

MINUTES
of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 7.20pm

Present:	Councillors Calver, Chant, Davidson, Fay, Fowler, McLeod, Morrison, Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith, G Smith and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor I Henderson
Clerk:	Ms L Ballard
Also present:	3 members of the public and guest speaker Libby Scarfe

122/22	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Ferguson and J Henderson
123/22	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
124/22	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> <p>A resident referred to a planning application which he'd raised a question on at the preceding Planning Committee meeting and said that there hasn't yet been an orange planning notice erected, which was a duty of the planning authority. Cllr Calver agreed to take it up with the planning officer in the morning.</p> <p>He also referred to the area of the promenade by the Queen Victoria statue and mentioned that there were two sets of railings which had been placed around two holes which had been dug previously and the works hadn't been completed. Cllr G Smith said he would take this up with the necessary authority.</p> <p>Another resident asked if Council could do anything to prevent the tip from closing. She was worried there would be rubbish everywhere. Cllr I Henderson has raised concerns at county level and said there are no problems currently with traffic flow and since COVID restrictions have been lifted the queues have come down. He confirmed it's not going to close, it's the implementation of a booking system. It's been trialled in other places and will be implemented across Essex. There will possibly be a public consultation following the trial period so we need to come together to object.</p> <p>She also asked if any member had been round the shops locally and noticed that there are some which will only take cash and not card payments, which she felt uncomfortable with. Cllr I Henderson said that would need to be taken up with Essex Trading Standards.</p> <p>Another resident asked about Highways issues and whether the various authorities who are undertaking road works, communicate with each other to</p>

	<p>avoid the situation that is currently being faced where all routes in and out of the town are blocked by temporary traffic lights. Cllr I Henderson said if it's a utilities company undertaking the works then they're supposed to apply for a highways licence and presumably the highways authority would look at these in the wider context to establish what else was taking place and the difficulties it could cause. The chairman encouraged councillors to write to Highways to raise these concerns.</p>
125/22	<p><u>CLIMATE CHANGE</u></p> <p>Members welcomed Libby Scarfe who spoke with Council about possible climate change initiatives and engagement with the public. Prompted by her involvement in the Time and Tide project, which is an art installation that helps to raise awareness of climate issues such as rising tide levels. She's about to start a project to engage with youngsters to become custodians and monitors of their local coastline. The initiative will be piloted here and hopefully rolled out around the country.</p> <p>She receives emails to be asked to get involved in various projects; the Manningtree Earth Festival being one, which is about climate awareness and climate action. The coordinators have the full backing of Manningtree TC. She's aware Harwich does have initiatives such as litter picks and tree planting schemes but feels we could be doing more to engage with local residents to raise awareness. Bude (Bude Climate Partnership) has received £2m Lottery funding for climate action and they're a coastal town like Harwich. She suggested an initiative such as a Harwich Town Climate Action pledge for schools, which sets standards by which they abide. Similarly, a business pledge which will see local businesses sign up to and agree to a set of principals such as becoming a plastic free town. There could be talks to encourage a connection with nature or sustainable living within households. Cllr Calver added that 9 miles of Walton coastline had been eroded in the last 225 years.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson said climate change is included in the Local Plan and TDC will take these things into consideration when looking at new developments. He suggested tackling this in bite sized chunks and delivered to the E&C Committee or set up a group onto which the council could join to assist in the delivery, or even an exhibition.</p> <p>Cllr Davidson has installed different coloured bins for different waste types at a local park he manages, which is very effective.</p> <p>The chairman thanked Libby for her presentation.</p>
126/22	<p><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>Members acknowledged a list of recent engagements attended by the mayor, which had been previously circulated.</p>
127/22	<p><u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 10th January 2023 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.</p>
128/22	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 116/22 – The clerk reported that despite attempts to chase, there was still no response from either the MP's Office or Royal Mail following letters enquiring about a Service Level Agreement in light of reduced services at the Kingsway branch. Cllr Calver said we're in a difficult situation and we're not getting anywhere and suggested a letter to the Secretary of State for Business. Kemi Badenoch (copy to the shadow secretary, Jonathan Reynolds, Sir Bernard Jenkin MP and the General Secretary of the post office workers union,

	<p>Dave Ward) expressing concerns and the attempts we've made to obtain the answer to our enquiries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 122/22 – It was reported that TDC is favourable to a joint event to accommodate the 2023 Skate Park Festival. A meeting with the clerk, Cllr J Henderson and Mike Carran of TDC has been arranged for 24th February. Cllr I Henderson is happy to attend in the absence of Cllr J Henderson.
129/22	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> None</p>
130/22	<p><u>SEASONAL LIGHTING DISPLAYS 2023</u> Members considered the quotation for continuation of services for the installation, removal and storage of council-owned seasonal displays for the 2023/24 financial year. RESOLVED: To accept the quotation and continue with services from LITE at a cost of £4138 to be expended from the Christmas lights budget. FURTHER RESOLVED: To ensure the lights are installed, checked and working in good time for the last week of November and taken down after the 12th night (from 6th January 2024). Quay lights to be lit once installed. High street lights to coincide with any switch on event in the town and to remain on 24hrs a day. It was additionally noted that the cost of the provision of an artificial Christmas tree for 2023 is £3322.50 to be expended from the Christmas lights budget. Members noted that retailers did not progress with their request for lighting displays in Upper Dovercourt.</p>
131/22	<p><u>HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY</u> Cllr Calver asked members to consider recognising HMD on 27th January each year and confirmed that the details of how this would shape out would be determined following a meeting with associated parties. Cllr Council made a special mention to the council's Estates Supervisor for his involvement in the day as this was done with great dignity. RESOLVED: To mark Holocaust Memorial Day as an annual event in the council diary.</p>
132/22	<p><u>REPAIRS TO BACK WALL IN YARD OF GUILDHALL</u> Ref: F10/20 – Members RESOLVED: To agree to the cost of a structural engineer for up to 4 visits at an estimated total cost of £2385 and noted the estimated cost of the architect had increased from £750 to £1000. All costs to be expended from the Boundary Wall Repairs earmarked fund.</p>
133/22	<p><u>KING'S CORONATION CELEBRATIONS</u> Ref: 117/22 – Cllr I Henderson briefed members on the progress made by the working party to establish how the council would recognise the Coronation on 6th May and made recommendations for members to consider, including the acquisition and display of Union flags and bunting, the gifting of coronation themed items to local primary school children and the public televising of the day's events. Cllr McLeod said it will put Harwich on the map. RESOLVED: To accept the recommendations of the working party and proceed to consider quotations under Confidential Business.</p>
134/22	<p><u>TENDRING IRP PARISH REPORT 2023 CONSULTATION</u> Members considered the recommendations on the draft report. RESOLVED: to note the draft report with no comments.</p>

135/22	<p><u>BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC 80</u> Cllr I Henderson asked members to consider a request to host events to commemorate the anniversary, which was taking place between 26th and 28th May 2023. Cllr Morrison felt it important to commemorate the event with a civic service to include a wreath laying ceremony and to involve other local organisations. Inc. RBL, MNA etc. RESOLVED: To proceed with arrangements to mark the event with a civic service and wreath laying event.</p>
136/22	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr McLeod – Attended TDALC meeting and reported they were upset about the A120 closures over the years and the associated diversions which have caused difficulties, dangers and damage to the surrounding village roads. Supports the need for duelling of the A120 and a letter is being sent to the appropriate authorities and Government departments. • Cllr Powell – Updated on the Foot Ferry service and reported that they’ve fitted a new gear box and undertaken lots of other work and are confident of a problem-free season. • Cllr G Smith – Attended a meeting of the Ark Centre. They had a heating problem, which is now sorted. They’ve since learned they qualify for the energy support relief scheme. Money raised from New Year’s Day charity swim (£775) has been donated and which will be use to install new gates, a century garden and a reading nook. • Cllr Chant – Attended a meeting of the Royal British Legion. They’re gaining more members which is hopeful and doing well and as a spin off, he was invited to attend a meeting of the Merchant Navy Association too as they have close links with the RBL. • Cllr I Henderson – Attended a meeting of the Tourism Group. The Illuminate event won’t take place in 2023, instead it will be a bi-annual event. Also looking to hold a coastal conference and working with Greater Anglia on a bike hire initiative. Shanty festival was very successful in 2022 and already they’re struggling to find accommodations for their visiting performers as hotels and B&Bs are getting booked up.
137/22	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES</u> Members received the Minutes of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment & Community Committee – 19th January 2023 <p>Cllr Fowler thanked everyone who attended the recent litter pick in the town centre. She also referred to the Flood Memorial Rededication ceremony and offered thanks to the council staff for pulling together the event as well as the voluntary archivists for the exhibition at the 1912 Centre and to the Rev. Canon Margaret Shaw for leading the service. Finally, she thanked all who attended. Cllrs Powell and Fowler were individually thanked for their respective contribution on the Flood Memorial Garden Working Party.</p>
138/22	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
139/22	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted receipt of latest PCSO report, <i>for information.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted receipt of the latest Harwich Festival report, <i>for information</i>. • Members noted receipt of a letter of thanks from the Salvation Army for £150 donation from the Mayor's Legacy Fund towards their Christmas Appeal.
140/22	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 4th April 2023 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p> <p>The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2023 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
141/22	<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-mentioned business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King's Coronation Celebrations • Draft Funding Strategy for Essex Pension Fund

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 8.56pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE