

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on Tuesday 17th July 2018 at 7.23pm

Present:	Councillors B Brown, Calver, Fay, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, F Powell, Smith and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor C Powell
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	2 members of the public, 1 member of the press and Rev. Rosie Tallowin

The Chairman, on behalf of Harwich Town Council, congratulated Betty Holbrook on her recent MBE.

039/18	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Ashley, J Brown, Struth and Urwin
040/18	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllr Morrison declared a personal interest in the application for the Ark Centre Nursery and withdrew from the room during the vote.
041/18	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
042/18	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor gave an account of his recent engagements since the last meeting, which included attending The Luney Club 60 th Annual dinner dance, various events of the Harwich Festival, the Home Start Duck Day at Bobbits Hole, the Community Crime Prevention Panel's Celebration of Gardening event and the All Saints primary school summer fete.
043/18	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 5 th June 2018 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
044/18	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 028/18 – Members received confirmation that a date is secured for the Civic service for the 50th anniversary of the Harwich Society on Friday 18th October 2019 at 11.30am at St Nicholas Church, Harwich. • MIN 029/18 – Members discussed a reply from the PFCC regarding further concerns in relation to the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2020. Cllr Smith referred to points in the letter in that they've said they won't implement the plan without sufficient cover. Cllr I Henderson referred also to the assurances given

that they've been running a strong recruitment campaign and since April they've gained one on-call firefighter but lost one. Regarding the moving of appliances from one area to another, they can't afford to move them because Clacton only has a single full-time appliance and so they would be left short if that were to happen. He suggested HTC write back to the PFCC and ask if we can have regular updates on how their recruitment campaign is going as there's still occasion where the second engine is off the run in Dovercourt. Furthermore, the new governance system which has been implemented, doesn't hold much weight and the PFCC isn't accountable to anyone. He would urge the Council to thank him and ask him for periodic reports on new recruits and leavers to and from Dovercourt fire station and to request data on the availability of the on-call engine over the last year.

RESOLVED: To write to the PFCC

Members also received an update from Cllr Morrison following her visits to both Dovercourt and Maldon fire stations. She attended Dovercourt on a training night but there was a shout so she didn't get to speak with them but she had 2 hours with Greg Keyes and the station officer. The impression she gleaned was that one of the reasons they haven't been able to retain on-call firefighters is the negative publicity around the changes. She raised concerns with them over availability and lack of employment locally. She was assured that Dovercourt is a key station and there would always be pumps there but was reminded that full-timers are only at the station during the day and not evening, to this she replied that at least the response is guaranteed, which wouldn't necessarily be the case with an on-call only crew. She asked the timeframe for training and was told a minimum of 18 months, which is the time for a recruit to be trained to a basic level. Having visited Maldon station, she reported that they have around 400 shouts a year and have never had whole-time firefighters and regularly have 6 on-call firefighters on the run. Their retained personnel come from a range of backgrounds (bus driver, IT consultant etc.) but they agreed that there are gaps in the availability and they can't always provide total cover. It was apparent that the employment opportunities in the area made a difference as they lent themselves better to being able to be called away at a moment's notice. Plus they have more on-call firefighters so one can relieve the other if they need to get to get back to work.

Some comments which came across was that there may be more take up in recruitment if on-call was the only option. Greg Keyes said he was happy to come along to Council at any time to give updates and all members were invited to Maldon at any time. Cllr Morrison remains unconvinced that the proposals won't go through even if the on-call numbers aren't sufficient.

Cllr I Henderson said with a full-time crew, there is a guarantee that the first pump will get out. And doing deals with local supermarkets (such as Morrisons) due to its location, won't work as the further away the crew are, the longer it will take them to get the engine out.

Cllr Henderson confirmed 4 personnel are needed to crew an engine; there are 12 or 13 at present and 20 are needed.

045/18

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

	<p>• MIN 177/17 – Members discussed a reply from Simon Buteux at Historic England regarding the Train Ferry Gantry. He proposed that we contact the Association for Industrial Archaeology as suggested by Mr Buteux. RESOLVED: To write to the Association for Industrial Archaeology. Members also received an update from Cllr Todd following a meeting with Robin Forrester of TDC and Jane Stanbridge of Hutchison Ports and read aloud an email from Jane, which members noted.</p> <p>• MIN 017/18 – Members noted that Tendring District Council is in support of the call for Government to allocate funding under the second Road Investment Strategy Period (2020-2025) for the reconstruction of the A120 as well as it's dualling as a matter of priority. Cllr I Henderson referred to a petition, which he urged everyone to sign. Cllr Calver paid tribute to Cllr Henderson for his energy, passion and anger which had driven this forward to have everyone working towards the same goal. Cllr Morrison said she'd referred to the access to the town when visiting the fire stations.</p>
046/18	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEETINGS</u> Members considered amending the current schedule of some committees for the 2018-19 municipal year. Cllr Morrison confirmed that regardless of the duration of the meeting, the same amount of work time is needed to prepare and there is much more compliance work needed which has shifted the balance on the workload. Cllr McLeod suggested trialling it for a time. The Clerk gave her views on the suggestion. RESOLVED: To reduce the number of ordinary meetings from 6 to 4 per year for the following committees: Allotments, Environment & Communities and Finance & General Purposes.</p>
047/18	<p><u>VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE</u> Cllr Calver confirmed this policy is designed for internal use. RESOLVED: To adopt the procedure for Harwich Town Council with immediate effect.</p>
048/18	<p><u>ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE (NURSERY)</u> Cllr Morrison asked if members would consider granting the full sum requested since the organisation has little funds to contribute towards this project and have lost a lot of other funding. RESOLVED: To award £478.20 s137 grant.</p>
049/18	<p><u>OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE</u> Members considered location(s) for floral tributes as requested by the district council as part of their planning for the death of HM the Queen. RESOLVED: To ask TDC if The Mayor's Garden can be used as a location. Members also considered whether it would be appropriate to run a book of condolence. Rev Rosie said the churches are likely to be open anyway for those wishing to light a candle and sign a book of condolence. Cllr J Henderson suggested the library would be a central location. FURTHER RESOLVED: To ask Essex County Council if a book could be held the library due to accessibility with its central location and to Rev. Margaret Shaw if she would ensure the 3 local parish churches would be opened for people to attend and light a candle and sign a book.</p>

050/18	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Todd couldn't attend the MNWB meeting. He asked them to inform the committee that HTC had funded the shuttle buses, which they did. • Cllr Fowler said the Harwich Conservation Panel meets as and when and there was nothing to report; the Harwich & District Community Association has sent no correspondence or meeting dates and the 2016 and 2017 AGMs have not been held to her knowledge; the next Haltermann Carless meeting is to be held on 15th November. • Cllr I Henderson referred to the pre-application for Greater Anglia's proposals for a new train maintenance facility, which will be sited on land near Harwich Parkeston Quay and which should create a small number of employment opportunities. • Cllr J Henderson attended a recent Teen Talk meeting and reported that referral times aren't improving for the higher tier services. She was concerned that these issues will only get worse if not dealt with promptly when first identified. She commended the team. • Cllr McLeod referred to the Harwich Festival and reported it was very successful, which was assisted by the good weather. There's a debrief next week but he understands attendance was good. Arrangements have commenced for next year as well as the annual Beach Day in August. • Cllr Morrison attended a meeting of the Ark Centre and reported that much funding has been taken away, including that for Social Care, but they're still required to provide services but they're having to turn families away unless they can afford to pay the basic rate. Furthermore, their costs have increased on those services they have to provide and the funding has been severely cut. They have arranged a meeting with reps of the NHS but don't feel positive about it. • Cllr C Powell attended a meeting of the tourism group and referred again to the Shotley Peninsula tourism publication and said the tourism group are considering publishing a Harwich version. He's given a price list for advertising to the Clerk and would look to have this discussed at the next meeting.
051/18	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 29th May 2018 (circulated separately).</p>
052/18	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 12th June 2018 (circulated separately). Cllr Fowler updated everyone on the 'There but not There' project.</p>
053/18	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 21st June 2018 and the Minutes of the Extraordinary Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2nd July 2018 (circulated separately). Members considered the recommendation of the committee in terms of grant funding and RESOLVED: to grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £1500 s137 grant to Harwich Quay Fireworks. £1500 s137 grant to Dovercourt Bowling Club. £1375 s137 grant to Dovercourt Theatre Group. £3000 s137 grant to Harwich & Dovercourt Cricket Club.

054/18	<u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).
055/18	<u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> None
056/18	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 4th September 2018 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich , at 7.00pm , or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.01pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE