

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES
of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 7.37pm

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

083/23	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Armstrong and Smith
084/23	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllr Wade declared an interest in the grant application for the Harwich Rugby Club as the applicant is a family member.
085/23	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
086/23	<u>MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS</u> There were no engagements reported for the Mayor since the last meeting. The Deputy Mayor referred to the Harwich International Shanty Festival, which she attended along with Cllr Todd on 14 th October. She commented on what a great festival it is and a great draw for tourists.
087/23	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 5 th September 2023 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
088/23	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> MIN 068/23 – The clerk reported to members that she had contacted TDC regarding the question raised by a member of the public at the last meeting and had relayed the response received to the resident. Cllr Wade said the issue is still occurring. Cllr Richardson asked if anything further could be done. It was confirmed that it would be a 999 call if a resident witnessed dangerous/unlawful behaviour happening, otherwise it was a TDC issue.

	<p>MIN 072/23 – The clerk reported that a response had been received from Ed Garratt’s team regarding the ministerial meeting to discuss GP shortages and agreed to forward any further response once it had come in.</p>
089/23	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> None</p>
090/23	<p><u>MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES</u> It was reported that Cllr J Henderson had stepped down from the Finance & General Purposes Committee and it was RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Fay to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the municipal year.</p>
091/23	<p><u>D-DAY 80 COMMORATIONS</u> Cllr Morrison briefed members on the activities suggested to commemorate D-Day 80. Cllr Fowler confirmed that the Harwich Society Beacon lighting team leader had been informed of the commemorations. RESOLVED: To proceed with the suggested plans to commemorate the day with costs and budget to be discussed at a later date once known.</p>
092/23	<p><u>CONSULTATION ON NEW MEASURES TO TACKLE IRRESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS IN TENDRING</u> Cllr J Henderson briefed members on a new consultation and encouraged members to respond. Cllr Fay felt that HTC should support the measures that TDC is proposing and congratulate the new administration for acting so promptly to address this long-standing problem. Harwich TDC councillors have been raising this issue for years and in the past have simply been faced by excuses as to why nothing could be done. Within four months of coming to power, the new administration is taking action. There are 2 new officers dedicated to this. RESOLVED: To submit a response to the consultation.</p>
093/23	<p><u>RECYCLING CENTRE BOOKINGS CONSULTATION</u> Members considered a new consultation. Cllr Davidson said he’d heard complaints about the booking system and feels that the original system worked better. Cllr McLeod felt the bin changes are the main cause of delays and with 2 closure days per week, it’s a real inconvenience. Those with a blue badge don’t have to book. The chair relayed that members can respond directly by completing the survey and the clerk said there was an email that a collective response could be sent to. Cllr Calver said this has worked elsewhere as they’re larger sites. It was proposed that a submission is made that HTC believes it’s in interests of the residents to return to the old system as the new one is having a negative impact on the Harwich Peninsula. It was referenced that a few members individually felt the new system worked well. RESOLVED: To submit a response to the consultation.</p>
094/23	<p><u>REQUEST FOR USE OF ARCHIVED MATERIALS</u> Members considered a request from Mr Richard Pugh on behalf of the Harwich Museum, to take into custody 22 portraits of former mayors, which are currently stored at the Guildhall, for the purposes of cleaning, repairing and conserving. All the portraits are owned by the mayors themselves or their families and not Harwich Town Council, although it would be preferable for them to be on displayed and not remain in storage.</p>

	<p>RESOLVED: To grant the request on the basis that the portraits are considered on permanent loan and may be recalled at any time should they need to be re-homed with the respective family and that an A4 copy is supplied to the Council archives.</p>
095/23	<p><u>KEY PRIORITIES</u> Members discussed what projects they would like to prioritise for delivery during 2024/25. It was suggested the allotments is retained and the provision of CCTV at the skatepark is added. RESOLVED: To approve the Key Priorities for 2024/25 in Appendix A.</p>
096/23	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Morrison attended a meeting of the Ark Centre and reported they're in financial difficulty and struggling to find sufficient funding. They do so much in addition to their core activity (nursery) which requires extra funding. They're the only place in Essex that provides counselling services for children as young as 5 years old. They have a new Business Manager in post who is working hard to source and secure pots of funding and Cllr Morrison has put the Business Manager in touch with Ian Davidson at TDC, who has subsequently identified potential sources of financial aid. • Cllr McLeod attended a TDALC meeting and said relayed concerns about the 'pylons' project and the A120 being closed, which creates additional burden through the neighbouring villages. • Cllr Wade attended some RNA meetings and reported they're well represented and they partake in remembrance services and have a full program of events going through to 2024. • Cllr Jo Henderson attended a Teen Talk meeting and reported they're currently stable financially but it can't be taken for granted as the funding doesn't always come in when needed which can lead to staffing retention issues. They've re-branded slightly since covid but are short of trustees. • Cllr I Henderson attended the Port Liaison meeting and reported no cruise ships booked for 2024. Birth 1 is out of action due to structural problems. Birth 3 is also out of action as a result of damage following a collision with a ship some time back but there are implications in replacing this as it would need updating. Dutch growers have reported being affected by increasing fuel costs but there are healthy passenger numbers (foot and car) as well as an improved passenger lounge and car area. There are fuel saving initiatives for ships including painting the hull, which can make it more streamlined and burn less fuel as new taxes will be imposed to encourage greener measures. Diesel tugs will be switched to electric and solar. There are apprenticeships being offered with Colchester Institute and staff training for the new exit bays.
097/23	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES</u> Members received the Minutes of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance & General Purposes Committee – 28th September 2023 <p>Members also ratified a recommendation by the committee to adopt an Investment Strategy for the council and make investments as follows:</p> <p>Add £30k to NS&I bonds and open up a CCLA Public Services Deposit Fund and deposit £100k.</p>

	<p>Members also ratified recommendations of the committee in terms of grant funding to:</p> <p>Harwich & Dovercourt Rugby Club (£1635)</p> <p>Harwich Quay New Years Eve Fireworks (£2500)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment & Community Committee – 10th October 2023
098/23	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
099/23	<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. The clerk informed members that confirmation had now been received from TDC of their intention to part fund the Harwich-based PCSO from September 2023 – March 2024. <p>The clerk agreed to ask the PCSO what the incidences were in relation to the nuisance watercraft.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no Harwich Festival report. • Members considered a request from the Rural Services Network to join the Rural/Market Towns Group and take advantage of their services for a period of up to 6 months, ending February 2024 at no cost or ongoing commitment to the council. Cllr Calver didn't feel there would be a benefit to the parish and members agreed not to proceed with the service.
100/23	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Thursday 30th November 2023 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE