

MINUTES
of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 7.00pm

Present:	Councillors Armstrong, Calver, Fay, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, Powell, Richardson, Saunders, D Smith, Todd and Wade
In the Chair:	Councillor M Fowler
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	0 members of the public, 0 members of the press and Revd. Kirsty Emerson

041/23	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Chable and Davidson
042/23	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
043/23	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
044/23	<u>MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS</u> Members acknowledged a list of recent engagements attended by the mayor since the previous meeting, which had been previously circulated. The mayor also referred to the CC Dance Studios end of year show, which she attended at the weekend and remarked how entertaining it was. The deputy mayor reported attending an event for Refugee week.
045/23	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 6 th June 2023 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
046/23	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> MIN 033/23 – It was reported that only a holding email had been received in response to a letter to the MP regarding a ministerial meeting he'd had in relation to GP shortages. Cllr Calver thanked the clerk for her perseverance to obtain a response and suggested the email be noted and the council await a fuller reply. Members agreed.

	MIN 018/23 – Cllr Todd asked whether a date had been set for a meeting with Gary Guiver to discuss Harwich International Port developments. The chairman said a date was still to be arranged.
047/23	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> MIN 007/23 – Members considered appointing a second representative to the Tendring District Association of Local Councils (TDALC) to work alongside Cllr McLeod and RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Davidson to the position for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year.
048/23	<u>DEMENTIA FRIENDLY STATUS</u> The clerk briefed members on a few options for activities would enable the council to retain its ‘Dementia Friendly’ status. She referred to the ‘Memory Walk’ event being promoted by Alzheimer’s Society. Cllr Todd expressed interest in the council organising its own ‘walk’ and mentioned he would attend the next Dementia Alliance meeting on 27 th July along with Cllr D Smith and Saunders. RESOLVED: for the clerk to liaise with the mayor and look into organising and setting a date for a council-organised memory walk for 2024.
049/23	<u>PRESENTATION EVENING FOR RETIRING MEMBERS</u> Ref: MIN 166/18 - Members acknowledged a date for a reception as 8 th August 2023 and RESOLVED: To delegate expenditure to the clerk in consultation with the chairman, to be expended from the Hospitality budget.
050/23	<u>D-DAY 80</u> The clerk briefed members on the Beacon Lighting preparations to commemorate the 80 th anniversary of D-Day on 6 th June 2024. RESOLVED: To set up a D-Day 80 Working Party comprising Cllr Fowler (Mayor), Cllr Morrison (Deputy Mayor), Cllr Todd (Chair of Allotments), Cllr Calver (Vice-chair of F&GP) and Cllr Wade.
051/23	<u>ARK CENTRE GRANT APPLICATION</u> Members considered a grant application for the Ark Centre. Cllr McLeod suggested Grassroots may also be a suitable route for funding. RESOLVED: To award £2500 s137 grant.
052/23	<u>RAIL STATION TICKET OFFICE CHANGES</u> Cllr I Henderson briefed members on the proposals of rail companies to close up to 1000 ticket offices and referred to the public consultation which would be open until 26 th July. RESOLVED: To write to Bernard Jenkin MP, asking him to support the council in opposing the closures and enter into the consultation with Transport Focus, giving our views, since residents are finding it difficult to purchase the right tickets at the right price and obtain the support they need when using a station. Members nominated Cllrs I Henderson and Chable to work with the clerk to submit a response on behalf of HTC.
053/23	<u>CHRISTMAS LIGHTS</u> The clerk briefed members on a meeting held with the Working Party and having nothing further to consider, since the Working Party was awaiting further information on costings, it was agreed to defer consideration of recommendations to another meeting. Consequently, there would be no quotations to consider under confidential business.
054/23	<u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Morrison attended a meeting of the Ark Centre and reported that they're finding funding quite difficult having failed in some recent bids. She agreed to let them know about a possible Grassroots grant. They've put in for various Lottery grants and will seek others which they've been previously turned down for. They are training up new staff to take over from those who are nearing retirement. Cllr Wade said the Rotary was a suitable source of funding too. • Cllr Todd attended a meeting of the MNWB recently and reported that the cruise ships would not be coming in this season due to the unsafe quay. The chair was expecting 7 ships in this season. He also mentioned the Freeport East project and the impact this could have on the welfare of the seaman (fisherman) who's boats are currently moored at Gashouse Creek, as when they look to dismantle the long arm of the train ferry gantry, they will be displaced and as such could have a detrimental effect on their livelihoods. There are likely to be delays in the commencement of the works due to how the funding is expected to be released. <p>They are looking to rollout the placement of defibrillators in all seafarers' centres across the country. There was a centre at HIP which has since closed but small vessels go to Mistleley and so they will find out where the closest one is to there.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson declared an interest as he's a director on Freeport East.</p>
055/23	<p><u>MEETING MINUTES</u> Members received the Minutes of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments Committee – 13th June 2023 • Finance & General Purposes Committee – 20th June 2023 • Environment & Community Committee – 6th July 2023
056/23	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u> RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
057/23	<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 Sue Groves, <i>for information</i>. detailed. It was agreed that we will wait until an extension to the PCSO agreement before discussing the content of these reports. • Members noted receipt of an email of gratitude received from the Harwich Festival, <i>for information</i>.
058/23	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 5th September 2023 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
059/23	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u> The chairman declared that since the information, which would enable the council to make a decision on the PCSO, had not been received as expected, this item would be deferred to another meeting.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.59pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE