

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Monday 30th October 2017

Present:	Councillors J Brown, Fay, Fowler, McLeod, Morrison, Urwin and Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor C Powell
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	No members 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 how they were intending to water the trees which were approved for purchasing and planting at the last meeting. The Chairman advised that this would be discussed during item 4 on the agenda.

Cheryl Thompson asked what arrangements had been made for the traders to collect salt bags from the Mayflower Project at the weekends when the site is closed. The Clerk advised that two pallets are stored at Wellworth a Pound, however it is hoped that local traders will plan ahead when bad weather is forecast.

E29/17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Councillor Ashley
E30/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> Cllr Fowler – Member of TDC Planning Committee
E31/17	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 7 th September 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E32/17	Matters Arising From the Minutes of the Last Meeting To discuss and act upon information received following previous actions in relation to the following items: E22/17 - 79 Stour Road – Clerk has written to TDC to ask for an update for the replacement hoarding and supplied additional photos. •The Clerk advised that a late reply had been received from TDC today, with attached photos, stating that they feel it is substantially tidier and in planning terms, it is acceptable. They have spoken with the owners who are actively considering

	<p>demolishing/clearing the whole site, leaving it empty and open to prevent the need to keep repairing the fencing. Councillor G Smith expressed his concerns and felt that the action taken is not adequate. The existing hording is not sturdy and will blow down in high winds. At the last meeting Cath Bicknell agreed that this could be considered. To demolish and clear the site leaving the site open without hoarding would not be acceptable. This would attract further fly-tipping. Councillor Smith provided photographs of the items which have been discarded on the site and felt that this was also an environmental issue.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to TDC to request that sturdier hoarding is erected and painted and Environmental Services to be contacted to request the fly-tipping is cleared. Harwich Town Council's concerns to be highlighted regarding leaving the site open if the property is demolished as this will attract further fly-tipping.</p> <p>E22/17 – 20 Market Street – Clerk has written to TDC asking for clarification of surveyor's recommendations. Cath Bicknell has confirmed that she is not aware of a surveyor visiting 20 Market Street or a survey from such a visit.</p> <p>E22/17 – Train Ferry Gantry – Meeting was held on 16th October (attendees Robin Forrester TDC, Cllr A Todd and two representatives from Hutchinson International Port). Cllr Todd has provided an update to members at the meeting of Full Council on 17th October 2017.</p> <p>E22/17 – Co-op Building – Church Street – At the meeting of the E&C Committee on 7th September 2017, Cath Bicknell advised that the owners have been asked to remove the fly-tipping and paint the hoardings. Councillor G Smith confirmed that the hoarding had not been painted and provided photographs. Clerk agreed to chase.</p> <p>E23/17 – Tree Planting Recommendations – Order for 4 Turkish Oaks has been placed with TDC (one to be provided free of charge from Barchams to replace a tree planted last year which has died. TDC have not been asked to water the trees at a cost of £85 per tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Discussions took place regarding the watering of the trees and members felt that although watering would need to take place, the costs quoted by TDC are too high. <p>RESOLVED: To place on the agenda for discussion in December/January once arrangements for Harwich in Bloom were in place.</p> <p>E23/17 – Brown Tailed Moth Caterpillars – Clerk has written to TDC to ask them to make public aware and report infestations on public land to TDC. Members reviewed the response received but felt that after consulting with other councils, there was a conflict of opinion with TDC.</p> <p>E25/17 – Old Victoria Hotel Car Park – Clerk has written to TDC highlighting the lack of prompt action following reports of fridges and freezers being illegally discarded on the site. No response received. Clerk agreed to chase a response and ask for the expected date for the hoarding to be erected. Cheryl Thompson confirmed that the fly-tipping was being cleared quicker since the letter was sent.</p> <p>E26/17 – Emergency Guidelines Cards – Councillor J Brown has kindly agreed to deliver surplus cards to Bernard Mews and Councillor C Powell offered to assist. Councillor Morrison agreed to deliver to Rose Gardens.</p>
E33/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>E11/17 – Winter Salt Bag Scheme – 2 pallets of salt have been ordered and to be stored at the Mayflower Project – awaiting delivery.</p> <p>E13/17 – Welcome to Historic Harwich – Sign on sea wall. Cleaning took place on 23rd August 2017 and the sign has now been repainted.</p>

<p>E34/17</p>	<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"> •Harwich Society Gardening Group – Ms Thompson has arranged for two ‘pay back’ teams to help with clearing the planting pockets on Dovercourt seafront near Cliff Park. This will continue the work started by the students from H&D High School. TDC have weed killed the area and will try and find some plants for future planting. The pay back team will also be sanding down and painting the benches and seats along the prom, the memorial benches at the end of Orwell Road and the picnic benches in Cliff Park. Cheryl asked if HTC would consider purchasing weed control fabric and chipped bark for the planting pockets and has provided costings. <p>RESOLVED: To purchase 1 x weed control matting - £9.99 and 6 bags of chipped bark at £3.99 per bag total - £34.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cliff Park – The fair had placed a ride on top of the little trees/shrubs which were planted last year as part of the work for the Green Flag Award. Cheryl spoke with one of their team who apologised for not noticing and were more than willing to move their equipment. •Sowing of Poppies – The sowing carried out in a previous year does not seem to have been successful. Cheryl felt it may be because the area wasn’t prepared very well on the slope and has suggested that a small area such as thin vertical and horizontal lines are scraped/cleared of the matted grasses and some seeds sown. Councillor C Powell confirmed that TDC cleared the site back in 2014 with two applications of weed killer and raked the area. Advice was taken by TDC regarding the mixture of seeds and sowing of the seeds undertaken in conjunction with TDC and local primary schools. <p>RESOLVED: To write to the company who provided the seeds highlighting the lack of germination and self-sowing poppy seedlings.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC highlighting the lack of germination and self-sowing poppy seedlings and ask for their advice and opinion on the lack of growth, the best time of the year to grow the seeds and suggestions on how and whether the area can be improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk Tree Warden Conference – Cheryl attended this event and one of the many interesting things discussed was the Orchard East campaign to start up community orchards and recording old, almost forgotten orchards in parts in the country. •TDC Tree Grant - The Clerk confirmed that the TDC tree grant application had been received and due to time constraints for the submission, the Clerk has completed the request for funding towards the planting agreed at the last meeting. •Replacement tree – Mark Stanford has negotiated a replacement Turkish Oak to replace one which was planted last year but sadly died. TDC have quoted £50 to remove the dead tree and plant the replacement tree. <p>RESOLVED: To approve the £50 cost and instruct TDC to plant and stake the tree.</p>
<p>E35/17</p>	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>Councillor I Henderson provided members with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gateway Sign – Historic Harwich – Agreed and designed. Should be going up after new year. •Blue Roundabout – Carpet has been removed and foundations are in. TDC are now taking over the project. Should be done in the spring. •Bus Stop Cage – Completed. •Church Street – The validation team agreed that investigations could be made into trimming the bushes or even rebuilding the wall but felt that changing the priority at the junction would be the best way forward in the long term.

	<p>•Parkeston Road – Installation of Zebra Crossing - Discussions still taking place.</p> <p>Councillor I Henderson made members aware of the work being undertaken by the Coastal Communities Team. They will be working with HTC to declutter the old disused posts and look at signage around the town.</p>						
E36/17	<p><u>DERELICT BUILDING – 20 VICTORIA STREET</u></p> <p>Members agreed that this site was not only unsightly but dangerous. Cath Bicknell has previously advised that the owner is unknown.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC Chief Executive and ask TDC to give consideration to undertake a compulsory purchase to build more housing.</p>						
E37/17	<p><u>BUDGET FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with an update on budgets spent year to date and expenditure due to be incurred for 2017/2018. Members discussed possible future projects and proposed budgets for 2018/19. RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Budget for the Municipal Year 2018/19</p> <table> <tr> <td>MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS</td> <td>1500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TREE & SHRUB PLANTING</td> <td>1000</td> </tr> </table>	MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND	500	ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS	1500	TREE & SHRUB PLANTING	1000
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E38/17	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>None</p>						
E39/17	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Monday 11th December 2017, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>						

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE