

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Thursday 7th September 2017

Present:	Councillors J Brown, Fay, Fowler, McLeod, Morrison and Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor C Powell
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	Two members of the public and no press Cheryl Thompson – Horticultural Adviser

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Cheryl Thompson expressed her concerns with the lack of prompt action taken by Tendring District Council following reports of fridges and freezers being fly-tipped on the old Victoria Hotel car park. Ms Thompson felt that these items were a health and safety risk to young children and asked Harwich Town Council to highlight this issue to TDC. Councillor Morrison made Ms Thompson aware of a planning application to erect a boundary fence, submitted to TDC by the owners of the land. Councillor Morrison felt that this should alleviate the problem with fly-tipping however her request could be considered when the item is discussed later in the meeting.

E17/17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Councillors Ashley and Urwin
E18/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> Cllr Fowler – Member of TDC Planning Committee
E19/17	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 27 th June 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E20/17	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> E09/17 – Local Highways Panel – Report has been submitted to request improvements to the pathway connecting Deanes Close and Long Meadows. E10/17 – Fly-tipping – Old Victoria Hotel Car Park – Letters have been sent to Paul Price and Mark Westall at TDC. E11/17 – Winter Salt Bag Scheme – 2 pallets of salt have been ordered to be stored at the Mayflower Project. E12/17 – Claim Submitted to Royal Mail. Compensation has now been received. E13/17 – Welcome to Historic Harwich – Sign on Sea Wall – Contractors and sign writer instructed. Cleaning commenced 23 rd August 2017.

	E14/17 – Dog Fouling Signs – Councillor Ferguson has been updated.
E21/17	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> None
E22/17	<u>TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT</u> The Chairman advised members of the following update provided by Cath Bicknell: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Co-op Building, Church Street – The owners have been asked to remove fly-tipping and paint the hoardings. •79 Stour Road – The owners have been asked to tidy the site and have confirmed that this will be done w/c 11th September 17. Councillor Smith was disappointed with the length of time this has taken and highlighted the lack of action to replace the existing boundary fence with solid hording which was suggested by Cath Bicknell at the last committee meeting. Clerk agreed to contact TDC and ask for an update for the replacement hoarding. •20 Market Street – Condition of building is not sufficiently poor to warrant further action at present. Councillor Smith advised members that a local resident was told by the surveyor, that they would recommend at the very least for the removal/replacement of the rendering. Clerk agreed to ask TDC for clarification. •Train Ferry Gantry – A meeting has been arranged with Harwich International Port which will include Councillor Alan Todd as HTC’s representative.
E23/17	<u>TREE PLANTING & OUTDOOR SPACES</u> Mark Stanford briefed members on proposed tree planting recommendations, a project to be undertaken in conjunction with Harwich Town Residents Association and Harwich Secret Gardens. The Clerk made members aware that TDC has quoted a cost of £224.20 plus VAT per tree which includes the purchasing of a tree, planting and watering. RESOLVED: To approve the tree planting recommendation for 3 trees, 1 tree to be funded by HTC and the remaining trees to be funded by HTRA and HSG. In consultation with the Chairman, Clerk to negotiate cost and arrangements for watering with all parties. Clerk to place an order - budget approved up to a maximum of £762.60 to cover supply, delivery, planting and watering. The report from the Horticultural Adviser detailed the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •New trees in Harbour Crescent – Ms Thompson will contact Trevor Mills for further guidance on the health of the trees. •Harwich in Bloom – Enquiries with other councils have been most helpful. Details of the following companies have been sourced and may be able to assist; Skippers Landscaping for hanging the baskets and Environmental Services for watering (Manningtree). Cheryl will continue to report back as progress is made. •Brown Tailed Moth Caterpillars – There have been sightings of infestations which can be a nuisance to gardeners but the caterpillar also releases irritant hairs into the air which can cause skin irritation, and can affect some people quite severely. RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC asking them to make public aware and report any infestations on public land to TDC.

E24/17	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u> The Chairman confirmed that there had been no further meeting of the LHP since the last committee meeting.</p> <p>LHP referral to request improvements to the track connecting Deanes Close and Long Meadows – The Chairman confirmed that both the Assistant Clerk and Essex Highways Liaison Officer have undertaken searches and confirm that the land is not owned by ECC and are therefore unable to undertake any resurfacing works. RESOLVED: To withdrawn the submission of the proposal to the LHP.</p>
E25/17	<p><u>FLY-TIPPING – OLD VICTORIA HOTEL CAR PARK</u> Correspondence received was reviewed and noted. Following the submission of a planning application to erect a boundary fence, it was felt that no further action is necessary at this time. Members agreed to Ms Thompson’s request. RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC highlighting the lack of prompt action following reports of fridges and freezers being illegally discarded on the site.</p>
E26/17	<p><u>EMERGENCY GUIDELINES CARDS</u> Members considered further distribution of the 270 surplus cards. RESOLVED: Members to deliver to new development sites.</p>
E27/17	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> Councillor McLeod raised the lack of white lining in Dovercourt and agreed to continue to complain to Essex County Highways.</p>
E28/17	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Monday 30th October 2017, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE