

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
 held on  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm**  
 at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, I Henderson and J Henderson
<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor Fowler
<b>Clerk:</b>	Mrs Marie Snell
<b>Also present:</b>	Horticultural Adviser Cheryl Thompson 0 members of the public and no members of the press

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None**

<b>E29/22</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> Cllrs McLeod, D Smith and Saunders
<b>E30/22</b>	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u></b> None
<b>E31/22</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2022 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record. <b>SF/BD</b>
<b>E32/22</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>E17/22:</b> Cllr Saunders has given update to the chair outside of the meeting following research within the community whether updating the Emergency Z Cards is good use of council spending. The working party will endeavour to be able to provide further updates at the next meeting.</li> <li>• <b>E18/22:</b> Cllr Fowler updated members of the meeting following APSE meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022 and considered proceeding with initial report at costing of £975. Members discussed the advantages of carrying out such a survey and Cllr J Henderson concluded the discussion in commenting that this costing may be worthwhile for future emissions reductions and a good practice in taking the step to completing a baseline study with APSE. <b>RESOLVED</b> to enquire to APSE if this is a one-off cost or if there is likely to encounter further costings and to report back at next meeting. Clerk to make enquiries to APSE.</li> <li>• <b>E24/22:</b> Clerk confirmed the purchase of 2 salt spreaders and that one spreader is stored at the park pavilion for easy access in aiding the town and one is stored at the Guildhall.</li> </ul>
<b>E33/22</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>066/21:</b> The Chair confirmed that the ‘Welcome to Historic Harwich &amp; Dovercourt Bay’ sign has been replaced on Dovercourt Green and members <b>RESOLVED</b> to send letter of appreciation to Ian Taylor at Tendring District Council.</li> </ul>
<b>E34/22</b>	<p><b><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></b> There was no horticultural report on this occasion.</p>
<b>E35/22</b>	<p><b><u>FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN</u></b></p> <p>Cllr M Fowler provided update on Memorial Garden. Members considered whether to fund the alterations to the sundial on the recent information provided to HTC that the age of one of the victims from the flood is incorrect. Members agreed to fund this alteration. Clerk to enquire for costing of alterations.</p> <p>The clerk updated members on the arrangements for rededication ceremony in February 2023 and make further enquiries with HTC archivists in the proceedings with an exhibition for the reception in 1912 Centre after the ceremony.</p>
<b>E36/22</b>	<p><b><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></b></p> <p>Clerk updated members following an emergency drill carried out on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Cllr J Henderson informed members that they had a member of public inform her that a local resident who declined to evacuate was not informed of updates at any point during the incident.</p>
<b>E37/22</b>	<p><b><u>LHP PANEL</u></b></p> <p>Cllr I Henderson briefed members that the Highway Rangers funding has been cut which is likely to have a negative impact on the local community’s environment as they play an integral role in the maintenance of the area. Cllr I Henderson informed members that unless District Councils do not take on the costings, they will need to become self-funded which could be problematic for the future. Cllr I Henderson also informed members that streetlights will be turned off at midnight every night and to turn back on at 0500hrs in order to save resources, this following an initial public consultation period. Cllr J Henderson voiced concerns as to the current state of footpaths and roads that a lack of lighting could cause safety problems with members of the public put at risk. Members were briefed that through the Essex Highways 2022 Member Led Pothole Repair Programme in Harwich and Dovercourt, all 14 that were submitted have been repaired, with additions on this figure from Cllr I Henderson.</p>
<b>E38/22</b>	<p><b><u>BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS</u></b></p> <p>Following Estate Supervisor’s offer to aid members of the local community with the distribution of salt from the HC&amp;CP site during bad weather conditions, several shops within the town have taken advantage of this offer during the cold period before Christmas 2022. Clerk informed members of leaflets informing local shops of the salt availability which were distributed within the town by Cllr. Chant.</p>
<b>E39/22</b>	<p><b><u>LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE</u></b></p> <p>Following the previously cancelled litter pick due to bad weather, members considered another community litter pick and <b>RESOLVED</b> to schedule a group event within the town centre. Clerk to send dates to HTC members to gauge availability of members.</p>
<b>E40/22</b>	<p><b><u>MAYOR’S GARDEN</u></b></p> <p>Members considered the possibility of updating the sign which currently stands in the Mayor’s Garden. Following advice from Ian Taylor at TDC, the clerk informed members that the type of sign could be expensive and that TDC feel it would be good to replace the sign but do not at present feel obligated to. Cllr I Henderson suggested</p>

	it would be beneficial to add the HTC Coat of Arms and note 'Mayor's Garden' on the sign. Cllr M Fowler noted that the garden is owned by Tendring District Council. Cllr J Henderson suggested moving or making the sign larger so that it is clear to see for those visiting the garden. Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to write to Rotary Club of committee's concept to replace the sign with the above wording and HTC's Coat of Arms.
<b>E41/22</b>	<b><u>KNIFE BIN LOCATION</u></b> Following recent concerns from Detective Inspector Clayton Ford from Essex Police with regards to the regular damage to the knife bin, members considered alternative locations to the current site of the Park Pavilion. Members discussed possible locations within Harwich and Dovercourt and agreed the need for a potential site to offer CCTV. Cllr J Henderson suggested enquiring to TDC with regards to possible locations which have competent CCTV which could facilitate a knife bin. Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommended Dovercourt Lifestyles as an alternative location for the knife bin and request advice from TDC with regards to competent CCTV within this location. Clerk to report to Essex Police's representative with the stance of HTC and to include TDC for advice moving forward.
<b>E42/22</b>	<b><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b> None
<b>E43/22</b>	<b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at <b>7pm</b> , on a <b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b> at <b>The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</b>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.57pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**