

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held
Remotely
 on **Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7.04pm**

Present:	Councillors Calver, Chant, Davidson, Fowler, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison (from 7.06pm), Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith and G Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor A Todd
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	0 members of the public, 1 member of the press

019/20	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs S Fay, T Ferguson and I Henderson
020/20	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
021/20	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
022/20	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 10 th June 2020 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
023/20	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 010/20 and 011/20 – Members received confirmation of successful completion of the 2019-20 AGAR and submission to PKF Littlejohn, which had been acknowledged. • MIN 14/20 – Members received confirmation of successful recruitment to Administrator position. The clerk couldn't confirm a start date as this was dependent on the final assessment date of the current apprentice.
024/20	<u>TOLLGATE POST OFFICE CONSULTATION</u> Members considered the consultation on the proposal to move the Tollgate Post Office to new premises within Oakley Pharmacy. Cllr McLeod made a case for supporting the retainment of the post office in its current location, citing a number of services, which would be lost as a result of the proposed move, including Parcel Force post and collect, post office banking, some savings stamps, some insurances, cheque payments, lottery service, the external post box, and on-street parking, which includes the two designated parking bays immediately out front. The current location is secure and provides privacy with adequate queuing provision.

	<p>Cllr Richardson had spoken with the shop owner who had claimed that when they originally took over the premises, they had not wanted the post office but had subsequently changed their mind and now wish to keep it as it's a valuable asset to the community..</p> <p>Other members spoke in favour of retaining the post office in its current location and agreed that a collective response from the council was appropriate. The clerk agreed to respond to the online consultation on behalf of the council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To submit comments that HTC opposes the move to new premises.</p>
025/20	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the financial update and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
026/20	<p><u>BUSINESS AUTHORISED THROUGH DELEGATED AUTHORITY</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To ratify the decisions made through delegated authority during Covid-19.</p>
027/20	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Todd attended a remote meeting of the MNWB and reported the Trinity House vessel, Patricia, is being withdrawn from service in 2024 and a tender is going out soon for the design of a replacement vessel. The construction is expected to commence 18-24 months after the design has been approved. There have been 4 confirmed cases of Covid-19 at Swansea, but no cases recorded at all at Felixstowe and every vessel that goes into the port has a declaration signed by the captain to say its Covid-19 free. Felixstowe town allowed some of the Chinese seaman into the town, but they reported having received verbal abuse due to the current health crisis. The Philippines have been given a green airway status and can now make arrangements to repatriate some of their seaman. Also, seaman have been recognised worldwide as key workers. • Cllr Henderson reported that Teen talk has still been active during Covid-19 and are in touch with trustees and members with a lot of activity being carried out online, to continue to support young people. She praised them for the hard work they're doing. The clerk agreed to send a letter of thanks and appreciation for the work they've achieved during these difficult times.
028/20	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members acknowledged receipt of the latest report(s) from PCSO Sue Grove. Cllr Richardson raised concern about the number of people riding their bikes on the pavement and the repaved pathways seem to be encouraging riders, including adults, to ride on the path and not the road. The clerk agreed to report to the PCSO. • Members acknowledged receipt of a Letter from the Town Crier. • Members considered a request from The Essex Protestant Council to erect a plaque in the name of William Bamford who died in Harwich in 1555. Cllr Calver said he'd liaised with council archivist, Ray Plummer along with David Whittle of the Harwich Society and local history enthusiast Richard Oxborrow to obtain further information and reported that the likely execution ground was at the town gate at the east end of Market Street and that somewhere within that vicinity might be an appropriate location for a plaque but suggested that further investigation is done to seek clarification on what they want and they think HTC can assist before responding formally to the request. He agreed to

	make contact with the EPC and would report back at the next meeting of the council.
029/20	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7pm or at the rise of the Planning Committee meeting , whichever is later.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.34pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE