the compensation offered. Upon receipt, funds are to be transferred in to the E&C Projects budget.</p>
E13/17	<p><u>WELCOME TO HISTORIC HARWICH SIGN – HARWICH SEA WALL</u></p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that four contractors have been contacted to provide quotations for the cleaning to be undertaken but in order to adhere to relevant health and safety measures and an independent water source required, only one quotation for this work has been received.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Following receipt of adequate PL insurance and risk assessment, Clerk to instruct Monthind Contract & Specialist Services at a cost of £585.00 plus VAT to carry out the work to clean the existing sign and instruct Mr B Rowland to refresh the sign at a cost of £315.00.</p>
E14/17	<p><u>DOG FOULING SIGNS</u></p> <p>Members considered the request for HTC to display independent dog fouling notices and reviewed advice sought from Tendring District Council officers.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Councillor Ferguson advising that as a result of her enquiry, advice was sought from TDC officers and attach a copy of the response, which the committee considers to be self-explanatory.</p>
E15/17	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>The Chairman updated members on the completion of the new crazy golf and advised that the official opening would take place on 1st July 2017.</p>
E16/17	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Thursday 7th September 2017, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE