

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES
of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Wednesday 17th July 2024 at 7.15pm

Present:	Councillors Calver, Chable, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, Powell, Richardson, Smith, Todd and Wade
In the Chair:	Councillor P Morrison
Clerk:	Ms Lucy Ballard
Also present:	3 members of the public, 1 member of the press and the Revd. Kirsty Emerson

Prayers were taken prior to the meeting.

035/24	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllrs Davidson, Fay, McLeod and Saunders Absent – Cllr Armstrong
036/24	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
	The chairman informed members that item 3 would be deferred due to the unavailability of a representative of Grassroots. The presentation will be rearranged for another date.
037/24	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> A resident of Dovercourt Bay Ward referred to Item 15 on the agenda and asked how residents could get to see the PCSO reports which are provided to the council. Cllr Morrison said she would find out if these can be shared. The same resident was pleased to see on the agenda the banking hub and asked if HTC would be taking the active lead in trying to get a banking hub set up or will it be TDC or another authority. Cllr Calver said answering that would pre-empt the decision to be made later in the meeting. Cllr I Henderson provided a bit of information on banking hubs. The same resident asked when the HTC website would be updated to reflect the new mayor? The clerk agreed to address this. A resident of West Street raised concern over the increase in fly tipping and extra waste which had accumulated in Chapel Lane. It's worsened in the last 6 months and the pile of rubbish is being added to throughout the week.

	<p>There's a mixture of general rubbish and builders' rubbish at present. TDC has collected previously when requested and the resident has been liaising with Darren Wells (Community Ambassador). A warning sign is to be erected and CCTV has been talked about. There is concern that it does little to attract visitors to the town.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson asked for copies of correspondence and agreed to take it up with TDC.</p> <p>Cllr Todd has been to the site with the Estate Supervisor and photos have been taken. Both he and the clerk have made separate reports to TDC.</p> <p>Cllr Powell is experiencing similar problems around Bathside.</p>
038/24	<p><u>MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS</u></p> <p>Members acknowledged a list of recent engagements attended by Cllr Morrison.</p> <p>The mayor also attended the Carless 60th anniversary event, along with the High Steward and Cllr Powell.</p>
039/24	<p><u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 4th June 2024 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.</p>
040/24	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 018/24 – The clerk reported that there had been no reply from Steve Thulborn at National Highways following a letter sent in relation to works to and funding for the A120. She will continue to chase a reply. • MIN 028/23 – The clerk confirmed that the bureau and swivel chair had been gifted to the Harwich Museum but that the Aldermans chairs and chiffoniere were proving harder to dispose of. The Estate Supervisor is in talks with an auctioneer over the chiffonier, but this would require transporting the item to Colchester. The Aldermans chairs have been advertised for free taking but having received no interest, these will need disposing of at the local refuse centre and the Estate Supervisor will endeavour to do this.
041/24	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 071/23 – It was confirmed the Dementia Fundraiser walk is scheduled for Saturday 21st September. The route would be commencing from the Leading Lights to Low Lighthouse and back again. The working party will be meeting again to discuss volunteers and marshalling. The clerk agreed to circulate the link to register for the event and informed members that TDC is yet to approve the application for use of the promenade. • MIN 167/23 – It was confirmed that all local schools requested a framed print of the D-day 80 Proclamation and the total cost for 8x framed prints was £57.48. • MIN 172/23 – It was confirmed that a response is still awaited from Historic England following a request for the former Train Ferry Gantry to be added to the 'Heritage At Risk' programme. • MIN 129/23 – Cllr Fowler confirmed that in relation to the TDFC, she was the lead of the sub-group (i.e. 'Hosts') but due to family commitments, she will be stepping down from the role. She has spoken with Cllrs Saunders and Todd

	<p>who have both agreed to take over and share this role going forward. There is a meeting next week for hosts, the details of which will be forwarded on.</p>
042/24	<p><u>TSB AND HALIFAX CLOSURES</u></p> <p>Members discussed the imminent closures of the Harwich branch of Halifax and TSB and what measures could be explored to maintain local services.</p> <p>Cllr I Henderson referred to the existence of banking ‘hubs’ which isn’t necessarily a straight-forward process but if there is a way of retaining some sort of provision locally, this should be pursued. He proposes we write to the Chief Executives of both Halifax and TSB as well as Barclays and Santander and request they work with whoever they need to, in order to set up a banking hub locally and support loyal customers in the town, stressing they have a responsibility to their customers.</p> <p>A number of members raised their concerns regarding the loss of staff, loss of cash machines, the ability or desire of customers to use technology/online banking or to travel out of town. The nearest TSB branch is Stowmarket and the nearest banking hub is in Dunmow.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To write to Halifax, TSB, Barclays and Santander about the provision of a banking hub.</p>
043/24	<p><u>VE-DAY 80</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members acknowledged receipt of information regarding the planned national celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of VE-Day on 8th May 2025. <p>RESOLVED: To proceed with commemorating the day.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: To disband the D-Day 80 Working Party and create a VE-Day Working Party to appoint the mayor, deputy mayor, chairs of committees and Cllrs Calver and Wade.</p>
044/24	<p><u>LOCAL POSTAL DELIVERIES</u></p> <p>Members discussed concerns over the declining delivery service in the Harwich area. Cllr Calver said our local ‘posties’ are brilliant, hardworking and dedicated but residents aren’t getting a good service. This has been going on for some time and is affecting 25% of residents in the constituency area. He referred to some published information from Royal Mail which shows they are aware of the problem and which is widespread across the country. Some deliveries have been reduced to once a week. He proposed we write to Bernard Jenkin MP and request that he intervenes. There are 4 questions we want answers to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the issues? 2. How have they developed? 3. What action is being taken to address them? 4. when is it expected that we will get a reasonable service once again? <p>Cllr Powell informed members that Royal Mail is ‘for sale’.</p> <p>Cllr Wade felt the issues have been increasing since Covid.</p> <p>Cllr Fowler said the problem is wider than the immediate parish and asked if Cllr Wade had received any communication from the MP. He said no.</p> <p>Cllr J Henderson read from the Conservatives website and that Sir Bernard is aware of the issue and has taken this up on behalf of the village of Aldham in Colchester, pushing OFCOM for them to investigate.</p>

	RESOLVED: To write to Bernard Jenkin MP
045/24	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Wade reported on the RBL who thanked the council for the Kings Portrait, which is hanging in their meeting room. The Poppy Appeal raised over £16k last year. • Cllr J Henderson attended a meeting of Teen Talk and reported they'd appointed 3 new trustees. They are currently assisting 115 young people and parents this year with 32 receiving weekly 1-1 sessions and 24 more on a waiting list. They have sessions during the holidays too and are providing workshops, so it's all very positive. • Cllr Todd was unable to attend the latest meeting of the MNWB but with their relocation back to Felixstowe, he may have to reconsider being the representative. • Cllr Richardson attended a meeting of the Tendring Older People's Forum, but upon arrival was informed it had been cancelled.
046/24	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES</u></p> <p>Members received the Minutes of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments Committee – 13th June 2024 • F&GP Committee – 18th June 2024 <p>Members considered a recommendation from the committee in respect of grant funding to The Harwich International Shanty Festival and RESOLVED: To award £3100</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E&C Committee -25th June 2024 • Extraordinary Allotments Committee – 1st July 2024
047/24	<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>
048/24	<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> • Members noted receipt of latest report from the Harwich Festival.
034/24	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Thursday 5th September 2024 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 8.28pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE