

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, Essex CO12 3DS
 Tel: 01255 507211
 email: info@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk

MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held on
Thursday 6th July 2023 at 7.00pm
 at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**

Present:	Councillors Armstrong, Fay, McLeod and Saunders.
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Ms L Ballard
Also present:	Horticultural Adviser Cheryl Thompson 0 members of the public and no members of the press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: The Horticultural Advisor referred to three items on the agenda, item 9 (Litter picking) and noted from the last meeting a comment councillor Saunders had made about the number of cigarette ends that had been picked up and she asked if there was any news about litter bins being placed within the town. Cllr Fowler said they should be in place at the completion of the new town square, later this year.

Item 12 (Tree planting) She asked members whether they'd given any thought to planting trees and mentioned that was previously a line of trees along Marine Parade on the sea side of the fence, which were no longer there and also Barack field is in need of some.

Item 13 (Hanging Baskets and Decoration) She asked if the hanging baskets provision included watering. Cllr Fowler said she would hope so and they would discuss this when they got to that item on the agenda.

E01/23	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Davidson, Smith and Wade Absent – Cllr Morrison
E02/23	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E03/23	<u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</u> Members RESOLVED to elect Cllr. Margaret Saunders as Vice-Chair of the Environment and Community Committee for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.
E04/23	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the minutes (inc. Confidential Minutes) of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 30 th March 2023 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E05/23	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> • E32/22 – Members considered how to proceed with Emergency Z Cards. The clerk referred to the original project and that it had been deferred from the last council. Cllr Fay had previously spoken to people who were happy to contribute if asked but members felt that as this information is readily available across other forums, that it no longer warranted re-producing and RESOLVED: Not to proceed with the project.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E53/22 – Members were informed that the cleaning of the War Memorial on Main Road had been successfully completed. Members referred to the weeds which remain. The clerk confirmed that the RBL would be taking care of repainting the lettering on the memorial.
E06/23	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E32/22 – The clerk reported that the restoration project of the Mayor’s Garden sign had taken place, but prior to a site visit which was to be organised between HTC and the Rotary Club.
E07/23	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></p> <p>Members noted the horticultural report previously circulated, which was read aloud by the Horticultural Advisor. Cllr Armstrong asked who members see about Tree Preservation Orders. It was confirmed it would be Clive Dawson at TDC.</p> <p>Cllr McLeod suggested a round robin to members to come up with ideas for hedge planting, as asked by the Horticultural Advisor. The clerk agreed to send this to members.</p>
E08/23	<p><u>LHP PANEL</u></p> <p>The clerk informed the meeting that the 2023 Member Led Pothole Repair Programme was open, and pavements are also being considered as part of the programme. Cllr Fay mentioned there were a number of orange markings around many of the damaged parts of the highway from Parkeston roundabout to the Lidl roundabout, so something should be happening there very soon.</p> <p>Cllr McLeod referred to the roundabout outside Morrisons. Cllr Fowler felt that would be addressed when works begin on developing the adjacent land.</p>
E09/23	<p><u>LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE</u></p> <p>Having received no update, members RESOLVED: To defer to the next meeting.</p>
E10/23	<p><u>BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported on the preparatory arrangements in place in readiness for the coming winter and confirmed that Tony Elliston had agreed to allow HTC to continue to store salt at the premises for a further year.</p>
E11/23	<p><u>WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members considered partaking in the Winter Salt Bag for 2023/24. The clerk confirmed that there was still a large amount being stored at the HCCP in George Street, which was ok to remain but that she was awaiting a conversation with Tony Elliston (as he’s out of the country) to establish whether he’d be happy to store a further supply there.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to proceed with participating in the scheme for 2023/24 on condition that there is sufficient space at the HCCP, otherwise to defer until 2024/25.</p>
E12/23	<p><u>TREE PLANTING SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members considered taking part in the 2023 tree planting scheme led by Tendring District Council. The clerk informed members that the budget for the entire district was £2k. Members discussed the ongoing commitment required in terms of watering and nurturing and the clerk suggested that if members were minded to consider resources that this item could be deferred until early next year.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to defer until the last meeting of the municipal year.</p>

E13/23	<p><u>HANGING BASKETS AND DECORATING OF DOVERCOURT HIGH STREET</u></p> <p>Cllr McLeod referred to the hanging baskets and the need to see these back in the town centre. The clerk confirmed that the Harwich Society were intending to resume these in 2024 following a break this year to accommodate the King's Coronation. He also asked about bunting along the High Street during the summer. The clerk said the quality of the bunting is usually quite poor and therefore would require refreshing frequently which would incur labour costs.</p> <p>The chair felt bunting and decorations should only be installed for certain occasions (i.e. Christmas and Coronations etc.) and was not keen on pursuing this.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Not to proceed with a feasibility study to look into summer bunting in the High Street.</p>
E13/23	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Members RESOLVED: to appoint Cllrs Armstrong and Saunders to attend the Parish & Town Council Community Resilience Forums run by Tendring District Council.</p>
E14/23	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>The clerk referred to some correspondence to Cllr Fowler about local Public Rights of Way and whether there was a list available for the area. Cllr Fowler had produced a link to a full list and had sent this onto the councillor requesting this.</p> <p>In relation to the Gypsy Lane, councillors need to liaise with Cllr I Henderson as Essex County Councillor.</p>
E15/23	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at 7pm, on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</p>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 7.53pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE