

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES
of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 18th October 2022 at 7.18pm

Present:	Councillors Calver, Chant, Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, Fowler, J Henderson, Morrison, Powell, Saunders, D Smith and G Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor I Henderson
Clerk:	Ms L Ballard
Also present:	0 members of the public, 0 members of the press, and invited guests (family of the late James Cole)

The chairman welcomed Janet Cole, widow of the late James Cole (former Town Crier) along with daughter Sarah Smith and son Simon Cole.

076/22	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs McLeod, Richardson and Todd
077/22	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllrs P Morrison and G Smith each declared a personal interest on item 11 as trustees of the grant application, NEST.
078/22	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
079/22	<u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u> <p>Members acknowledged a list of recent engagements attended by the mayor, which had been previously circulated.</p> <p>The chairman welcomed the family of the late James Cole, former Town Crier for Harwich & Dovercourt and after speaking a little on the role that James fulfilled for 23 years, he presented a town plaque as a token of the council's appreciation for his efforts over the years and the joy his presence brought to so many residents and visitors.</p> <p>Members spoke of fond memories of James and the way in which the role came to be for Harwich, during the 1990s.</p> <p>James' daughter spoke of her dad's fondness for the town and thanked the council on behalf of the family. James' son said that had his dad been here to accept the plaque personally, he would've thanked Janet for the support she gave to him during his time as Town Crier.</p>
080/22	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of

	Harwich Town Council held on 6 th September 2022 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
081/22	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>MIN 064/22 – It was noted that the Flag policy had been amended to reflect the change in monarch and recognition of their birthday.</p> <p>MIN 065/22 – Members acknowledged receipt of a response from Royal Mail regarding Dovercourt Mail Collection Office. Cllr Calver felt the response was expected but that the council was yet to receive a response from the MP. He suggested that further cuts in service were anticipated, which will see afternoon collections from only 4 post boxes across Harwich and Dovercourt and felt there must be a service level agreement in place to protect these services. The clerk confirmed that a response from the MP's office had been chased up. Cllr Calver asked for the council to write again and stress the urgency and that there are further intended cuts and that he should be intervening on the council's behalf.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write again to the MP, Sir Bernard Jenkin.</p> <p>MIN 068/22 – The clerk referred to previous correspondence where she had briefed members following receipt of further information in relation to the Interim Polling Station Review. The clerk relayed again the information subsequently provided by the Elections Team. Cllr Chant provided further information on the proposal since he is familiar with the site.</p> <p>Cllr D Smith proposed that no further action be taken, but with no seconder, the motion was withdrawn.</p> <p>Following further discussion, Cllr Calver suggested that the council relays its gratitude for the updated information and accept that whilst the venue as proposed would be adequate, the council still believes Long Meadows Community Centre is the better choice.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write back to TDC.</p>
082/22	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <p>None</p>
083/22	<p><u>SEAFRONT CYCLING: HARWICH & DOVERCOURT</u></p> <p>Members discussed at length, a pilot scheme to permit cycling along the promenade in order to provide feedback to the district council.</p> <p>Members gave mixed views, with some against, citing near misses with pedestrians and concerns of apparent dangers, particularly at less wide points along the prom, such as around Stone Pier which had the potential for serious accidents. Additionally, there was concern that the trial period was during the summer when dogs are to be kept on leads, and that signage was insufficient. Others members were in favour of the scheme, claiming the same risks posed were present on the footpaths and that the scheme helped to encourage greater physical activity in a safer way than cycling along the road.</p> <p>Some members claimed having received a number of complaints/concerns by residents whereas others had received only positive comments.</p> <p>It was agreed that the scheme would have to be self-policed and would rely on common sense and courtesy despite the suggestion that there could be the introduction of CCTV along the seafront, which would be monitored by TDC.</p> <p>It was suggested that with or without the scheme, cycling would still occur and the danger would still be present so the scheme might benefit from the</p>

	<p>implementation of further safety measures such as barriers or signage superficially to warn pedestrians accessing or leaving the beach.</p> <p>RESOLVED: For the clerk to provide feedback to TDC based on the views expressed by members present.</p>
084/22	<p><u>KING'S CORONATION</u></p> <p>It was confirmed that the date of King's Coronation would be on Saturday 6th May 2023.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To re-establish the Jubilee Working Party as the King's Coronation Celebrations Working Party, which comprised the following members (Cllrs I Henderson, Fowler, Morrison, Powell and Chant).</p>
085/22	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr G Smith attended a meeting of the Ark Centre, which is running at full capacity and has a waiting list. 60% of the new uptake have special educational needs. They will be receiving £120k following a recent successful bid but are concerned over increasing energy bills. • Cllrs Powell and I Henderson attended a Tourism Group meeting and reported that due to the increasing energy prices, some pubs are closing earlier if there are no customers, to help make savings on energy and staffing costs. Meetings of the group will also be less frequent. They are looking into producing another leaflet as well as a website review. They are pleased with all the events taking place in the area, including the recent Shanty Festival, which was very successful. • Cllr Ferguson will be unable to attend the next meeting of the MNWB and asked if another member would like to substitute for her. Cllr I Henderson agreed to attend. • Cllr Chant attended an RBL meeting on the same day as a funeral of a former standard bearer and serviceman who was injured in the Falkland's conflict.
086/22	<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 27th September 2022 (circulated separately).</p> <p>Members also considered a recommendation from the committee in relation to a grant funding application for: NEST (North Essex Support Team) £2000. Cllr Morrison refrained from voting.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To award £2000 s137 funding</p>
087/22	<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 12th October 2022 (circulated separately).</p> <p>The chair made reference to the rededication of the Flood Memorial Garden to mark the 70th anniversary of the floods, which will take place on 1st February 2023. This will be followed by an exhibition in the 1912 Centre, arranged by the council's honorary Archivists. Formal invitations will be sent out in due course.</p> <p>The next council litter pick is scheduled for 10am on 27th November.</p>

088/22	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
089/22	<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, <i>for information</i>. It was agreed to send a letter to Insp. Martyn Richards to express the council's thanks and appreciation to former PCSO Ryan Duffett for his commitment and support to Harwich Town Council. • Cllr Calver asked members if they would consider a request for the loan of the topographical maps of old Harwich and Dovercourt (commissioned in 2004 as part of the Charter 400 celebrations), to the Harwich Society for the purposes of their History Fair on 29th and 30th October. Members agreed to this request. <p>Additionally, Cllr Calver mentioned that the maps are currently being stored at the Harwich Museum and requested that following the fair, the council loans, on a permanent basis, the maps to the Harwich Museum. Members agreed.</p>
090/22	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.46pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE