

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 7.00pm**

Present:	Councillors Ashley, Calver, Fay, Fowler, I Henderson, McLeod, C Powell, F Powell, Smith, and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor J Brown
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	1 member of the public, 1 member of the press and Rev. Rosie Tallowin

170/17	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs B Brown, J Henderson, Morrison, Struth and Urwin
171/17	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllr McLeod declared a non-pecuniary interest as he sits on the Harwich Festival Committee.
172/17	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> Cllr J Brown updated members following a question from the previous meeting regarding the discarded barrels outside the Harwich Town brewery by Harwich Station and confirmed these have been cleared somewhat but could further improve and he'll keep on top of the situation.
173/17	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> A list of the Mayor's recent engagements was previously circulated to members. Additionally, the Mayor confirmed attendance at an event held by the Dovercourt Stroke Club.
174/17	<u>DOG FOULING PRESENTATION</u> This item was deferred as no one was able to attend from Tendring District Council and arrangements will be made for a suitable alternative daytime meeting.
175/17	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 5 th March 2018 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record. RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 7 th March 2018 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- **MIN 155/17** – Members discussed replies to letters to Bernard Jenkin MP and Transport Focus regarding the closure of the Rail Ticket Offices. The Clerk read aloud the MP's email response. Cllr Calver said this clarifies that the MP did not approach the DfT to challenge the proposed closures. Cllr McLeod said the ticket machine at Harwich International Port (HIP) is on the island platform and open to the elements and suggested we ask the MP to treat HIP as a special case. Cllr C Powell agreed with Cllr McLeod. Cllr I Henderson said Greater Anglia would be better placed to address specific queries about the machines and to provide assurances that there will be assistance available at the times the ferries arrive and especially during the tourist/cruise ship season and for those with disabilities both on the platform and with ticket queries.

RESOLVED: To write to Greater Anglia

- **MIN 155/17** – Cllrs I Henderson, J Brown and Smith provided members with an update following a meeting they'd had with Highways England on 23 March. Cllr J Brown briefed members on how this meeting came about and confirmed that much discussion was had about the issues. Cllr Smith said it was communication that caused many problems but in the meeting they agreed that whilst much of the A120 stretch was safe, some parts were unsafe. Cllr I Henderson confirmed Highways England accepted their communications hadn't been great. They did confirm that they also film the inspections they carry out. As a result of the meeting, repairs have started to commence and action is being taken more swiftly. The road needs full reconstruction as it's approaching the end of its usable life, having been built in the 1970s, but they are addressing the immediate problems and acknowledge that major works need carrying out but these need significant funding. Cllr I Henderson feels now is the time to ask the MP if he'll push the Government to give the same priority to this stretch of road as has been given to the A120 between Marks Tey and Braintree, in order to make it fit for purpose. He proposed we write to Bernard Jenkin and ask him to make this part of the A120 his priority to have it fully reconstructed and funded and the budget allocated for the 2020-2025 Funding Plan.

Cllr Smith said he had received a number of weekly reports following a request to highways England.

Cllr Ashley said it would be sensible to close the road if they're going to undertake major repairs. He stated that quality control needs increasing as the new repairs aren't up to standard and he provided anecdotes.

Cllr C Powell says we should query the state of the repairs being carried out.

Cllr J Brown said this was addressed at the aforementioned meeting.

RESOLVED: To write to Bernard Jenkin MP cc: Martin Fellows at Highways England.

- **MIN 156/177** – Members discussed a reply to a letter to Sally Morris at EPUNFT regarding All Saints House. Cllr Smith thanked Council for challenging the NHS on this issue and feels the issue is now closed although said he would follow up on a personal issue.

177/17	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 070/17 – Members received confirmation from the MP’s office that Children’s blood testing services had not been withdrawn from the Fryatt Hospital. • MIN 090/17 – Members received notification from the Harwich & District Community Crime Prevention Panel that since their member numbers have increased significantly, they would now be meeting at the Harwich Heritage Centre to hold their meetings and they thanked HTC for the free use until this point. • MIN 109/17 – Members considered requesting that Historic England place the Train Ferry Gantry on the ‘At Risk’ register and to authorise Cllrs Todd and Fowler to meet with Simon Buteux of Historic England, to discuss. Cllr Todd feels Hutchison Ports aren’t going to comply with the agreement to restore the gantry and feels this would be an option for protecting the structure. RESOLVED: To authorised Cllrs Todd and Fowler to meet with Mr Buteux. • MIN 133/17 – Members confirmed receipt of the Partnership Agreement with the Harwich Harbour Foot Ferry Partnership, which had been inspected, signed and returned by the Clerk on behalf of Harwich Town Council.
178/17	<p><u>SKATE PARK LAUNCH EVENT</u></p> <p>Members confirmed receipt of formal permission to hold the launch event and accepted the conditions for doing so.</p>
179/17	<p><u>FIRE STATION VISIT</u></p> <p>Members considered a request from the Police Fire and Crime Commissioner’s office to nominate a member of the Town Council to visit a fire station where the on-call system us currently implemented. Cllr Fowler and McLeod felt that Cllr Morrison expressed an interest. RESOLVED: To nominate Cllr Morrison and proceed with making the necessary arrangements.</p>
180/17	<p><u>ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To approve annual subscriptions which become payable during the 2018/19 financial year.</p>
181/17	<p><u>COUNCILLOR AND MAYORAL ALLOWANCES</u></p> <p>Members considered the recent recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and reviewed the present arrangements. Cllr Calver referred to an opinion expressed after the most recent local elections, that HTC would freeze the rate for the remainder of the council and proposed to retain the allowances at the present rate.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: To retain the 2016/17 member allowance of £768 per annum for councillors, payable in two instalments (June and December); and £2400 Mayoral allowance, payable in two instalments in consultation with the Mayor. The justification for the higher than recommended amount for the Chairman is due to the Mayoral position incurring many costs throughout the year.</p>
182/17	<p>REGULAR PAYMENTS RESOLVED: To authorised regular payments, that will arise during the course of the 2018/19 year, including those made by variable direct debit, in accordance with Financial Regulation 5.6</p>
183/17	<p>INTERNAL AUDITOR RESOLVED: To appoint Heather Heelis of Heelis & Lodge as the Council's Internal Auditor for the 2018-19 Financial Year. FURTHER RESOLVED: To approve the Scope of Internal Audit work.</p>
184/17	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fowler confirmed that the September meeting of the HIP LALC was postponed and the March meeting didn't proceed and the next meeting is expected in September but no date has yet been set. She has received no correspondence from the HDCA regarding meeting dates, and the 2016 and 2017 AGMs have not been held as far as she's aware. The Harwich Conservation panel meetings are held as and when and there was nothing to report. Cllr McLeod wondered whether Cllr B Brown had attended as the TDC representative and raised concern as to whether they actually want a representative. Cllr J Brown confirmed that the Clerk does inform all organisations of the Council rep for each year so they can advise when the meeting are being held. Cllr I Henderson said everyone knows what an important job they all do and if they need help, HTC are here to offer that. • Cllr J Brown said he will attend the next meeting of the Mayflower Project and as it's the last one he'll attend, he would like Cllr C Powell to attend with him. • Cllr Todd said he couldn't attend the last meeting of the MNWB but had managed to obtain the email address of Capt. Ashley Parker (Deputy Chair of the Haven Ports Welfare Committee and Felixstowe Docks and Railway Company rep) as he'd wanted to challenge him on why he requested that his statement about Bathside Bay not going ahead was omitted from the minutes of a previous meeting. Capt. Parker confirmed that was because it was a personal opinion and not relevant to the business of the committee. • Cllr I Henderson said the tourism Conference was successful and the new Historic Harwich website has gone live and the films are now being shown on the ferries. He confirmed there would also be some de-cluttering of signage around parts of the town and the finger posts and plaques are on order. • Cllr McLeod Updated members on progress with the Harwich Festival of the Arts Committee and that all was in place in readiness for this year's festival.
185/17	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th March 2018 (circulated separately). Members considered the recommendation of the committee in terms of grant funding and RESOLVED: to grant £4400 S137 grant to The Harwich Festival of the Arts</p>

186/17	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 15th March 2018 (circulated separately).</p>
187/17	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
188/17	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> • Members acknowledged letter of thanks from the Harwich Festival of the Arts for the £250 contribution towards the Street Art Project.</p>
189/17	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on a date to be agreed at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
190/17	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u> 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-mention business: • Apprentice Administrative Assistant</p>

The Chairman thanked everyone, members and clerk, for their support and cooperation throughout the last year and closed the public part of the meeting at 8.01pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE