

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Thursday 27th June 2019 at 7pm

Present:	Councillors Fay, I Henderson, J Henderson (sub for Cllr Davidson), McLeod, Powell, Saunders, G Smith (sub Cllr D Smith) and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor M Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend Miss Shannon Lenyk
Also present:	Horticultural Adviser – Cheryl Thompson Harwich and District Community Speed Watch Partnership - David Blackiston One member of the public and no members of the press.

The Chairman advised that item 13 on the agenda would be discussed after item 6.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Cheryl Thompson asked whether there is likely to be additional funding for the Flood Memorial Garden. The Chairman advised that this would be discussed under item 8.

Cheryl asked for action to clear the fly-tipping on the site joining Milton Road and Orwell Road. Cllr G Smith agreed to contact Tendring District Council (TDC).

E01/19	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from; Councillors Davidson (sub Cllr J Henderson), Ferguson, D Smith (sub Cllr G Smith)
E02/19	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E03/19	<u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</u> RESOLVED to elect Cllr Charlie Powell as vice-chair of the Environment and Community Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.
E04/19	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 8 th April 2019 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E05/19	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> E55/18 – LHP – Speeding Lorries on the Approach to St Nicholas Roundabout – Cllr I Henderson stated that he is attending a meeting on 1 st July with Tom Eng (Essex Highways) and Dave Blackiston (Harwich & District Community Speed Watch Partnership).
E06/19	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E21/18 – Tree planting has been deferred until Autumn 2020.

	<p>E56/18 – Cllr G Smith advised that the new fencing at Bathside Play Park has been damaged. TDC have been advised.</p>
<p>E07/19</p>	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>The following update was provided by Cllr I Henderson;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Blue Roundabout – The Mayflower Ship sculpture is being craned into position on Monday 8th July. •Williamsburg Avenue – No Through Road Signage – has been earmarked for work to be undertaken but has got to return to TDC for approval before commencement. •Wellington Road – Change of Priority – approved and £4,000 has been allocated for the proposed works. •Ramsey Road – Footway Links – a recent accident has meant that the works have now been fully undertaken and completed. •20’s Plenty Signage by Local Schools – All Saints Primary, Harwich and Dovercourt High, Harwich Community Primary, Mayflower Primary, Spring Meadow Primary and St Joseph’s Primary Schools are currently going through validation. Validation recommendations state that no further action be required for Chase Lane and Two Village as the main school entrances do not face the carriageway. •Parkeston Road - Installation of Zebra Crossing – £5,500 has been set aside for design work and an investigation is looking into the possibility of installing a zebra crossing. <p>•Low Road Speed Survey</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed David Blackiston from the Harwich and District Community Speed Watch Partnership.</p> <p>Members reviewed the speed survey undertaken by the LHP along with their response confirming that they feel there is generally good compliance within the posted 30 mph speed limit and therefore recommend not to proceed any further with HTC’s request.</p> <p>David Blackiston explained how the LHP use percentages to ‘average’ the data of speeding motorists. He believes that averages and 85 percentiles paint a false picture. If you have a vehicle travelling at 20 mph and one at 40 mph, they cancel each other out when compared as an average. Using the data from the LHP speed survey, over a 7-day period, 13,862 motorists drove along Low Road at between 30-35 mph. Essex Police would take action against any vehicle that exceeds 35 mph. Over the 7-day period, 8,686 motorists were exceeding 35 mph with one motorist driving at approximately 80-90 mph. He stated that the timeframe in which the figures derive from was 6am through until 10pm. Dave informed members that each day during the survey, 1,200 motorists, that if caught by Essex Police, would receive a fine for driving at higher than the speed limit.</p> <p>David Blackiston expressed his concern that when surveying with the speed watch along Low Road, he has witnessed many elderly residents struggling to cross the road safely and residents struggling to exit their property and join the highway due to the increased amount of speeding motorists.</p> <p>Cllr A Todd stated that one of the grounds for Harwich Town Council’s objection to a recent planning application on Low Road (19/00838/OUT) was the speeding vehicles along this road.</p>

	<p>David Blackiston feels that a reduction in vehicle speed along Low Road is achievable with traffic calming measures and advised that this is the responsibility for Essex Highways to consider.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson advised that if progress stalled with the Local Highways Panel, a meeting could be arranged with Cllr Kevin Bentley, the Portfolio Holder at Essex County Highways and David Blackiston to discuss further action that may be needed.</p> <p>Cllr A Todd stated that a permanent sign with a speed camera would be beneficial on this road, but David Blackiston did not know what criteria would need to be met for this but agreed that a measure that would prosecute speeding motorists needs to be in place.</p> <p>RESOLVED Clerk to forward a response to the LHP, stating that the council and Harwich and District Community Speed Watch Partnership strongly disagree with the LHP's interpretation of the speed survey and feel that the data does in fact prove that there is an issue with speeding vehicles and request immediate action. Letter to be sent to Head of Essex Road Policing, Essex Police and Accident Reduction Manager, Chair of Highways Panel, Head of TDC Planning and the Portfolio Holder Cllr Bentley.</p> <p>The committee considered Mr Blackiston's suggestion for HTC to fund the purchase of 30 mph stickers to be placed on TDC's wheelie bins along Low Road. Both Cllrs C Powell and J Henderson are aware that Brantham Council has also undertaken a similar initiative and felt that the wheelie bins seen on the A137 were effective.</p> <p>Shannon Lenyk confirmed that there were 78 residential houses along Low Road.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson informed members that many residents in Low Road are fed up with the continuous speeding and believes that residents would encourage the use of speed limit stickers on the wheelie bins as a traffic calming measure.</p> <p>RESOLVED Clerk to write to TDC to request approval to place 30 mph stickers on TDC wheelie bins allocated to residents in Low Road. FURTHER RESOLVED Clerk to write to inform Low Road residents of the council's intention to place two, 30 mph stickers on their allocated wheelie bins. Letters to be hand delivered by all committee members present at this meeting. FURTHER RESOLVED to purchase 250 '30 mph please drive carefully' stickers from 'Smartwheelie' at a cost of £179.50.</p> <p>David Blackiston thanked the committee for all the support and left the meeting at 7.55pm.</p>
E08/19	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></p> <p>The report provided by Cheryl Thompson confirmed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Quay for 2020 – Cheryl asked Cllr I Henderson for an update regarding the purchase of self-watering flower troughs by the seating areas. Cllr I Henderson agreed to chase Mike Carran TDC. •Seagull Signage – Cheryl mentioned the seagull problem on St Helen's Green at the Quay and suggested that a sign be erected to discourage members of the public from feeding them. Cllr C Powell agreed to contact TDC. •Putting Green – Concerns were expressed that there is a gap in the hedging due to residents damaging the hedge when using this area as a shortcut and requested

	<p>chestnut paling fencing to be temporarily erected. Cllr C Powell agreed to contact Trevor Mills TDC.</p> <p>•Planting in the Green Flag Award Park – Cheryl advised that one fruit tree and one silver birch planted in the park have been damaged.</p> <p>•Benches by the Bandstand – Cheryl asked for a councillor to contact TDC and request the benches to be put back in place around the bandstand. Cllr I Henderson agreed to contact TDC.</p> <p>•Weeds in the Conservation Area – Cheryl informed members that the Harwich Society Gardening Group will begin to tidy Kings Quay Street of weeds, commencing Friday 28th June. Cheryl informed members that she will also tidy the Flood Memorial raised bed.</p>
E09/19	<p><u>FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN</u></p> <p>Members considered the formation of a working party to investigate improvements and funding for the Flood Memorial Garden.</p> <p>RESOLVED Cllrs C Powell (lead member), S Fay, B Davidson and T Ferguson, along with Cheryl Thompson and Ben Chamberlain to form the Flood Memorial Working Party.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED Members approved the following remit for the Flood Memorial Working Party;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To investigate, source ideas and costs, for improvements to the Flood Memorial Garden. All suggestions to be presented to the E&C committee for consideration •All future improvements be low or maintenance free •Consider HTC's risk management for this project and annual costs to be allocated in the budget •Source avenues of funding.
E10/19	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Members undertook a brief PowerPoint presentation of the emergency plan.</p> <p>RESOLVED Clerk to arrange a mock emergency to test HTC's emergency plan.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED To appoint Cllrs C Powell and M Saunders as HTC's representatives for the Parish & Town Council Community Resilience Forum for the 2019/20 municipal year.</p>
E11/19	<p><u>WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the information received from Essex County Highways to participate in the 2019/20 partnership scheme. The Clerk made members aware that the stock of salt housed at the Harwich Mayflower Heritage Centre consists of a minimum of 3 full pallets. The Harwich Mayflower Heritage Centre are willing to participate in the scheme for another year but have advised that should the current stock not be utilised, there may be no more room to accommodate additional pallets.</p> <p>RESOLVED Clerk to confirm HTC's participation in the 2019/2020 Winter Salt Bag Scheme and arrange for two pallets of salt to be delivered to The Harwich Mayflower Heritage Centre.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED Cllr C Powell, S Fay, D McLeod, I Henderson, G Smith to assist with the distribution of flyers to local traders in the High Street in October/November 2019.</p>
E12/19	<p><u>THERE BUT NOT THERE</u></p> <p>Members reviewed correspondence received from St Nicholas' Church and the Harwich Society confirming that both parties were unable to accept the council's kind offer of a Tommy silhouette on loan. Members considered a recommendation made by the Estates Supervisor and costs for securing the Tommy with metal side supports.</p> <p>RESOLVED To proceed with purchasing and mounting metal side supports at a cost of up to £30.00 to secure the Tommie's.</p>

	<p>Members reviewed the previous resolution (E52/18) to purchase two plaques stating, 'on loan from Harwich Town Council'</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED Not to proceed with the purchase of these plaques.</p> <p>Cllr C Powell stated he will speak to the Harwich Haven Authority about a location for the other Tommy and will bring any suggestions back to the committee.</p>
E13/19	<p><u>LOCAL POTHOLE REPAIR PROGRAMME</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised that a verbal request was received from Essex County Highways for HTC to forward details of all the repairs which the council deemed unsatisfactory. Cllr I Henderson advised members of a meeting had with Kevin Bentley (portfolio holder) who informed I Henderson that Highfield Avenue was being prioritised. Cllr Henderson expressed his concern that the 'jet patching' used to fill the potholes was insufficient but was assured it was the best method for the job in question. Cllr Kevin Bentley would be inspecting the works, particularly Highfield Avenue. Cllr I Henderson encouraged members to keep reporting the potholes. Cllr I Henderson made members aware that Church Street has been patched and assured that an inspection will take place in mid-summer where they will undertake a micro-resurface of the road.</p> <p>RESOLVED To take no further action.</p>
E14/19	<p><u>UNTIDY SITES IN THE CONSERVATION AREA AND 'ILLUMINATE ROUTE' FOR MAYFLOWER 2020</u></p> <p>Cllr C Powell gave an update.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson stated that the illuminate route is unconfirmed and advised that Cllr Powell clarify the route with TDC.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson mentioned that suggestions have been made to use vinyl's to tart up untidy sites in the conservation area. He informed members that the budget for this is yet to be discussed at a TDC Cabinet meeting and a total budget for 2020 celebrations is still to be confirmed.</p>
E15/19	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Member Footway Programme 2019 (Essex Highways) – Clerk highlighted the details sent out to members today and requested all members to forward suggested defects. Cllr I Henderson stated that it must be a long stretch of road with considerable defects and made the Clerk aware that only five footways could be submitted to Essex Highways. •Cllr I Henderson informed members that Wellington Road is being considered for repair work as they are already preparing to undertake gully work to drive the water away from Esplanade Hall.
E16/19	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Tuesday 17th September 2019, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.02pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE