

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 5th December 2019 at 7pm

Present:	Councillors Fay, Davidson, McLeod, C Powell, I Henderson, J Henderson (sub for D Smith) and Saunders
In the Chair:	Councillor M Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	Horticultural Adviser – Cheryl Thompson No members of the public and no members of the press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E31/19	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from; Councillor D Smith, Todd and Ferguson
E32/19	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> Cllr S Fay – in relation to item 11 - resident of Williamsburg Ave Cllr M Fowler – in relation to item 10 - trustee of Harwich Society
E33/19	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 17 th September 2019 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E34/19	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> E22/19 – Putting Green – TDC have erected temporary wood fencing to protect parts of the hedging as well as planting new hedging where necessary. E24/19 – There But Not There – The second tommie has been reinstated by the Maritime Museum with additional support brackets and to date there is no damage to the structure. E26/19 – Low Road – 30 MPH Stickers – Date to be finalised to consult with Low Road residents. E28/19 – Emergency Planning – HTC’s plan has been updated and distributed
E35/19	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> E21/18 - Tree planting has been deferred until autumn 2020. E11/19 – Winter Salt Bag Scheme – Two pallets of additional salt have been delivered

	<p>to the Mayflower Heritage Centre. The flyers were distributed to the traders in the High Street and Historic Harwich. Thanks were given to Cllrs Saunders, Fay and Ferguson for distributing the leaflets.</p>
E36/19	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u> Cheryl Thompson provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Trevor Mills and Team have planted the area around where the Royal Flats were, opposite the Old Bank. It will bring some good colour to a bleak area. The Harwich Society gardening group will endeavour to keep it tidy. It would have cost a great deal to plant this up as well as they have done. •The HS gardening group helped Trevor and his team to plant five trees that are native to the NE of America where the Mayflower docked. They are called Nyssa Sylvatica (Black Gum/Tupelo) and this type of tree is comfortable growing in the UK. They are a beautiful shape and will have 'rusty' foliage in Autumn. They are planted in St Nicholas churchyard - with the permission of the clergy. •As a Tree Warden, Cheryl was invited to attend the East Anglian Tree Council conference. It is attended by tree wardens from Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk and Huntingdon as well as Essex. Tree Officers of the counties and district councils also attend. •The local Tendring Tree Warden group are going to meet twice in Harwich (Feb and March) to introduce and discuss a plan for planting thirty thousand trees/hedging across the district to celebrate 30 years of Tree Wardens. A lot of planting is going to be filling in gaps in existing hedges. Councillors will be invited to attend and put forward ideas for planting. <p>Cllr J Henderson asked for Cheryl's assistance with arrangements to replace the trees on the land by the putting green.</p>
E37/19	<p><u>FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN</u> There has been no further meeting of the working party. A meeting has been scheduled with the Clerk in the new year to create a plan of action so that tasks can be delegated.</p> <p>Councillor C Powell made members aware that Harwich Haven Authority has kindly donated £1300 towards the improvements to the Memorial Garden. The Clerk made the committee aware that on 26th November 2019, Full Council resolved to vire £4000 to the Flood Memorial Garden EMR. This is the maximum amount the council will underwrite for the project and now that the funds have been received from Harwich Haven Authority, the amount of £1300 will be deducted from the budget. RESOLVED: Clerk to forward a letter of thanks from the committee, for their donation.</p>
E38/19	<p><u>DOG FOULING</u> Members reviewed Councillor Talbot's response and agreed that no further action was necessary at this time.</p>
E39/19	<p><u>TDC PROPOSED PLANTING IN THE PARISH OF HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT FOR 2020</u> The Clerk made members aware that no response has been received.</p>

	RESLOVED: Clerk to forward a second reminder.
E40/19	<u>HARWICH IN BLOOM</u> Members noted Harwich Society's response.
E41/19	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u> The following update was provided by Cllr I Henderson;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Williamsburg Avenue – No Through Road Signage – Fully approved. •Wellington Road – Change of Priority – Fully approved, awaiting commencement of work. This will be carried out in conjunction with the micro surfacing on Church Street. •20's Plenty Signage by Local Schools – Chase Lane School – no further action as the school does not front the carriageway. H&D High School – validation suggested to proceed with design and implementation of signage. Harwich Community Primary School – validation suggested to proceed with design and implementation of signage. Spring Meadow School – No further action as the school does not front the carriageway. St Joseph School – Speed and volume survey required to assess suitability. Mayflower Primary School – validation has recommended not to proceed with request due to parked cars blocking visibility of signage. Cllr I Henderson will challenge this decision at the next meeting. •Parkeston Road - Installation of Zebra Crossing – Feasibility study has recommended to proceed to design and legal advertising. The £9500 cost for this has been approved by the panel. •Low Road Speed Survey – The panel have agreed to review this request again. •Speeding Lorries and High Pedestrian Traffic St Nicholas Roundabout – Ongoing investigation. <p>Members were made aware of the issue with speeding cars along Williamsburg Avenue which is a particular safety issue due to the tight blind bends and narrow road. The LHP Liaison Officer has reviewed the location in question and advised that there have been no reported collisions within the last 5 years and the road is also subject to a 20mph speed limit. Cllr I Henderson felt that at the very least, signage should be erected.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to compile and submit a request to the LHP to review measures which could be put in place.</p> <p>Members reviewed a further complaint received requesting a 20mph zone to be considered on High Street located by Cliff Park. Due to the high volume of pedestrian traffic in the town centre area and lack of fencing surrounding the park, it was felt that the 20MPH speed limited could be extended along the High Street and Kingsway.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to compile and submit a request to the LHP to consider traffic calming measures.</p>
E42/19	<u>BUDGETS FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/21</u> The Clerk provided members with an update on budgets spent year to date and expenditure due to be incurred for 2019/2020. Members discussed possible future projects and proposed budgets for 2020/21.

	<p>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Budget for the Municipal Year 2020/21</p> <p>MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND £ 500 ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS £1000</p> <p>TREE & SHRUB PLANTING £ 300 for emergency replacement/maintenance EARMARKED FUND – FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN £ 4189</p>
E43/19	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Cllr Fay advised members that the footpath along the Hangings has now been resurfaced including the steps from King Georges and Shaftesbury Avenue. TDC has started repairs on the wooden groins along the seafront from the swimming pool towards West End and this is expected to be completed by the end of January. •Cllr Powell thanked the chair, members and staff for their time given over the past year.
E44/19	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on Thursday 23rd April 2020, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE