

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Monday 17th July 2017 at 7.13pm**

Present:	Councillors Ashley, B Brown, Calver, Fowler, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, C Powell, F Powell, Smith, Struth, Todd and Urwin
In the Chair:	Councillor J Brown
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	4 members of the public, 1 member of the press and the Rev. Rosie Tallwin.

The Mayor called for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to former councillor and Mayor, Peter Brand, who recently died. Cllr J Henderson gave details of the funeral and reception afterwards. The Flag will be flown at half-mast on the day of the funeral.

Prayers were said by the Rev. Rosie Tallwin.

035/17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Fay and I Henderson
036/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
037/17	<u>REOPEN HARWICH TO ESBJERG FERRY GROUP PRESENTATION</u> This item was skipped as the RHEG representative did not attend.
038/17	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> Betty Holbrook thanked Cllr Smith for his work in assisting with recent beach cleans and the removal of old boats which had been seemingly abandoned on Harwich beach, but mentioned that there is still a boat on the beach by the temporary car park and asked if anything can be done to have this removed. Cllr Smith offered to take it up with the district council on her behalf.
039/17	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor gave a report of engagements carried out since the last meeting, which included attending the concert by Ghanaian children at the Kingsway Hall, The Luney Club dinner and dance, re-opening of Morgan's pet shop in town, Trinity Sunday Civic Service, 35 th Anniversary service of the Falkland's War, planting in the Elizabeth Road Peace Garden with children from All Saints' school, Suffolk Armed Forces weekend in Felixstowe, various Harwich Festival events, Festival of Imagination, new shop opening, charity presentation evening from the Wall of Death and the 7 Wonders of Harwich exhibition at the Harwich & Dovercourt High School. Cllr C Powell, on behalf of the Mayor, attended day 2 of the Suffolk Armed Forces weekend in Felixstowe And opened the Two Village summer fete.

040/17	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 30th May 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p>
041/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 168/16 – Cllr Struth provided an update to members on the proposed joint project with HDHS. She thanked both the Mayor and Cllr Fowler for attending the exhibition today. Despite several delays, Emmanuelle Anning managed to put together an exhibition and may approach the Council next year to help present to students in an assembly. Cllr Fowler said the ideas came from the students and they chose the existing skatepark as one of the wonders of Harwich, citing it as somewhere to go.
042/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 147/16 – The Clerk confirmed that since making the request for Cllr Giles Watling to attend a meeting of the Council to discuss the former Train Ferry Gantry, she had subsequently invited new portfolio holder, Cllr Stock, but was unable to secure any arrangements. Cllr Todd relayed some information from a previous E&C meeting, which was attended by Cath Bicknell from the district council. He'd sent a copy of the repair document along with his estimated figures for those repairs to Cath and he read aloud her response. She has relayed these concerns to Hutchison Ports and requested a meeting with them. She has received acknowledgement and will report back once matters have progressed.
043/17	<p><u>USE OF THE GUILDHALL CHAM BER</u> Members considered a request from the re-formed Crime Prevention Panel, to hold their monthly meetings free of charge in the Council Chamber. RESOLVED: To grant the request for free use of the Chamber between now and April 2018.</p>
044/17	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fowler – No reports or meeting dates received for the Harwich & District Community Association. The 2016 AGM was due to be held in December, but still no date has been received. Harwich Conservation Panel hold meetings as and when required. The next meeting of the HIP LALC is due mid Sep. • Cllr C Powell – Harwich Tourism Group met last week. The main topic was the Foot Ferry and foot fall is up 100% on last year. The proprietor is hoping to start up a cycle hire business for passengers using the foot ferry. Cllr Powell reported that the ferry landing over at Felixstowe isn't great, so the tourism group will invite the Mayor of Felixstowe to a meeting to discuss. • Cllr Todd - Merchant Navy Welfare Board in Felixstowe. They again thanked HTC for funding the shuttle buses for the cruise crew. The seafarers centre will be closing immediately due to lack of attendance. He talked about the sulphur emissions and automated vessels. He referred also to an article in the press about Brexit in which it mentioned Hutchison Ports as one of the biggest investors. He read aloud an excerpt from the article, but noted there was no mention of investment on Bathside Bay. At the meeting, he'd been informed that to develop Bathside Bay would require constant dredging which would make the project financially unviable. And since the refurbishment of the train

	<p>ferry gantry forms part of the associated S106 agreement, he's now concerned that if the development doesn't take place, then the refurbishment won't take place. He asked if HTC can send a letter to the chair of Hutchison Ports to seek clarification on the dredging and it was RESOLVED: to send a letter. Cllr Fowler confirmed that the planning application that was passed, the S106 agreement holds all the conditions to maintain the train ferry gantry. It went back to TDC for the date to be changed and an extension was given to 2021, to allow for surveys and repairs to be carried out.</p> <p>Cllr Calver raised concern that if the development doesn't go ahead, will this bring into question the industrial allocation in the local plan so felt that this should be brought to the attention of TDC. The Clerk agreed to copy any letter sent to Hutchison Ports, to TDC.</p> <p>Cllr Calver then referred to the train ferry gantry and said the position is worsening. The Clerk agreed to try and find out which Government Department is responsible for listed structures and explain our concerns to them and that we've been unable to obtain get a response from our MP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McLeod referred to the success of the Harwich Festival and that most concerts were well attended. The Sea and Beach Festival is coming up in August and he asked if a letter of thanks could be sent from the Council, recognising their hard work. • Cllr J Brown raised concern that he's not receiving invites to meetings of the Mayflower Project. The Clerk confirmed that she's prompted the general Manager again who has agreed to send invites to meetings as they arise. Cllr Calver said HTC has always endeavoured to support the Mayflower Project. Cllr J Brown said he wants to attend the meetings so that he is kept abreast of progress.
045/17	<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 7th June and 11th July 2017 (previously circulated) be received.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: To ratify the decision of the F&GP Committee to award s137 grants to both the Harwich Fireworks on the Quay Committee (£1500), and The London Bus Theatre Company (£1500).</p>
046/17	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Community Committee held on 27th June 2017 (previously circulated) be received.</p>
047/17	<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>
048/17	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>The Clerk referred to the response she's received to the letter written to the DoT about the delays to repairs on the A120. Members relayed their concerns. Cllr Calver suggested we dispute the information given providing copies of all correspondence sent to Bernard Jenkin and asking them to obtain confirmation of our position from Bernard Jenkin and it was RESOLVED: to write back and copy in Bernard Jenkin.</p>

049/17	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 6th September 2017 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
050/17	<p>Exclusion of Public and Press 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

The Chairman thanked everyone and closed the public part of the meeting at 8.21pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE