

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held on
Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7.00pm
 at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**

Present:	Councillors Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, I Henderson, J Henderson, Powell (Sub for McLeod), Saunders and D Smith
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Marie Snell
Also present:	Town Centre Coordinator Sally Goff Horticultural Adviser Cheryl Thompson 0 members of the public and no members of the press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Ms Thompson asked Cllr I Henderson when there will be more litter bins erected in the local area relating to item 12, Cllr I Henderson informed Ms Thompson he will follow this enquiry up and will report back to the committee with more information in due course.

E14/22	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr McLeod (substituted by Cllr Powell)
E15/22	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E16/22	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 7 th July 2022 (previously circulated) be- approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E17/22	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E05/22: Members received update from Cllr Ferguson of the Emergency Z card working party following research within the local community. It was determined that internet and social media is a valuable source to display important information. The older generation within the local community appeared to prefer a hard copy of such a card and enquiries have been made as to the printing of a possible fridge magnet option. Cllr Powell expressed that the previous cards used contained a mass of information and contact details, queries raised to re-vamp of such a card could therefore leave out important information. Costings and numbers for printing for fridge magnet option to follow and can be reported upon receipt of information. Cllr Ferguson requested for this item to be deferred until 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E10/22: Clerk provided update on the success of the £500 Microgrant application and members RESOLVED to fund the surplus cost of £15.64 and purchase two salt spreaders.
E18/22	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E56/21: Clerk provided update on measures to execute emergency drill. • E60/21: To confirm the writing on the sea wall project has been completed. • E50/21: To report on arrangements made with APSE for a meeting with Cllrs I Henderson, M Fowler and Clerk on Monday 17th October. Update to follow.
E19/22	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u> There was no horticultural report on this occasion.</p>
E20/22	<p><u>FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN</u> Members received an update from Cllr Fowler and informed members of update from Ian Taylor at TDC with items that remain outstanding for HTC members' input. Cllr Powell suggested to put a railing fence around, rather than a wooden fence. Littering was a concern for members if a high fence was to be put in and therefore view of the garden from outside. Clerk to report to TDC regarding this preference of boundary. Members discussed the arrangements for the rededication ceremony on 1st February 2023. Cllr M Fowler reminded members of the dedication ceremony which took place in 2012. Members discussed the concept of a small reception to take place after the rededication ceremony at the Flood Memorial Garden along with an exhibition with photos of the 1953 floods. Relatives of victims to be formally invited, along with members of the public wishing to attend. The 1912 centre was deemed to be a likely venue being the closest option to the garden and would aide members of the public with mobility difficulties. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Fowler regarding outstanding items discussed and to begin arrangements for the rededication Ceremony in February 2023.</p>
E21/22	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u> Cllr I Henderson attended a Resilience Debrief regarding the Church St fires in June 2022, which investigated the incident and future emergency plans. Issues were reported that the nearest hydrants have small pipes and therefore slower water flow, the fire department were prior aware of this and acted accordingly by pumping water straight from the sea. Firemen were unable to enter the blazing buildings as the danger risk was too high which was why the water was pumped from outside in. The debrief was a successful learning exercise and explored agencies accounting for the housing of those affected. Credit was greatly given to the Park Pavilion and the Community Association for their unconditional help and valuable resources given. Church St remains closed which is causing concern and disruption to local residents. Cllr I Henderson assured members this is being escalated further and Essex Highways are attending the road on Thursday 13th October to look into a strategy as to how to get the road reopened. Cllr Powell updated Cllr I Henderson that two bollards have been knocked over by the Flood Memorial Garden, Clerk to liaise with Cllr I Henderson to report to Essex Highways.</p>
E22/22	<p><u>LHP PANEL</u> Cllr I Henderson informed members of the proposed plan to create a Give Way road signage at Hordle Street in junction with Hordle Place. Members were briefed that through the Essex Highways 2022 Member Led Pothole Repair Programme in Harwich and Dovercourt out of the 14 potholes submitted by HTC, 10 have begun rectification within the town.</p>

E23/22	<p><u>WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME</u> Members were informed by Clerk of the successful application to participate in the 2022/23 Winter Salt Bag Scheme and that two pallets containing 1 tonne of 25kg bagged salt has been delivered and stored at the Harwich Cultural and Community Projects site. Permission has been sought following Estate Supervisor's offer to aid members of the local community with the distribution of salt from the HC&CP site during bad weather conditions.</p>								
E24/22	<p><u>BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS</u> Ref E10/21: Clerk confirmed microgrant scheme application for £500 has been approved for the purchase of two salt spreaders and RESOLVED to fund surplus cost of £15.64. Town Centre Coordinator informed members that some shops have their own salt supply in readiness for the winter months. She will enquire the possibility of volunteers to carry out salt spreading within the town during the winter. Members discussed possibilities to store the salt spreaders within the town, clerk to make enquiries to Park Pavilion over the possibility to store the salt spreaders there.</p>								
E25/22	<p><u>LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE</u> Members received update from Cllr I Henderson regarding the litter picking initiative. Proposal to target specific areas within Harwich and Dovercourt. Cllr Fowler informed members of guidance to use coloured litter picking bags which are identified and collected by TDC operatives. Cllr T Ferguson raised concerns over the beach area by The New Bell litter, Cllr I Henderson suggested beach cleans to be arranged with TDC and to officially report the beach areas to ward councillors who will act accordingly. Cllr J Henderson expressed the positive impact of litter picks where people are able to pick litter up with grabbers and rubber gloves. RESOLVED to schedule a litter picking group event within the town centre on Sunday 27th November at 10am in readiness for the Christmas Event in Dovercourt. Clerk to send dates to HTC members to gauge volunteers and enquire into the TDC litter picking bags required.</p>								
E26/22	<p><u>BUDGET UPDATE AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23</u> The Clerk provided members with an update on budgets spent year to date and expenditure due to be incurred for 2022/2023. Members discussed possible future projects and proposed budgets for 2023/24. RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Budget for the Municipal Year 2023/24</p> <table data-bbox="319 1411 1276 1836" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND (no transfer in, balance to remain at £5115)</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">TREE & SHRUB PLANTING for emergency replacement/maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">EARMARKED FUND – FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN (no transfer in, balance to remain at £5000 which includes £1300 gifted by Harwich Haven Authority).</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£0</td> </tr> </table>	MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND (no transfer in, balance to remain at £5115)	£0	ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS	£2000	TREE & SHRUB PLANTING for emergency replacement/maintenance	£1000	EARMARKED FUND – FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN (no transfer in, balance to remain at £5000 which includes £1300 gifted by Harwich Haven Authority).	£0
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E27/22	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> None</p>								
E28/22	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at 7pm, on a Thursday 19th January 2023 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</p>								

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.01pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE