

MINUTES

of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 7.15PM

Present:	Councillors Chant, Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, C Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith (from 7.19pm) and G Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor Todd
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	4 members of the public, 2 member of the press, the Rev. Canon Margaret Shaw and PCSO Amy Robinson

Prayers were said prior to commencement of the meeting.

070/19	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr Calver
071/19	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
072/19	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
073/19	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor referred to recent engagements attended since the last meeting, which were previously circulated to members. He referred to 50 th anniversary of the Harwich Society event was a great night and he thanked everyone for all the hard work put into it.
074/19	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 3 rd September 2019 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
075/19	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 58/19 - Re-think Essex Advocacy – Clerk confirmed she had carried out a risk assessment with Georgeta Busuioc and was content that the awareness day event was low risk and they would be looking at a date in the new year. • MIN 062/19 – Members considered a response from Cllr Talbot following a letter of concern regarding the new waste management arrangements. Cllr Davidson referred to points in the letter and wasn't impressed. He said it would be brought up again at the next TDC Full Council meeting as the new arrangements were still not working, and would see how it progresses from

there. Cllr J Henderson said she was offended by the response as HTC is a separate authority and shouldn't be satisfied with references to questions and responses at the district council. Having relayed further concerns she suggested HTC asks Cllr Talbot to respond to our specific concerns, as a town council rather than just forward on correspondence between the district council and its members.

Cllrs Powell and Fowler also referred to problems they were aware had been experienced and which had been reported in the media.

Cllr I Henderson referred to the letter and said lessons should have been learnt from any problems experienced by other councils which had implemented the scheme prior to TDC, rather than simply implementing the new system and having the same problems. He believed the contract was brought about as an extension to an existing contract and possibly wasn't as detailed as it would've been had it gone out to tender.

He said there was a huge pressure on staff which possibly explained why the bins and boxes aren't being cared for and frequently thrown around and broken.

Cllr Ferguson suggested HTC raises the concern of poor customer service when residents try to call to report missed collections.

Cllr Morrison attended an Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting last night during which the problems were raised. They've asked for the TDC Portfolio holder to attend a meeting along with a representative from Veolia to discuss.

Cllr G Smith felt the figures quoted in Cllr Talbot's letter were inaccurate as they don't take into account all those who don't get through because the phone cuts off beforehand.

Cllr Ferguson asked if there is a suggestion of a breach of contract when district meet with the contractor. Cllr Morrison felt the contract was for 7 years and that the data wasn't expected until 6 months into the scheme.

RESOLVED: Write letter to Cllr Talbot to request a response specific to the concerns of Harwich Town Council, adding the concerns of both residents and members that calls and emails aren't being responded to and to invite Cllr Talbot and a representative of Veolia along to a future meeting of the council.

- **MIN 63/19** – The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the HDCA and HCP to request confirmation as to whether they still required HTC representation but a response was yet to be received. Cllr Fowler suggested she follow up directly with the parties concerned.

- **MIN 66/19** – The Clerk confirmed that the date set for councillor induction evening was 12th November 2019. She mentioned also that the Code of Conduct training for 24th October had been cancelled and would be re-arranged in due course.

- **MIN 61/19** – Cllr I Henderson said we'd not yet received a response from the PFCC following our letter in September. He said he understands that comments were made by the fire officer in attendance at a local public meeting that some stations only have one fire appliance. Dovercourt has been designated as a two-pump station and we shouldn't have been compared to other towns with fewer residents and different geographical issues who may be able to offer a sufficient provision on a single pump. We should ask him to withdraw those comments if included in the letter as it wouldn't be safe

	to operate on one pump only. The public were misinformed. The Clerk confirmed that once the response had come in, it would be circulated to members and brought back to the next meeting for consideration.
076/19	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 145/18 – The Clerk confirmed that the consultation report from Historic England had been chased and will be reported to members once received.
077/19	<u>NOTIFICATION OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT</u> Members noted receipt of the conclusion of the Audit for year ended 31 March 2019. The Clerk confirmed that there were no matters to address this year and therefore no plan of action was required, and that she had carried out the necessary actions as instructed by the external auditor. She thanked members for assisting her to ensure the council remained compliant.
078/19	<u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u> None
079/19	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 17 th September 2019 (circulated separately). Cllr Fowler referred to the re-siting of the ‘There but not There’ Tommies, which had been adapted by Peter Barrenger and have withstood the latest high winds. She also referred to the change of traffic priority in Wellington Road and confirmed this would be carried out after the micro-surfacing had been completed in Church Street.
080/19	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u> Members received the Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 30 th September 2019 (circulated separately).
081/19	<u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial update and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).
082/19	<u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the latest report by PCSO Amy Robinson. Amy addressed Council and confirmed they have recruited two new Town officers, taking the community policing team to 9 and that everything was working quite nicely with little to report. Cllr G Smith referred to the recent burglary along Main Road (MK Newsagents) and asked whether there were any officers in Harwich on that evening as it took 45 mins for patrols to attend. She confirmed there was a problem with the Clacton custody suite which diverted officers to Colchester that evening which may have affected matters but she couldn't confirm numbers of officers available. Cllr D Smith asked about the comprehensiveness of the report she provided and Amy confirmed these were incidents attended by the community team only. He was impressed by good attendance at a couple of recent incidents he was aware of. She confirmed the Community policing team covers two shifts so there's good cover for Harwich which is addition to the officers which are also based here. Cllr I Henderson thanked Amy for providing the reports as it's good for members to see how active the team is and what they're responding to. He

referred to problems at Bathside park and that regular patrols are being carried out. He asked if there could be some presence from the team at a meeting on site at the park later this week when councillors were due to meet with Ian Taylor of the district council to discuss ongoing concerns over vandalism there.

Cllr J Henderson said things are noticed in the community by councillors and it's good to see that patrols are happening and problems are being addressed. She asked about youths pulling wheelies in front of people. Amy said it's a reference to the London based 'Wheels up, Knives down' campaign but it's being done in an inappropriate way and they're trying to educate the youths not to put themselves or others in a dangerous position by doing this.

Cllr Ferguson asked the best method to contact the local team, if an incident warranted neither a 999 nor 101 call. Amy said it would be those numbers for the public but she was content for councillors to email her directly. If she's on rest days then the community team can be emailed direct.

Cllr Ferguson said she's noticed many more cyclists being ridden on the pavement and Amy said they can receive fines/tickets for doing this.

Cllr Todd referred to the recent public meeting attended by the PFCC, and said that one question asked of Insp. Deex was, for those more elderly residents who may struggle with the internet, whether the police station could be re-opened briefly each week to raise so their issues could be raised face-to-face. Insp. Deex had said this was something he would look into. Amy felt that it would be unlikely that the front counter would be re-opened as previous jobs cuts meant this may not be possible operationally. She said the Coffee with Cops at McDonalds was well attended whereas when they've utilised the Park Pavilion, not so much. She said they do look to use venue which are accessible.

- Members considered some correspondence, from a local resident, concerning the refurbishment works to the Electric Palace cinema. Cllr Todd confirmed he'd attended a site visit recently and the building is covered because of the removal of the roof due to the existence of asbestos and this had delayed the works considerably whilst additional funding had been sourced. He said the surveyor has inspected the building and suggested a way forward with the engineers since this was a rather large addition to the original planned works. They're hoping that the works will be completed by April and they're doing a marvellous job. The Clerk agreed to send this update to the resident.

- Cllr I Henderson briefed members on the proposals for this year's Illuminate Festival which will take place on 29th and 30th November and which will be taking place in 12 UK destinations, along with Plymouth, Massachusetts in the US and Leiden in Holland. It will be the official launch of Mayflower 400 around the world. The centrepiece of the Harwich event will take place on the Quay and will commence on Friday with crowds gathering from 5pm, to assemble before the procession throughout old Harwich from 5.45pm and will include the premier of the Harwich Mayflower 400 film. The event will continue on the Saturday with a Twilight Flight. More details will be published in the coming weeks. The Clerk confirmed that this year's festival would not include a civic procession.

- Cllr Ferguson confirmed that she'd been contacted by someone about the possibility of twinning with their town and said she would forward the details

	<p>on the clerk but that it looked like it would be costly and wanted to take informal soundings from members.</p> <p>Cllr Morrison said HTC had considered this in the past and used to have a link with the Hook of Holland, which had fizzled out, largely due to there being no additional benefit and that if we ever did go down that route, it would possibly be with somewhere like Leiden in Holland due to our connections with the Mayflower.</p> <p>The Clerk took soundings from members and said she would be happy to respond to the request and state that at this time the Council would not be in a position to formally consider twinning.</p>
083/19	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
084/19	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: Pursuant to Sub-section 2 of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under-mention business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apprentice

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.39pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE