

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 15th February 2018

Present:	Councillors J Brown, Fay, Fowler, McLeod, Calver (substituting for Morrison), Smith and Todd (substituting for Urwin)
In the Chair:	Councillor C Powell
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	1 member of the public and no members of the press Cheryl Thompson – Horticultural Adviser Councillor Ivan Henderson – Essex County Councillor and member of the Local Highways Panel

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E50/17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Councillors Ashley, Morrison (sub Councillor Calver) and Urwin (sub Councillor Todd)
E51/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E52/17	<u>SECTION 106 AND DEVELOPER PROVISIONS</u> Members welcomed Kristy Childs (TDC Officer) and Ian Taylor (Head of Public Realm) to discuss allocations in respect of S106 and developer provisions. With the increased development around the district, Mr Taylor felt that it was important that it wasn't solely the district council making decisions on local issues and wished to ensure that the parish council is consulted. Previous S106 funds were not allocated to specific projects, however the new arrangements require the agreed S106 provision to be assigned to a scheme. Councillor McLeod asked if the remit could be extended to cover community projects rather than just leisure/community amenities. Mr Taylor confirmed that this could be possible dependant on the project and that the relevant organisations can apply directly to TDC. Councillor Henderson highlighted the need for Cox's Pond to be drained, resealed and refilled and questioned whether it would be possible for funds to be allocated for further heritage lamp standards in the high street.

	<p>Ian Taylor advised that revitalising the murals in the parish could possibly be considered as future projects as well as work undertaken by Harwich Society Gardening Club (Cllr Calver and Cllr Fowler declared a non-pecuniary interest as executive members of the Harwich Society).</p> <p>Councillor G Smith expressed his disappointment with the time taken to replace the ship burnt down at the Stour Road play park. Kristy Childs confirmed that this should be completed within the next 5 to 6 weeks.</p> <p>On behalf of Harwich Town Council, Cllr Henderson thanked Kristy and her team for her work undertaken for S106 funds allocated for the refurbishment of Dovercourt Skate Park.</p> <p>The Chairman suggested that HTC compiles a list of possible projects with highlighted priorities and thanked Kristy Childs and Ian Taylor for their time.</p>
E53/17	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 11th December 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
E54/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> None</p>
E55/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E23/17 -Tree Planting Recommendations – Discussions regarding the watering of the trees located on Harwich Green is still taking place. E22/17 - 79 Stour Road – Clerk has sent a further complaint to TDC as no further action has been taken. TDC have confirmed that a letter was sent on 24th January 2018 asking the land owners to repair/replace fencing and tidying up the site. Cllr Smith has sent TDC further photographic evidence as the hoarding has now blown down and is causing a health and safety risk. TDC replied confirming that they have spoken to the land owners again and will be giving them a further 10 days. If no more work is done by the owner, TDC officers will need to seek authority for further formal action. E25/17 - Old Victoria Hotel Car Park – Area was fenced at the end of January 2018 and members agreed that this has vastly improved the appearance of the site.</p>
E56/17	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u> The report from the Horticultural Adviser detailed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orwell Road Shelter - TDC have replaced the lead and repaired the roof of the shelter. It looks good although the lead was replaced with ridge tiles. • Flood Memorial Garden – Cheryl is aiming to make a start on the Flood Memorial at the back of the Palace Cinema when the weather gets warmer and has consulted with Trevor Mills, TDC. • Dead Trees - There are still a few dead trees around, one at the edge of the Harwich children's play park and the ones in Harbour Crescent. Cheryl expects the one by the park will be replaced soon as Trevor is aware of it. <p>The Clerk advised members of The Secret Garden and Harwich Residents Association's plans to plant an additional 3 three trees in Wellington Road. There is still the outstanding issue of arrangements for watering the trees for the first year.</p>

	This proposal will be discussed and considered at the next meeting.
E57/17	<p><u>HARWICH TOURISM GROUP & COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP MEETINGS</u> Councillors Ivan Henderson and Charlie Powell provided the update below following their attendance at the above meetings:</p> <p>Harwich Tourism Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Essex are proactively involved with the meetings and grant funding from Visit England has been received to promote all destinations involved in the Mayflower 400 celebrations. Visit Essex have been on tour in America and Harwich has been promoted. • A Mayflower film has been produced and Visit Essex will be holding workshops to assist local businesses and highlight the benefits for getting involved with this huge event. • Members should have received invitations to the Mayflower 400 conference being held on 12th March 2018 taking place at the Harwich International Port Cruise Terminal. Invitations to this event have been delivered to local shops and businesses. Positive feedback has been received and all attendees will be looking at signing a pledge. • Thanks were passed to HTC for the £1000 grant for part funding the cost of distributing the new tourism leaflet which is being distributed to a wider area than in the past. • Harwich Haven Authority has funded the new tourism website and will be launched and presented at the conference. <p>Coastal Community Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This group was originally set up with £10k but further funding has been secured from S106. • Project underway for decluttering and improving signage in the parish including the installation of directional finger posts. • New signage for the exit from Harwich International Port is being designed with the Mayflower on it and there are plans for plaques set in concrete to be placed in pathways throughout the town. • Ideas are being considered for a Mayflower inspired photo opportunity along Historic Harwich Quay. • Steam locomotive 'Mayflower' will be visiting Harwich on 15th April 18 attracting hundreds of tourists to the town. • A Rail and Shipping Museum due to open in April and will be located at Harwich Town Train Station. • Greater Anglia commence work at the end of February to replace the canopy which will be lit at night. • New CCTV has been installed on Ha'Penny Pier. • Harwich Beach Festival – 12th August. • EC Highways Officer has confirmed that troughs can be installed on the railings by the traffic lights on High Street/Kingsway. <p>Councillor Todd highlighted the poor condition of the buoy located by the High Lighthouse and suggested that it would benefit from a clean and replacement signage to say 'Welcome to Historic Harwich'. Councillor Calver confirmed that it was not owned by Harwich Town Council but if the owner could be identified, the relevant organisation could possibly apply to TDC for S106 funding.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to investigate ownership, highlight condition and suggest possible routes for funding work.</p>

E58/17	<p><u>UNTIDY SITE IN THE CONSERVATION AREA AND ILLUMINATE ROUTE FOR MAYFLOWER 2020</u></p> <p>A meeting with Tendring District Council has been scheduled and the Chairman will report back.</p>
E59/17	<p><u>SOWING OF POPPIES – DOVERCOURT CLIFF SLOPES</u></p> <p>Councillor Fowler initially spoke with Colin Farnell to see if he had an area in mind, where poppies could be planted and tended by Harwich Society Gardening Club. At a further meeting which also involved TDC, it was agreed that a pocket of land in Cliff Park, adjacent to the esplanade, at the end of the beach huts, would be a suitable location. Arrangements for clearing and tending to the area were discussed and agreed between TDC and Harwich Society Gardening Group.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To pass the poppy seeds gifted by Thompson & Morgan to the Harwich Society.</p>
E60/17	<p><u>DERELICT BUILDING – 20 VICTORIA STREET</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the response received from Tendring District Council. Councillor McLeod suggested HTC carry out their own investigation, but members agreed that that the statutory body, TDC, should continue to deal with the matter and that HTC should wait for a further response from Andy White and Environmental Services.</p>
E61/17	<p><u>LHP PANEL</u></p> <p>To receive an update from Cllr I Henderson and consider any necessary action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Blue Roundabout - no further update •Church Street - Right of Way - no further update •Parkeston Road - A further traffic survey has been undertaken and the outcome has shown lower speeds this time but highlighted the amount of traffic. Assessments and discussions taking place on options available i.e. zebra crossing or pedestrian island.
E62/17	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor McLeod highlighted the unacceptable number of pot holes appearing and not being dealt with immediately on the whole network of local roads. He has also received an increase of complaints regarding damaged cars caused by the pot holes which have been redirected to Essex County Highways. • The Chairman confirmed that four HTC members attended a presentation from Osborne for the planned changes at the A120 Hare Green Junction. Work should be finished early September.
E63/17	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Thursday 26th April 2018, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE