

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
 Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, Essex CO12 3DS  
 Tel: 01255 507211  
 email: [info@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk)

**MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
 held at  
**The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**  
 on  
**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7pm**

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| <b>Present:</b>      | Councillors C Powell, F Powell, J Brown, A Todd, McLeod, G Smith and J Henderson, (sub for I Henderson) |
| <b>In the Chair:</b> | Councillor M Fowler   |
| <b>Clerk:</b>        | Mrs Michelle Townsend   |
| <b>Also present:</b> | Horticultural Adviser – Cheryl Thompson<br>One member of the public and no press                        |

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

Cheryl Thompson asked members of the Flood Memorial working party if they had considered applying for Heritage Lottery funding? Councillor C Powell confirmed that the new working party will not be determined until after the elections.

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| <b>E33/18</b> | <b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b><br>Apologies received from;<br>Councillors Morrison, Fay, I Henderson (sub J Henderson)   |
| <b>E34/18</b> | <b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u></b><br>Cllr J Henderson declared an interest in relation to Item 11 on the agenda.  |
| <b>E35/18</b> | <b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b><br><b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2018 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.<br><b>FURTHER RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2018 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record. |
| <b>E36/18</b> | <b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b><br><b>E20/18</b> - £189 has been earmarked for future improvements to the flood memorial garden. Future working party to be considered after May elections.<br><b>E21/18</b> - Tree planting has been deferred until Autumn 2020.<br><b>E23/18</b> - Leaflets have been designed promoting the Winter Salt Bag Scheme and have been delivered to the town centre by Cllrs J Brown, C Powell, D McLeod and S Fay.     |

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|               | <b>E26/18</b> - Report regarding speeding cars along Low Road and request for a further speed survey has been submitted to the LHP. Response to be reviewed under item 11 on the agenda.   |
| <b>E37/18</b> | <b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b><br><b>E71/18 – Untidy Sites in the Conservation Area and ‘Illuminate Route’ for Mayflower 2020</b> – No further update   |
| <b>E38/18</b> | <b><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></b><br>The Chairman and members of the committee congratulated Cheryl Thompson for her Pride of Tending award nomination.<br><br>Cheryl Thompson advised members that as part of the Green Flag Award (Cliff Park), one of the suggested improvements was to have a few fruit trees for humans and birds and probably squirrels. Trevor Mills has suggested the following trees;<br>1x Morus Alba (Mulberry)<br>2x Pyrus ‘Conference’ (Pear)<br>1x Malus Bramley Seedling<br>1x Malus Cox’s Orange pippin<br>1x Malus James Grieve<br>1x Mespilus Germanica (Medlar)<br><br>There has been quite a cull of the holm oaks in Cliff Park due to ill health and therefore a health and safety risk. Trevor Mills has agreed to create a log pile area for insects.<br><br>Mark Stanford has thanked the staff and council for the support with watering the avenue of trees on Harwich green together with volunteers from the residents. These young trees have been supported through the prolonged drought this summer and has allowed the trees to make good progress. In the last few weeks residents have weeded around these trees and applied a winter dressing and renewed the wood chippings. Mark is happy to report that all the trees on the A120 roundabout which local residents have now looked after for seven years, survived the recent severe gales. |
| <b>E39/18</b> | <b><u>TREE LIABILITIES</u></b><br>Members reviewed correspondence received from the council’s insurers advising that a tree management strategy and framework needs to be established and implemented to risk manage the council’s tree stock. The clerk is gathering information and consulting with Tendring District Council and town/parish councils in the district. Quotations are being obtained from suitably qualified tree specialists for the trees on HTC land. This information will be considered by the F&GP Committee, however the E&C Committee will need to discuss and consider a different way forward for future planting.  |
| <b>E40/18</b> | <b><u>THERE BUT NOT THERE</u></b><br>The Chairman made members aware that both Tommies purchased have been damaged by the strong winds. Colin Farnell (Harwich Society) felt that it was a good idea for one of the Tommies to be fixed to the building of the Maritime Museum. He advised that the Tommy can only be fixed by screws going into the mortar and not in to the actual brickwork with as few a number of screws as possible.   |

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|        | <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to liaise with Estate Supervisor, Councillor C Powell and Colin Farnell from the Harwich Society and make the necessary arrangements for the Tommy to be erected.</p> <p>Suggestions for the second Tommy included attaching it to a bench located at the Minesweepers Memorial and the grounds of the local church but a replacement Tommy would need to be obtained.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to continue corresponding with There But Not There and request one of the two broken Tommies to be replaced as they are not fit for purpose. Suitable locations for the second Tommy to be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk to e-mail all councillors asking for suggested indoor and outdoor locations. Clerk to investigate the possibility of attaching the Tommy to the bench at the Minesweepers Memorial.</p>  |
| E41/18 | <p><b><u>OVERGROWN VEGETATION, PROW AND OTHER FOOTPATHS THROUGHOUT HARWICH &amp; DOVERCOURT</u></b></p> <p>Response noted and HTC will await further information and updates.</p>   |
| E42/18 | <p><b><u>LOCAL POTHOLE REPAIR PROGRAMME</u></b></p> <p>The Clerk provided an update with the progress made so far with potholes highlighted by HTC as part of the Pothole Repair Programme. Members reviewed the response received from ECH regarding the unsatisfactory repair in Highfield Avenue and was pleased that ECH will revisit the site after the new year, once the temperature has risen. ECH has confirmed that the surface is not in a good condition overall so Highfield Avenue has been referred to the Capital Programme, for consideration. Members felt that part of the issue with sub standard repairs is the lack of sealing the joints.</p>  |
| E43/18 | <p><b><u>LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL</u></b></p> <p>The following update was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<b>Blue Roundabout</b> – Nothing further to report.</li> <li>•<b>Church Street – Right of Way</b> – Nothing further to report.</li> <li>•<b>Parkeston Road - Installation of Zebra Crossing</b> – This project is now a higher priority for the LHP.</li> <li>•<b>1a East Street – Installation of Bollards</b> – Members reviewed the LHP’s response confirming that whilst they understand the issue, installing new bollards would be futile as it would only be a matter of time before they were damaged and leave an ongoing maintenance issue behind. Cllr I Henderson and the Clerk have already responded, highlighting that this is not an acceptable outcome. Measures should be put in place to ensure that there is no threat to human life and damage to private property, which is a higher priority than ongoing maintenance costs. The LHP have agreed to look at this request again.</li> <li>•<b>Low Road – Speed Survey</b> - Members reviewed the response from the LHP advising that whilst speed compliance along Low Road is a pre-existing problem, the development will change the environment along Low Road and assist with compliance with the existing 30mph speed limit. The site accesses have been designed to accord with the current recorded vehicle speeds. On this basis the Highway Authority did not require the developer to carry out any highway works prior to development, to assist with speed compliance on Low Road. Councillor I Henderson has asked members of the committee not to accept the findings of the LHP. The report was submitted with speed watch evidence and details of the recent accident. It could be up to 3 years before the accesses or 150 dwellings have been built. The safety of residents has been ignored because of the speed survey link to a</li> </ul> |

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|        | <p>planning application. Action needs to be taken as a matter of urgency due to the safety concerns.<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to forward a letter of objection and request the LHP to undertake a speed survey in April.</p> <p><b>Allfields</b><br/> Cllr J Henderson advised members that she has attended several meetings with a number of residents of Allfields, along with another ward councillor and an Essex County Councillor. Residents complained about the increasing number of speeding cars along this cul-de-sac. Many children play out in the street. There is a public foot path located here as well as the road being used as a short cut to the high school. Cllr J Henderson provided photographs of safety signs used on an estate in Colchester which seem to be effective and asked the committee to consider submitting a request to the LHP for signage to be erected at the entrance of Allfields.<br/> <b>RESOLVED:</b> Clerk to submit a request to the LHP for safety signage to be erected at the entrance of Allfields.</p> |
| E44/18 | <p><b><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b><br/> •<b>Condition of Church Street</b> – Cllr I Henderson is liaising with Essex Highways regarding the condition of the road surface.</p>  |
| E45/18 | <p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b><br/> The next meeting of the Environment &amp; Community Committee is at <b>7pm</b>, on <b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b> at the <b>Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</b></p>   |

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**