

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held
Remotely
 on **Wednesday 25th November 2020 at 7.00pm**

Present:	Councillors Calver, Chant, Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, Powell, Richardson and G Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor A Todd
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	0 members of the public, 0 members of the press and PCSO Ryan Duffett and Acting Chief Inspector Martin Richards

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Ryan Duffett and Acting Chief Inspector Martin Richards to the meeting.

067/20	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr Saunders
068/20	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
069/20	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
070/20	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The Mayor referred to recent engagements attended since the last meeting, which were previously circulated to members.
071/20	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 13 th October 2020 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
072/20	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 058/20 – Cllr Morrison reported that despite three attempts to contact the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust regarding concerns sent in relation to ambulance response times last winter, a reply was yet to be received. It was suggested by Cllr Morrison that these concerns are raised with Bernard Jenkin MP with a request that he contacts them on the council's behalf. The clerk agreed to make contact with the MP. • MIN 059/20 – The clerk confirmed that the H&M Standard had removed the statement implying that HTC's stance had changed in relation to the Tollgate Post Office move from their online article.

073/20	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 92/19 – The clerk reported there had been little progress with the application to the Secretary of State for a listing review for the Train Ferry Gantry due to the pandemic but was in contact with Historic England to keep this going.
074/20	<p><u>BT KIOSK</u></p> <p>Members considered a request to acquire the former BT-owned telephone kiosk, which was adopted by the council in 2011. The clerk informed members that the telephone box was a popular photo point at the entrance to Historic Harwich and it would be a mammoth task to move it, with no certainty that the costs could be met by the applicant. Cllr Powell, Ferguson and G Smith were also against this. Cllr Fowler feels these are iconic and it would be a shame to lose it.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson agreed and felt from a tourism perspective, these are very popular photo spots and should remain.</p> <p>Cllr Ferguson mentioned that Harwich Helps has put a book box in the locality and wondered if we could use the phone box as a book exchange as the current provision is very well used. She suggested this be considered at a future meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To retain the telephone kiosk and refuse the request. .</p>
075/20	<p><u>HARWICH KINDERTRANSPORT</u></p> <p>Members considered a request by the Harwich Kindertransport Memorial and Learning Trust for written support for their project to erect a memorial in the parish. The clerk confirmed a simple email was required.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To support the proposal.</p>
076/20	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr J Henderson reported her attendance on a local walkabout with Teen Talk as part of their outreach work. They've adjusted how they work with young people and have received some funding from YMCA to assist with this. They go out twice a week talking to young people and build up trust. She said it was a pleasure to report all the good work they're doing. • Cllr Powell notified that the foot ferry has been restored and the electrics redone and he's confident he'll be back up and running next Spring. • Cllr Todd reported on the annual meeting of the MNWB and said that Hutchison Ports had plans for new containers ports in both Egypt and Canada yet despite HIP doing well financially, there was no update on plans to develop Bathside Bay. He also reported that some lorry drivers were reported being rude to Port staff who ask them to wear masks.
077/20	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <p>Members received the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6th October 2020 (circulated separately).</p>
078/20	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <p>Members received the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 5th November 2020 (circulated separately).</p>
079/20	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p>

	<p>Members received the Minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 19th November 2020 (circulated separately).</p> <p>Cllr Fowler reported that the flood memorial garden project is progressing nicely.</p> <p>Cllr Fowler thanked Asst Clerk, Michelle Townsend and former Administrator Shannon Lenyk for their assistance with the pothole repair programme.</p>
080/20	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial update and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
081/20	<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 Ryan Duffett. PCSO Duffett asked members if they had concerns or issues to raise. <p>Cllr Morrison noticed many 999 calls having been made on previous reports, some of which were hoaxes, but some were accidental – she wondered what they could do about it. She also noticed a lot of reports over a matter of a few days, for a particular road. PCSO Duffett elaborated on that issue and confirmed they're unable to identify the property which is why they've attended several times and they are monitoring the situation. He said often the 999 calls were children playing on parents' phones.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson thanked Ryan on his success on dealing with the covid breaches at the oval hut along the promenade and asked if the checks could remain in place once we come out of lockdown to prevent the problem reoccurring. She referred to the little silver canisters again and asked what could be done to raise awareness of the dangers in using them incorrectly. Insp. Richards said they've taken this up a few times. They can be bought legally but how they're being used can cause a lot of damage. They want to run test purchasing but Covid has put a stop to that. They do use their school's officer to link with the schools.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson also referred to patrols with other local organisations (Teen Talk and YMCA) and thanked them for that.</p> <p>Cllr G Smith asked who he reports to vehicles with no MOT. Insp. Richards said DVLA but if the car needs moving then it is the police. Always report through the PCSO as he can run a check on it for other issues but also to the DVLA.</p> <p>Cllr Powel referred to a number of the little silver canisters when he was out and about.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson wanted to offer his appreciation to the forward briefings he's received on local issues and said he appreciates the relationship the council has with the local policing team.</p> <p>Insp. Richards updated members on statistics in relation to organised crime groups (OCGs) – He said that Harwich suffers with county lines from London or other organised groups. There are two groups in Harwich which straddle Suffolk. About £2.5m in drugs and firearms has been taken from these groups and much of their intel comes from the community. Additionally, the homicide earlier this year was attributed to one of these groups as well as the knife crime during the summer. He reported a reduction in many types of crime, but this is attributed to Covid as people have remained indoors. The public were behind them during the first lockdown and tier system, but this is waning with a lot of discontent being seen. The town team is largely dealing with covid</p>

	<p>breaches and initially they weren't out looking for those not complying but now they are. He has 120 hours a week of covid patrols.</p> <p>Cllr Morrison asked if there was funding to support these extra patrols – Yes £1600 a week.</p> <p>Cllr Todd thanked PCSO Duffett and Acting Chief Insp. Martin Richards for their attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the Public consultation – Standards Matter 2. • Cllr Todd briefed members on some correspondence he'd had with Harwich International Port (HIP) in relation to their obligations to maintain the former Train Ferry Gantry. He referred to the funding which is available to support Brexit and whether some funding could be found to maintain the Gantry. The reply was not favourable and HIP has no immediate plans for refurbishment to the Gantry. • Members noted the Notice of the publication of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Pre-Submission Joint Local Plan.
082/20	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held remotely on Tuesday 5th January 2021 (subsequently moved to 12th Jan) at 7pm or at the rise of the Planning Committee meeting, whichever is later.</p>
083/20	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u></p> <p>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 Recruitment

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.01pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE