

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 8th April 2019 at 7pm

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E46/18	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from; Councillors Morrison, McLeod and I Henderson
E47/18	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> Cllr Fowler, in relation to item 7 on the agenda – Trustee for the Harwich Society
E48/18	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 17 th January 2019 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E49/18	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> E43/18 - Report requesting safety signs in Allfields has been submitted to the Local Highways Panel. Response received and will be reviewed under item 10. E43/18 – Letter of objection and request for the Local Highways Panel to undertake a speed survey in April has been submitted. Response received and will be reviewed under item 10.
E50/18	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E71/17 - Untidy Sites in the Conservation Area and ‘Illuminate Route’ for Mayflower 2020 – No further update. E20/18 - £189 has been earmarked for future improvements to the flood memorial garden. Future working party to be considered after May elections. E21/18 - Tree planting has been deferred until Autumn 2020.

E51/18	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u> Cheryl Thompson had nothing to report at this time.</p> <p>Councillor Fay thanked Cheryl for all her work throughout the year and advice given to the committee.</p>
E52/18	<p><u>THERE BUT NOT THERE</u> The Chairman provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The 'Remembered' charity are only able to provide a replacement at a cost of £600.00 and they advised that any future positioning should be sheltered from the wind. •The Harwich Society are unable to obtain permission from Historic England to erect a Tommy on the wall of the Maritime Museum. Although the brickwork screen is a twentieth century addition, Historic England feel that the Low Lighthouse, which is not a war-time structure, would not be an appropriate location and would encourage other locations to be explored. •Tendring District Council is unable to approve fixing a Tommy on to an existing bench at the Minesweepers Memorial as this may be a hazard to those with sight impediments and the young. <p>Councillor Fowler suggested offering the Tommies on loan to St Nicholas Church and the Harwich Society as they are likely to be able to find a secluded place to locate a Tommy either inside or outdoors.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to St Nicholas Church and Harwich Society offering a Tommy on loan.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange for two plaques to read 'on loan from Harwich Town Council'. Cost agreed up to £50 to be expended from the schemes and projects budget.</p>
E53/18	<p><u>OVERGROWN VEGETATION, PROW AND OTHER FOOTPATHS THROUGHOUT HARWICH & DOVERCOURT</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the correspondence from the Society of Local Council Clerks advising that following a pilot scheme this year, the County Council intend to approach all parishes toward the end of 2019 with proposals to devolve certain services. Members agreed that they do not agree with this action and would object. Although the county council is likely to make a financial contribution, this may not be sufficient and payment may not continue.</p> <p>RESOLVED: This matter to be passed to Full Council for consideration as the council will need to consider staffing, equipment, insurance, storage, training, risk assessments, rules and regulations, as well as financial implications.</p>
E54/18	<p><u>LOCAL POTHOLE REPAIR PROGRAMME</u></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.</p> <p>Although members were pleased with the progress that Highways have made, this seems to be in vain as the pothole repairs are substandard resulting in potholes reappearing.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Essex County Highways expressing HTC's concerns and disappointment with the level of repairs in general and ask for a meeting with a highways officer.</p>

<p>E55/18</p>	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAY PANEL</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the correspondence received from the LHP in relation to the following projects along with the update provided by the Chairman, on behalf of Councillor I Henderson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Blue Roundabout - The sculpture is being constructed and work should be starting in May. •Church Street - Right of Way – The project has been validated but is awaiting a start date. •Parkeston Road Installation of Zebra Crossing – There are further delays for the design work but assessments of the area are being undertaken. This project is now a higher priority for the LHP. •1A East Street - Installation of Bollards – The LHP has considered HTC’s concerns and has re-evaluated the area. Unfortunately the LHP concluded <i>‘that the suggestion of bollards would not be supported due to the ongoing maintenance costs that would be incurred. It is also the case that where bollards are installed on footways, there must be a 450mm clearance from the edge of the carriageway and unfortunately the area between numbers 1 and 1A would mean that there would not then be enough width for mobility impaired pedestrians to safely navigate the footway. Building out the footway slightly would not resolve the issue as it would not allow enough space for vehicles to turn without mounting the footway’</i>. Councillor I Henderson feels that HTC has exhausted all avenues and has taken this as far as the council can. Essex County Council are not willing to put any further measures in place in order to safeguard public and property safety. Councillor I Henderson will discuss with Cllr Calver, the possibility of taking this issue to Kevin Bentley’s surgery (Portfolio Holder for Highways). •Low Road - Speed Survey - LHP has agreed to undertake a speed survey after April. •Allfields – Road Safety Signs - LHP is unable to consider as the signs suggested are not prescribed by the Traffic Signs and General Directions Manual. Councillor I Henderson has discussed the matter with Fred Nicholas (Portfolio Holder at EDC) to see if they will consider taking on this project. <p>Members debated the concerns raised by a local resident regarding speeding lorries on the approach to St Nicholas roundabout.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to arrange a meeting with the resident, Essex County Councillor, Essex Highways Officer, Chairman of HTC’s E&C Committee and Harwich & District Speed Watch Partnership so that this matter can be discussed further.</p>
<p>E56/18</p>	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Councillor Todd highlighted the poor condition of the benches around Harwich and the life belts along the Quay. The Chairman advised contacting Councillor I Henderson who will raise it with TDC on his behalf. •Councillor C Powell advised that he had spoken with Harwich Haven Authority quite some time ago about the flood gates leading on to the pier. Wheelchair users experience difficulty with access and Harwich Haven Authority are considering solutions. The Chairman advised chasing the Harwich Haven Authority or speaking with the Environment Agency. •Councillor J Brown advised members that he had been chasing the Environment Agency regarding some flood gates which have been missing for two years. •Councillor Smith was pleased to inform members that all improvements have been made to Bathside Play Park and the fencing has finally been erected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Councillor Smith also advised that the demolition of 79 Stour Road has now taken place and that we should now be seeing some development on the site. Scaffolding has gone up for the demolition of 20 Market Street. • The Chairman gave thanks to all members, the Clerk and Horticultural Adviser for their support and work over the year and members reciprocated thanks to Councillor Maria Fowler.
E57/18	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on a day to be confirmed, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE