

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
 Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, Essex CO12 3DS  
 Tel: 01255 507211  
 email: [info@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@harwichtowncouncil.co.uk)

**MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
 held on  
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm**  
 at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**

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

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Question asked reference Item 8, for the committee to consider litter picking along the promenade just below Queen Victoria Statue. Since new benches have been placed, more litter seems to be prevalent. Cllr. Fowler advised that Environmental Servies should be informed reference any pest concerns. Second question reference item 9, whether a Biodiversity Policy allows for considering planning applications, for example to appreciate danger to wildlife and loss of habitat of West End Lane planning applications for a new caravan park. Cllr Fowler advised this would be relevant to specific planning applications for discussion by the HTC Planning Committee.

<b>E31/23</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> Cllrs Armstrong, McLeod and Morrison.
<b>E32/23</b>	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u></b> None
<b>E33/23</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2023 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
<b>E34/23</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> • <b>E26/23</b> – Clerk informed members that HTC are now members of the Wilder Town Initiative and there is an initial online meeting with the Wilder Communities Manager on 7 <sup>th</sup> February which all members of the committee are invited to and encouraged to attend.
<b>E35/23</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b> Cllr Wade expressed Cllr I Henderson (Essex County Council) had previously informed members about Low Road speed awareness scheme. Recent data capture equipment seemed to have been placed before the chicane which could affect results given drivers would naturally slow down to approach this area of the road.
<b>E36/23</b>	<b><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></b> Members were informed that on this occasion there was no horticultural report to present.

<b>E37/23</b>	<b><u>LHP PANEL</u></b> None
<b>E38/23</b>	<b><u>LITTER PICKING INITIATIVE</u></b> Members discussed future litter picking possibilities. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To instruct the clerk to gauge availability of HTC members for the next litter pick, considering the location advised in Public Question Time.
<b>E39/23</b>	<b><u>BIODIVERSITY POLICY</u></b> Members were informed by the clerk of new Government guidance pertaining to Local Authorities adopting a Biodiversity Policy and options explained how the council can be more biodiversity aware. Members considered and <b>RESOLVED</b> for clerk to create draft Biodiversity policy in consultation with guidance received, with a view to being adopted by the Full Council at their next meeting.
<b>E40/23</b>	<b><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b> None
<b>E41/23</b>	<b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at <b>7.00pm, on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</b>

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 7.17pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**