

## MINUTES

**of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
 held at  
**The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**  
 on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 8.06PM

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Councillors Calver, Chant, Davidson, Ferguson, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, C Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith and G Smith</b>
<b>In the Chair:</b>	<b>Councillor Todd</b>
<b>Clerk:</b>	<b>Ms Lucy Ballard</b>
<b>Also present:</b>	<b>4 members of the public, 0 member of the press and guest speakers Dave Blackiston of SERPVS and Cllr Michael Talbot and Jon Hamlet of Tendring District Council.</b>

<b>102/19</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> Cllr Fay
<b>103/19</b>	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u></b> None
<b>104/19</b>	<b><u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u></b> None
<b>105/19</b>	<b><u>SAFER ESSEX ROADS PARTNERSHIP VOLUNTEERS – HARWICH &amp; DISTRICT</u></b> <p>Dave Blakiston of the recently-formed group gave a short presentation to members. He introduced himself as co-ordinator of the group, which he said comprised of several authorities including, Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council, Thurrock Council, Essex Police, Essex Fire &amp; Rescue Service, Highways Ambulance Trust and the Safer Roads Foundation. The volunteers came about following a proposition to Adam Pipe, Head of Essex Police Roads Policing as he was dismayed at the lack of enforcement support from the police towards those committing driving offences. As a result of these conversations, SERPVS was formed and is a community initiative made up of Essex Police volunteers and carry Essex Police I.D. They have been appropriately trained in both police powers and the use of the Tru-Cam device. He said they are security cleared to police officer level and have devolved powers to provide evidence but their uniform clearly states they're volunteers. The group is the first in the UK and has attracted interest from other police forces throughout. The team operates from Harwich police station and they interact with police officers, PCSOs and Special Constables based there. He confirmed that the Tru-cam can pick up a speeding vehicle from up to 850 yards away and once it nears, can identify</p>

	<p>the driver, if mobiles are being used and if seatbelts are being worn but the images are kept on a secured digital card to protect data. Whilst they're unable to issue fixed penalty notices at the roadside, the images are sent to the Essex Police Central Ticket Office where prosecutions will follow, and they aren't able to let people off. He clarified the various penalties issued for the varying speeds. He confirmed that the Speed Watch group records speeds of 36mph and above and SERPVS records 37mph and above. Up to 42 mph, people are, depending on their previous record, offered the speed awareness course, which costs £91 with no points. Between 42mph and 50mph (in a 30), a fixed penalty notice of £100 and 3 points are issued and above that, a court summons could be issued. Cllr Morrison asked whether it was advertised what the punishments are and DB said it was on the SERPVS website but is no longer allowed.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson asked if it affects the operations if people alert drivers on social media and DB confirmed that it is an offence to do this as it's effectively obstructing an operation.</p> <p>The device is accurate and regularly calibrated but can only be used during daylight hours so they're looking at a new nationally tested device that can be used 24 hours but is awaiting Home office approval. Cllr Ferguson asked about the most appropriate locations for operating the new device and whether he needed ideas. He said they'd identified 32 sites within the district, most of which were designed to catch certain kinds of drivers. He confirmed that the Community Speed Watch Group was still active in the area.</p> <p>Members thanked Mr Blackiston for his time.</p>
106/19	<p><b><u>NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Michael Talbot (MT) and Jon Hamlet (JH), of Tendring District Council, discussed concerns with members following the implementation of the new waste collection service. Cllr Talbot introduced himself and Jon and invited questions from members. He first referred to the previous cabinet meeting and the stats about recycling and read aloud his previous statement to TDC. Latest statistics show that the intention to increase recycling has been met. September was the first month where a true comparison could be made with the previous year. 29% recycling rate in September 2018, but in 2019 it was 41.8%; 186% increase in food waste; red and green box recycling increased by 34% and even glass recycling at bottle banks went up by 46%. Over 2800 tons delivered in 2018 down to 2000 tonnes for the same period in 2019.</p> <p>Cllr G Smith asked if they had up-to-date figures on the missed bin collections. Back in November it was reported that following the roll out of the bins, in August alone, 3798 bins were left uncollected but then it was later reported by TDC that it was only 1.1% which were missed. JH said they could only gauge by the number of calls received. He added that following the 10-week rollout, 8 refuse rounds reduced to 5 but the two services were running side by side for that 10-week period so this may have contributed to the missed collections. He felt also that some recorded missed collections were due to residents reporting early when in fact they weren't missed, the collection times had just changed so some were being collected later in the day.</p> <p>JH said he'd always communicated that it takes a good 6 months to bed in the new arrangements, but lessons can be learnt from this, although it was often the sheer number of calls being received that added to the difficulties. He hopes that now that Christmas is gone, it should settle down, as it had in November. Extra resources have been put in to ensure they're keeping to</p>

schedule. They predicted an 8% increase in recycling and this has been exceeded, but this also puts pressure on TDC to have that recyclable material collected. He knows that assisted collections have been problematic in some cases and believes they're also generally back on track now. New residential developments throughout the district take up time too and need to be factored in. Due to the restrictions on the amounts of waste that can go out, it's not easy for people to put it aside until the next week so this leads to more complaints.

Cllr Davidson was impressed with the measures taken to clear up the problems and thanked JH and MT. He asked about wheelie bins and how they're dealt with. He referred to his experiences which wasn't akin to the general practice of wheeling the bins to the rubbish truck and which caused the bags to split and leave rubbish trawled over the ground. JH agreed to speak to the contracts manager about that.

Cllr Ferguson also thanked MT and JH for the Christmas service and asked whether there was a service level agreement about what happens if a bag is split or attacked by gulls or other animals and subsequently leaves trails of rubbish along the ground. JH confirmed that the responsibility lies with the householder until the operatives collect it. If they split due to mishandling, then Jon is happy to have this reported and he'll take it up with Veolia.

Cllr I Henderson said he'd met with Paul Pryce and Tim Clarke at Orwell Terrace where a possible trial of wheelie bins to tidy up the frontage and asked if that would be possible. JH would be happy to look into that and MT said he'd like for everyone to have them if they could. Additionally, Cllr Henderson mentioned that money had been lost on recycling credits from ECC and asked if they know what money will be gained back through the increase in recycling. He also stated that £1m was found for climate change at TDC but the longest outstanding issue seen nationally is plastic as not all types can be recycled currently. MT said there needs to be a distinction between how much they support those ideas in comparison with their statutory responsibilities. He said that originally all plastics were being collected then in 2012 policy changed and to resume the collection of all recyclable plastics would cost £820k pa. and feels it would be unlikely that the council would introduce that voluntarily. JH was asked if TDC could ask Veolia to avoid driving on the grass verges as it's leaving tyre marks which are taking a long time to repair.

JH said referring to plastic that some other authorities have also reduced what they're taking and for those plastics which aren't recyclable, consumers should be wary of buying these. The country needs to be able to process what is generated. Cllr Talbot said he's proud that what is collected, is actually recycled. Cllr J Henderson said that when public bins are replaced in other areas, they are split for different types of waste and asked when this would be implemented here. JH said they don't have the capacity within their current contract for that and these bins are often highly contaminated and would still require a high degree of sorting. He said there's work being done around the UK about the idea of reinstating the deposit return scheme where people get a few pence back upon return of the bottle. He said everyone has their part to play.

There were no further questions and the chairman offered his thanks to both Cllr Talbot and Jon. Additionally, Cllr Morrison asked for them to pass on the thanks and gratitude to their team for dealing with all the problems.

107/19	<p><b><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></b> The Mayor referred to recent engagements attended since the last meeting, which were previously circulated to members.</p>
108/19	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> That the Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.</p>
109/19	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MIN 091/19</b> – It was confirmed the meeting with PFCC is now on 13<sup>th</sup> Jan.</li> <li>• <b>MIN 092/19</b> – It was confirmed the submission has been made to English Heritage and will be taken into consideration when making their final assessment.</li> </ul>
110/19	<p><b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></b> None</p>
111/19	<p><b><u>KEY PRIORITIES 2020/21</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> To approve the Key priorities for 2020/21.</p>
112/19	<p><b><u>INTERIM INTERNAL AUDIT</u></b> Members considered the Internal Auditor's report following an Interim Audit on 17<sup>th</sup> December. The Clerk confirmed that the Auditor had stated that HTC is doing a great job and there were no issues of concern. There were no recommendations made and therefore no plan of action required. Cllr Todd gave thanks on behalf of the Council to the clerk for her work.</p>
113/19	<p><b><u>HILL SCHOOL RESTORATION PROJECT</u></b> Members considered the survey report and agreed that the next works should be the replacement roof on building 4, subject to budgetary provision being made. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To proceed with making arrangements for the replacement roofing with quotations considered in confidential business and subject to budgetary provision being made.</p>
114/19	<p><b><u>THE GRANGE CONSULTATION</u></b> Members considered a local consultation in relation to 'The Grange', which was inviting comments prior to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Cllr J Henderson felt a response should be submitted and suggested that HTC raise concerns about the disposal of the land since HDHS is the only secondary school in the locality and if there is expansion needed due to the increase in housing developments, this would then leave only the field for potential expansion.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> To submit the following comments: Harwich Town Council has concerns about the disposal of the land, as the Harwich &amp; Dovercourt High School is our only secondary school. If there is need for any school expansion due to the projected housing growth, this option will be taken away leaving existing sports fields as the only areas for any expansion.</p>
115/19	<p><b><u>BUDGET &amp; PRECEPT</u></b> Members gave consideration to the estimates for income and expenditure for the 2020/21 financial year, as recommended by the F&amp;GP Committee. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the council precept on Tendring District Council for ££207909 (the LCTSS grant has ceased), having an impact of £37.79 per annum for a Band D council taxpayer based on a confirmed tax base of 5502 and representing an increase of £1.50 on 2019/20.</p>

	<p>Cllr I Henderson suggested that despite the cessation of the LTCSS grant, HTC might receive something from TDC as the Revenue Support Grant, which was also meant to cease, is going to be paid again due to the failure by the Government to fill the gap from its loss (Business Rates retention plans).</p>
116/19	<p><b><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr J Henderson said funding is still an issue for Teen Talk and they're still struggling with attracting new trustees but reported that Ian Davidson, Chief Executive of TDC, was coming on board. She added that hopefully with Gill Burden also attending the meeting, she might be able to help with funding opportunities.</li> <li>• Cllr Powell reported on a successful Illuminate festival on behalf of the Tourism Group and said to watch this space over the next 12 months.</li> </ul>
117/19	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT &amp; COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Members received the Minutes of the Environment &amp; Community Committee meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (circulated separately).</p> <p>Cllr Fowler referred to MIN E34/19 and thanked all volunteers including Harwich Police Cadets and PCSO Amy Robinson for their assistance with applying the 30mph stickers onto residents' wheelie bins.</p>
118/19	<p><b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE &amp; GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Members received the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 (circulated separately).</p>
119/19	<p><b><u>ACCOUNTS</u></b></p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> To accept the financial update and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
120/19	<p><b><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members noted the latest reports by PCSO Amy Robinson. Cllr Ferguson referred to a large amount of trouble over the Christmas period along the quay and the lack of police presence.</li> <li>• Members considered a letter regarding the inclusion of live animals during festive events. The Clerk read aloud the letter to members. Cllr Morrison said without research she wouldn't have expressed any opinion on this before now. Cllr I Henderson referred to the use of public funds being used for this type of event. He asked if we could make it policy that funds don't go towards the use of live animals.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Calver suggested HTC could include it in the written policies that HTC doesn't provide funding for live animals being used as entertainment. The Clerk agreed to add this to the next F&amp;GP agenda for an amendment to the Grant Funding policy.</p>
121/19	<p><b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on <b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b> at <b>The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich</b>, at <b>7.00pm</b>, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>

<b>122/19</b>	<b><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> 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:  • <b>Hill School – Building 4 roof replacement</b>
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The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 9.37pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**