

MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Park Pavilion, Barrack Lane, Harwich
 on **Monday 6th September 2021 at 7.07PM**

Present:	Councillors Chant, Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, Fowler, J Henderson, McLeod, C Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith, G Smith and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor I Henderson
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	1 member of the public, 0 members of the press
055/21	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Calver and Morrison
056/21	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
057/21	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> <p>Betty Holbrook, a resident of Harwich, informed members that she'd received many complaints over last two months about various issues including dogs along the beach and the extent of thistles and weeds around the town. She asked if there could be a 'No dogs on the beach' sign from the Quay to the Sailing club and whether anything could be done about the thistles.</p> <p>Members believed that there was an intentional wildflower area which had been established and this could explain the thistles but also that there was a section of the beach which was clearly signposted as no dogs allowed between May and September and with only 1 dog warden for the district, it was difficult to enforce.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson agreed to have a look but stressed that there are a number of residents campaigning for wild areas to promote wildlife/bees etc.</p> <p><i>Cllr G Smith – That's a no dog area along there also and there are signs (May-September). From the other side of the sailing club up until the Lighthouse.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Ferguson suggested that Ian Taylor is asked if that was an intentional wild area?</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Todd agreed that the bank in question is impassable to walk along and the thistles are overhanging.</i></p>
058/21	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> The mayor referred to recent engagements attended since the last meeting, which were circulated separately to members. He referred to the week-long

	Beach School that was funded by the Harwich Haven Authority, which was in support of the Government's Summer Activities and Food Programme.
059/21	<p><u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 27th July 2021 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.</p>
060/21	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 44/21 – Cllr J Henderson reported on the Talent Pathway Programme, which took place at the council skate park on 17th August. She felt that despite the weather and a delayed start, it was a good event and enjoyed by all attendees. She thanked the HTC team for pulling it together, especially Jessica as this was carried out as part of her apprenticeship study requirements. She also thanked members who came down to the skate park and support the event. • MIN 30/21 – Cllr G Smith reported on the meeting held with the Mayflower Medical Centre on 2nd September. He felt the MMC were open about the challenges facing them currently, including the retention of staff and the new telephone system will provide many more lines in the queuing system, however he felt there were still a number of unanswered questions concerning their day-to-day operations and management. <p>Several other members gave their account and views on the meeting, with some positive points including the MMC's preparedness for the meeting and the detailed presentation, which provided some insight into the practice, the problems they face and how they're looking to resolve some of them, as well as their willingness to engage with HTC and the public going forward.</p> <p>Some members remained concerned about some aspects of the administration and management of the practice as well as the service in general. Others felt that there were still too many unanswered questions but most agreed that it was a useful exercise, which has enabled a better understanding of the issues being faced by the MMC and its patients.</p> <p>Members continued to discuss their ongoing concerns before agreeing to approach the MP about a possible meeting with the MMC, so that he may gauge a better understanding of the difficulties they're facing, some of which are unique to the Harwich peninsula, and what support is needed. Members agreed they wished to be kept informed of the outcomes of any meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to Sir Bernard Jenkin MP.</p>
061/21	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 27/21 – It was reported to members that the shuttle bus service during August had been cancelled due to a change in programme for the Golden Horizon. The service will resume for its final date on 7th September to service the crews of the Fred Olson Borealis.
062/21	<p><u>NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT</u></p> <p>Members noted receipt of the conclusion of the Audit for year ended 31 March 2021. The Clerk confirmed that there were no matters to address this year and therefore no plan of action was required, and that she was in the process of carrying out the necessary actions as instructed by the external auditor. She thanked members for assisting her to ensure the council remained compliant.</p> <p>Members proposed a huge vote of thanks to the clerk and her team for the excellent work carried out throughout the year.</p>
063/21	<u>TENDRING DEMENTIA ACTION ALLIANCE</u>

	<p>Members considered a request from Age Concern Colchester to work with them towards accreditation of 'Dementia Friendly' status.</p> <p>Members were generally quite positive about the opportunity and those who had received previous training felt it was worthwhile.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To take up the opportunity to become a 'Dementia Friendly' organisation.</p>
064/21	<p><u>HILL SCHOOL SITE OUTSIDE LIGHTING</u></p> <p>Members considered some essential lighting works which were needed at the Hill School site along with a quotation for completion of the works. The clerk confirmed that the financial regulations had been followed in terms of seeking quotes.</p> <p>Cllr Fay declared a personal interest as his family member attends one of the community groups on the site and refrained from voting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To proceed with the works at a cost of £755 to be expended from the Hill School refurbishment EMR.</p>
065/21	<p><u>ESSEX HIGHWAYS DEVOLUTION PILOT</u></p> <p>Members considered an invite to join the pilot scheme and the general consensus was that there was insufficient funding to take this on in addition to the additional responsibility this would bring to the council and the associated workload this would place on the office team.</p> <p>One member felt that the scheme itself wasn't unworkable if it's just the funding that was the barrier and feels that there could be other options to tackling the issues locally.</p> <p>There was concern that the financial burden on parish councils would encourage an increase in the precept and that the duties should be devolved to district councils and not parish councils.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To reject the offer.</p>
066/21	<p><u>WELCOME TO DOVERCOURT SIGNAGE</u></p> <p>Members responded to a request to offer suggestions for the replacement 'Welcome to Harwich & Dovercourt Bay' signage, which is presently sited on the Greensward at Tollgate.</p> <p>Members all agreed on the following wording 'Welcome to Dovercourt Bay & Historic Harwich' and to include the HTC Coat of Arms image.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To suggest the above wording and image.</p>
067/21	<p><u>GUILDHALL ELECTRICITY CONTRACT</u></p> <p>The clerk informed members that the Guildhall electricity contract required renewing very shortly and provided a recommendation to remain with the current supplier as whilst there was an estimated annual increase of £193, this was the lowest increase.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To proceed with the renewal of a fixed tariff with the current provider from 1st October until 23rd October 2023.</p>
068/21	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Powel attended a meeting of HIPLALC where they gave an update of operations during the pandemic and the plans for the future, which includes the development of the new holding area for lorries coming off the ships. Cllr Todd said Freeport status has to be completed within 5 years to avoid losing the opportunity and he was hopeful that his questions regarding their priorities in relation to the former train ferry gantry would be discussed further at the September meeting.

069/21	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
070/21	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted receipt of latest report(s) issued by PCSO Ryan Duffett, for information. The chairman thanked members who attended the public engagement day on 19th August. • Members received some correspondence concerning the Dock River. Members felt the information should be handed over to the Environment Agency and the resident advised to contact the MP. The clerk agreed to action.
071/21	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Monday 18th October 2021 at The Park Pavilion, Barrack Lane, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE