

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held on
Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.00pm
 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich

Present:	Councillors Armstrong, Davidson, Fay, Henderson, McLeod, Saunders, Smith and Wade.
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs M Snell
Also present:	Horticultural Adviser Cheryl Thompson 0 members of the public and no members of the press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None

E16/23	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr P Morrison
E17/23	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None
E18/23	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 6 th July 2023 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E19/23	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> None
E20/23	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> • E41/22 – Clerk informed members that the new location for the knife bin is located at the front of Dovercourt Hub on the High Street. Cllr Fowler stated it was a good move and glad it has been moved to a central location.
E21/23	<u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u> Members were informed that on this occasion there was no horticultural report to inform members.
E22/23	<u>LHP PANEL</u> Cllr Ivan Henderson (Essex County Councillor) updated members that the last Highways Panel meeting was cancelled. He has made contact regarding speeding concerns on Low Road, Dovercourt and raised concerns with site officer including site visit. A speed survey is due to be conducted a report will follow. There has been an further Member Led Pothole Scheme, where 18 pot holes were reported by Cllr Henderson within the local area to be repaired soon. There is a new road surfacing method being trialled, known to be more environmentally friendly, a quicker process which aids to avoid extensive traffic delays and covers more areas. Cllr Henderson also mentioned the overgrowth of footpaths, which is being regularly reported, the Highway Rangers are lacking in workers due to funding issues and Tendring District

	Council are asking people who own the areas to cut back the growth to prohibit further growth problems.						
E23/23	<p><u>LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE</u></p> <p>Members discussed future litter picking possibilities, Cllr Henderson informed members that Saturday 2nd December will see the grand opening of the new town car park and the Christmas Light switch on. RESOLVED: To instruct the clerk to update HTC members for the next litter pick, to take place on Sunday 26th November in Dovercourt Town.</p>						
E24/23	<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>						
E25/23	<p><u>WINTER SALT BAG SCHEME 2023/24.</u></p> <p>The clerk confirmed that the application to participate in the scheme has taken place and the one pallet of salt has been delivered to HCCP.</p>						
E26/23	<p><u>WILDER TOWN INITIATIVE</u></p> <p>Cllr Fowler informed members of the details regarding the Essex Wildlife Trust, Wilder Town initiative, and members considered taking part in the scheme.</p> <p>RESOLVED Clerk to enquire for HTC to join the scheme and report back at the next meeting.</p>						
E27/23	<p><u>TREE PLANTING SCHEME</u></p> <p>Members considered taking part in the 2024 tree planting scheme led by Tendring District Council. The clerk informed members that the budget for the entire district was £2000. Members discussed the ongoing commitment required in terms of watering and nurturing any newly planted trees. The Horticultural Advisor was invited to speak as Tree Warden for the area, the trees can be planted with watering bags, and these need to be refilled regularly, the costs of such is likely fall to HTC. Cllr Davidson expressed concerns regarding the loss of trees over the summer. Cllr Henderson suggested contacting James Hill at TDC regarding ground works at Cliff Slopes, near Pavilion Café, TDC have plans to do works on this area and part of that is to involve a tree planting initiative.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To defer and review at the spring E&C meeting held in March 2024. Clerk to talk to officer at TDC and see if HTC can fund the planting of the trees to compliment the scheme at Cliff Slopes.</p>						
E28/23	<p><u>BUDGET UPDATE AND PROPOSED BUDGET FOR MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided members with an update on budgets spent year to date and expenditure due to be incurred for 2023/2024. Members discussed possible future projects and proposed budgets for 2024/25.</p> <p>RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND: Budget for the Municipal Year 2024/25.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND (no transfer in, balance to remain at £4919.84)</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">TREE & SHRUB PLANTING for emergency replacement/maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right; vertical-align: bottom;">£1000</td> </tr> </table>	MEMORIAL EARMARKED FUND (no transfer in, balance to remain at £4919.84)	£0	ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES/PROJECTS	£2000	TREE & SHRUB PLANTING for emergency replacement/maintenance	£1000
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E29/23	<u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u>						

	None
E30/23	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at 7.00pm, on Thursday 18th January 2024 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</p>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 7.31pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE