

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held on
Thursday 30th March 2023 at 7.01pm
 at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**

Present:	Councillors Davidson, Fay, Ferguson, McLeod and Saunders.
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Marie Snell
Also present:	Horticultural Adviser Cheryl Thompson and Estate Supervisor Andy Wells 0 members of the public and no members of the press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Horticultural Advisor raised question relating to item 9 to query if the trees are going to be replanted on Harbour Crescent and reported to the committee that the trees, previously poisoned were dug out and replanted and watered by HA with a subsequent repeated poisoning. The question was asked that if trees are replanted, this could be a waste of resources and queried what HTC are going to do about this. Cllr M Fowler informed HA that it would be a matter for the police to deal with regards to vandalism of trees. HA also referenced the Flood Memorial Garden that it is a tremendous space and has been a worthwhile project.

E44/22	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs D Smith, I Henderson and J Henderson.
E45/22	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E46/22	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 19 th January 2023 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record. BD/TF
E47/22	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E32/22: Emergency Z Card Working Party stated there was little update at this time. Most research has led to people suggesting public funds could be better spent elsewhere. Committee agreed to address with new council for 2023 where necessary. • E32/22: Update from clerk following enquiries made to APSE for further costings that total cost of project would be in the region of £13,000. Cllr Fowler stated at this stage of the council year, given it would be a long-term project. To defer to the next meeting of the new council for further consideration. • E40/22: Members were informed by clerk and noted that a site visit will take place with members of the Rotary Club, Ward Cllr I Henderson, Chair of E&C

	<p>and Clerk to discuss possible project of sign revamp. To provide further update at next committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E41/22: Clerk updated members following report from Essex Police that CVST in Dovercourt High Street will be the new location for the knife bin as this is central to the town and offers competent CCTV. Members agreed this would be a good position with CCTV being readily available. <p>Clerk to reply to this decision with committee's view of this being a positive decision for the safety of the town.</p>
E48/22	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>None</p>
E49/22	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></p> <p>Members noted the horticultural report previously circulated regarding update of works at Dovercourt Station, with appropriate lighting being erected in keeping with the heritage site. Cllr Fowler stated the Station Adoption Scheme is very worthwhile and works have been appreciated by members of the council and local community.</p>
E50/22	<p><u>FLOOD MEMORIAL GARDEN</u></p> <p>Cllr. M Fowler offered thanks following the rededication ceremony and commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the North Sea Flood, 1953 in February and members agreed the event laid on by HTC was fantastic and were proud to be a part of it. Cllr Fowler reported the issue with the audio post which is not working currently and will follow up with TDC and David Whittle to get it working. Cllr Fay thanked HTC staff for all their efforts in organising a memorable event.</p>
E51/22	<p><u>LHP PANEL</u></p> <p>Cllr I Henderson had informed clerk prior to meeting that there was nothing to report at this time.</p>
E52/22	<p><u>TREE PLANTING</u></p> <p>Members were updated by Cllr Fowler that the trees within Harbour Crescent have been removed due to a Environment Agency issue with the trees being planted too close to the flood wall and would therefore cause a safety hazard. The trees were part of the 2015 tree planting scheme carried out by Tendring District Council and therefore are the responsibility for TDC to replant and maintain.</p>
E53/22	<p><u>WAR MEMORIAL CLEANING</u></p> <p>Members discussed the necessity to clean the War Memorial Main Road, Upper Dovercourt. Members RESOLVED to proceed with works and for quotation to be discussed during confidential part of the meeting.</p>
E54/22	<p><u>LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE</u></p> <p>Following the previously successful litter pick in February 2023 with an excellent turn out, Cllr Saunders informed committee of the amount of cigarette ends outside shops and queried who this could be raised with. Cllr Fowler advised to take photographic evidence at next HTC litter pick. Members agreed to defer litter picking until next meeting of the committee.</p>
E55/22	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk informed members of an enquiry from an external organisation, the Men Shed Network, which aims to combat isolation and loneliness for men over the retirement age. Cllr Davidson informed committee that he runs his own MenShed within his local community and it is a fantastic initiative, he

	<p>expressed a new initiative would need the correct tools to facilitate such a scheme. Information of Men Shed scheme to be passed onto relevant community contacts of HTC for an initiative to be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters of thanks following the Rededication Ceremony of the Flood Memorial Garden noted with gratitude. • Cllr McLeod queried why hanging baskets will not be hung in the town this year. Cllr Fowler informed that there is a lack of volunteers for this and clerk informed committee that following discussion with Colin Farnell from the Harwich Society, that HTC will be hanging Union flags in celebration of the King's Coronation throughout the town, the hanging baskets will be resumed in 2024. This is to be an agenda item at the next Environment and Community Committee meeting with to consider making contact with Tendring District Council for future projects. • Cllr McLeod made recognition of bunting option for Dovercourt town centre. Estate Supervisor informed committee the wires being referenced are for Christmas Lights. To consider decorative bunting for the town at next E&C Meeting.
E56/22	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at 7pm, on date TBC at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</p>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 7.38pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE