

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 15th October 2018 at 7pm

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| Present: | Councillors C Powell, J Brown, Fay, I Henderson, McLeod, G Smith |
| In the Chair: | Councillor M Fowler |
| Clerk: | Mrs Michelle Townsend |
| Also present: | Horticultural Adviser – Cheryl Thompson One member of public and no press |

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Paul Saunders highlighted the unacceptable level of overgrowth and brambles within the parish. Not only is it unsightly but causes a danger to children, parents with buggies and mobility scooters who are unable to access pathways safely. Mr Saunders has regularly reported to Essex County Council but either no action or inadequate clearance has taken place and asked what Harwich Town Council could do about it.

Cllr J Brown agreed that the ECC reporting system was not working adequately and provided incorrect information. Cllr I Henderson advised that due to funding cuts which have been made, Essex County Council unfortunately have a new policy of 1 cut per year. The Chair advised that this topic will continue to be discussed later in the meeting.

Cheryl Thompson asked Cllr I Henderson what could be done about the footpath in Bathside which follows the bridge as this is very dangerous. Cllr Henderson confirmed that he had reported this pathway, following her e-mail to Highways Rangers. They advised that it has recently been cut back and did not feel any further action was necessary. Cllr Henderson agreed to go back to the Highways Rangers and advise them that people are questioning their inspection and will then liaise directly with Cheryl Thompson. Councillor Powell agreed to walk the pathway the following day.

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| E14/18 | <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from; Councillors F Powell, Todd and Morrison |
| E15/18 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None |

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| E16/18 | <p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 12th June 2018 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p> |
| E17/18 | <p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> E70/18 – 79 Stour Road – Clerk has written to Cath Bicknell and asked for an explanation leading to her decision to close the case and arrange an on-site visit with Cllr Smith and any other relevant parties. This has been chased by e-mail and telephone, but no response has been received. Cllr Smith has been advised that the property has been sold subject to contract so hopefully the site will be developed soon. Cllr Smith wished to express his disappointment regarding the lack of response from Cath Bicknell.</p> <p>E73/17 – Section 106 Funding – Ian Taylor (TDC) did not feel it was necessary to arrange a meeting at Great Notley Country Park. Cllr I Henderson confirmed that TDC has now received part of the S106 funding relating to the old school building with other instalments due later in the year.</p> |
| E18/18 | <p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E57/17 – Buoy Located by the Lighthouse – Harwich Conservation Panel has submitted a grant application to HTC’s Finance & General Purposes Committee. The committee resolved to recommend to Full Council to award £1435 S137 grant funding.</p> <p>E71/18 – Untidy Sites in the Conservation Area and ‘Illuminate Route’ for Mayflower 2020 – No further update.</p> |
| E19/18 | <p><u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</u> RESOLVED: To accept Councillor McLeod’s decision to stand down from the position of vice-chair and appoint Councillor I Henderson as vice-chair of the Environment & Community Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year.</p> |
| E20/18 | <p><u>FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN</u> Councillor C Powell advised members that following the removal of the boat, Cheryl Thompson has turfed the area and wished to thank her on behalf of the committee. The remaining balance of grant funding given to the Harwich Community Primary School for the upkeep of the Memorial Garden is £189.04 and has been returned to the council.</p> <p>Cllrs Fay and C Powell gave brief details of their ideas being investigated which include a further bench, listening post and flood inspired mosaic but suggested that the project is put on hold until after the May elections.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To put the project on hold and earmark the returned funds of £189.04 to be used towards future improvements to the flood memorial garden.</p> |
| E21/18 | <p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u> Cheryl Thompson advised that there is nothing of note to report other than the ongoing and seemingly increasing problem of damage to plants in planters.</p> <p>Due to the lack of volunteers coming forward to water newly planted trees, Cllr C Powell suggested that the committee consider deferring further planting for two years.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To defer further planting for two years.</p> |

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| E22/18 | <p><u>THERE BUT NOT THERE</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised members that the Tommies are now in place by the Minesweepers Memorial and Maritime Museum and have already received positive feedback from local residents.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Cllr Fowler and Clerk to arrange publicity and photograph to include the Chair and Mayor.</p> |
| E23/18 | <p><u>WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME</u></p> <p>Clerk confirmed that a further two pallets of salt have been delivered to the Mayflower Heritage Centre. Members agreed, that in the first instance, this salt should again be made available to the high street shops to allow safe access for residents.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson suggested that a flyer/letter should be designed and delivered to the high street proprietors giving details of the contract at the Mayflower Heritage Centre so that they can arrange to sign for and collect a supply of salt prior to back weather conditions. Cllr I Henderson thanked office staff for their assistance with producing the leaflet and members of the committee agreed to assist with delivering them.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To design and distribute an information letter/leaflet to the high street shops.</p> |
| E24/18 | <p><u>OVERGROWN VEGETATION, PROW AND OTHER FOOTPATHS THROUGHOUT HARWICH & DOVERCOURT</u></p> <p>Cllr McLeod felt that the council should not take any action until feedback has been received following the Devolution Pilot Scheme. Essex County Council are working with EALC to identify volunteer parish councils keen to explore how joint working between ECC and parish/town councils could deliver better outcomes for our residents and businesses.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to EALC and request feedback.</p> |
| E25/18 | <p><u>LOCAL POTHOLE REPAIR PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>As part of the pothole repair programme, Essex Highways has asked for a list of '20 worst carriageway potholes' (10 to be considered as soon as possible, and 10 more in the spring within the parish). This is in addition to their existing asset-led repair approach. Cllr I Henderson suggested that members consider potholes on the main roads to be a priority and asked members to forward details and photographs to the Clerk.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to relog the faults online via the website and submit a report to Essex Highways.</p> |
| E26/18 | <p><u>LHP PANEL</u></p> <p>Councillor I Henderson provided members with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Roundabout – TDC cabinet are meeting very soon. • Church Street – Right of Way – Nothing further to report. • Parkeston Road – Installation of Zebra Crossing – Studies are now complete and design work is being looked at in order to review that measures can be put in place. • 1A East Street – Installation of bollards – Nothing to report. <p>The next meeting of the LHP will be held on 25th October 2018.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson felt that the continual issue of speeding cars along Low Road needs to be reviewed again. As part of the planning application for the new housing development, land west of Low Road (17/02168/OUT), a further speed survey is to be</p> |

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| | <p>carried out once 150 dwellings have been completed and occupied or both accesses onto Low Road have been constructed. It is felt that this is too long to wait. RESOLVED: Clerk to compile a report requesting a further speed survey along Low Road and submit to the LHP for consideration.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson made members aware that every Essex County Councillor has been assigned a lead officer to go directly to.</p> |
| E27/18 | <p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback request from the Environment Agency – Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) National Strategy – noted. |
| E28/18 | <p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Thursday 17th January 2019 at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p> |

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE