

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on **Tuesday 8th January 2019 at 7.24pm**

Present:	Councillors Ashley, B Brown, Calver, Fay, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, 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

122/18	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs J Brown, Fowler, I Henderson, F Powell, Struth and Urwin.
123/18	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
124/18	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
125/18	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor referred to recent engagements since the last meeting, which had been previously circulated to members.
126/18	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 28 th November 2018 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record. FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 5 th December 2018 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
127/18	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> MIN 120/18 – The Clerk briefed members on the actions taken since agreeing to commit to part fund 1x PCSO for Harwich. Members also agreed to a process for communicating their suggestions to the HTC representative who will attend regular meetings with TDC and the District Commander.
128/18	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> • MIN 107/18 – The Clerk confirmed that no response had been received as yet from Tim Murphy at Essex CC and she would report back once this had been.

129/18	<p><u>ESSEX LIBRARY STRATEGY CONSULTATION</u></p> <p>Members considered the strategy consultation which would see changes in the way that library services are delivered around the county. Under the proposals, Harwich Library would fall into Tier 2 which is “<i>Library services in areas where there is a need for them, managed by ECC as part of our statutory provision of a comprehensive network and delivered in partnership with the community or other partner</i>”</p> <p>Cllr Calver feels HTC should respond but not by completing the survey because this is an important issue for the town and doesn't think the consultation covers all the issues HTC might wish to raise. He said there is nowhere in the consultation where it asks if users feel it's appropriate for trained experienced librarians to be replaced by volunteers. Cllr Calver referred to various reasons for retaining a full service including high levels of social deprivation, low car ownership, poor transport and high cost transport. The Library is a hub and is the only source of accessing the internet for some. He further added that where other services have been withdrawn they've been pushed into the library and now they're trying to reduce the library, which would have a direct effect on those services too.</p> <p>On the basis of this as a library there is a significant footfall as a lot of people can't afford books. It's a vital part of the education opportunities for the younger members. ECC has said they don't currently know the full usage as this won't be known until the surveys are completed. Cllr Calver suggested HTC makes ECC aware that any reduction in opening hours/services is inappropriate and this should be done by writing directly to them, laying out our reasons why their proposals are inappropriate and a reduction in services is unacceptable.</p> <p>Cllr Henderson said it's going to lead to more isolation.</p> <p>Cllr Todd said of the 74 libraries, the footfall in 47 is less than the Harwich library.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to ECC to outline our concerns</p>
130/18	<p><u>EMPLOYER GRANT</u></p> <p>Members noted receipt of £500 employer grant and RESOLVED: To allocate £250 to the Training Budget and the remaining £250 to the salaries budget, earmarking them for expenditure in the 2019/20 financial year.</p>
131/18	<p><u>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019</u></p> <p>Members considered whether to bring forward the APM to a date prior to commencement of the Purdah period, which has been set as 19th March and which limits the amount of publicity a council can issue leading up to an election.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To bring the meeting forward to Wednesday 13th March 2019</p>
132/18	<p><u>SEASONAL LIGHTING DISPLAY 2019</u></p> <p>Members deferred consideration of this item since the quotation had not been received for the installation and storage of Christmas Lighting Displays.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To defer until the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Powell relayed to members some problems there have been with the lights this year and suggested we look into this prior to agreeing to renew.</p> <p>Members did consider the dates for the display of seasonal lighting for Christmas 2019.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: To ensure the lights are installed, checked and working in good time for 2019 Illuminate Festival on 29th November, and taken down after the 12th night (from 6th January 2020).</p>

133/18	<p><u>BUDGET & PRECEPT</u></p> <p>Members gave consideration to the estimates for income and expenditure for the 2019/20 financial year, as recommended by the F&GP Committee. Cllr Morrison gave a run down on the impact of the precept whilst confirming that the Council will still be able to fund everything that it presently does, to the same level, which includes funding a contribution to The Harwich Harbour Foot Ferry Partnership, the Christmas lights and the grant funding scheme.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the council precept on Tendring District Council for £197889 (figure after LCTSS grant has been deducted), having an impact of £36.29 per annum, or 70p per week, for a Band 'D' council tax payer based on a tax base of 5453. The increase represents a £1.88 increase on the 2018/19 'per property' cost.</p> <p>Cllr Morrison added that prior to the decision being made to part fund 1x PCSO in Harwich, the Council was able to produce a cost-neutral budget, which is a great achievement.</p>
134/18	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr C Powell attended a meeting of the Mayflower Heritage Centre and reported the good news that they've been negotiating an extension to a lease and have be awarded one for 25 years with 5 years rent free. • Cllr Todd, in referring to the Brexit negotiations, raised concern for the welfare of the seaman and how a no deal will affect them. The MNWB are aware of these concerns and will report back once they have more information. Regarding HIP and Brexit, Cllr Todd raised further concerns as to how the lorries would be managed if there was no deal and whether there are any contingency plans to avoid them stacking on the A120. He asked if HTC would write to HIP and enquire what plans are. He also raised concern that P&O is flagging out two of its cross-channel ferries in a bid to retain its EU tax arrangements.
135/18	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members received the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 5th December 2018 (circulated separately). Members ratified the recommendation of the committee for the budget & precept.
136/18	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately). Cllr Morrison, on behalf of the council, thanked the clerk for her time and efforts in putting together the accounts.</p>
137/18	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>None</p>
138/18	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 26th February 2019 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE