

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
 held at
The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich
 on **Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 7.00pm**

Present:	Councillors Brown, Calver, Day, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, King, McLeod, Morrison, Nicholson, C Powell, F Powell, Thompson and Thurlow
In the Chair:	Councillor Todd
Clerk:	Mrs Lucy Ballard
Also present:	3 members of the public, 1 member of the press and 2 representatives of Tendring District Council

128/14	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr Flavell
129/14	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
130/14	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> <p>Betty Holbrook referred to the recent forecast poor weather and the time it's taken (2 years) to arrange for HTC to have a new flood siren installed. She asked what progress had been made. Cllr Day said much work has been carried out but we've been frustrated by third parties due to the necessary processes and difficulties encountered with emergency planners. HTC have sought responses and a meeting is scheduled to be held within the next week to discuss. Scientific work has been completed and the budget has been set aside but the system has let us down. We'll be able to report back after the meeting. Cllr I Henderson said it's not for the want of trying. We've done a lot of work but we can't progress without those who are in charge (Environment Agency, fire authority, police and TDC) accepting it as part of an emergency warning system and giving their approval.</p> <p>Dr Rogers referred to the recent major disruption during scheduled road works which lead to diversions off the A120. A recent project expected to last 5 nights of work was terminated after 2 nights due to disruption to traffic in Mistly and then more recently through Ramsey. Local residents were inconvenienced. The diversions were authorised but the planners didn't consider the disruptions. He asked if HTC would consider and contribute to an update to the local emergency plan to include measures to minimise disruption due to local diversions when work is scheduled on the roads. Cllr Day said the Emergency Plan is for dire emergencies and doesn't think it's HTC's place to set this out. Cllr Calver</p>

	<p>agreed but said we could go about finding out who responsible for deciding what diversions are put in place and how they make their decisions. He asked if this could be placed on the Environment & Community (E&C) agenda to investigate. Cllr Nicholson said there's two elements – police for emergency response, and planned diversions which possibly are the responsibility of Essex County Council. The Chair of E&C agreed to take this to committee.</p>
131/14	<p><u>MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u></p> <p>The Mayor gave an account of some of his engagements since the last meeting, which included attending the Rotary Club concert, meeting and greet St Nicholas at Ha'Penny Pier and church service, Boxing Club tournament, Luney Club dinner/dance, opening of Dovercourt Bay Lifestyles, DTG production of Sleeping Beauty and HIP Stena Line reception on board 'Stena Hollandica'.</p>
132/14	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 3rd December 2014 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.</p>
133/14	<p><u>CREDIT UNION PROMOTION</u></p> <p>Lizzie Ridout and Keri Lawrence from Tendring District Council gave a presentation about the new Credit Union scheme and offered literature to members and the public to encourage membership and raise awareness of the scheme and seek new access points. In Feb 14, TDC agreed to support Credit Union in partnership with Job Centre Plus, including one at Harwich. The scheme addresses deprivation as it assists the most vulnerable members of the community. There is a £3 joining fee. Members can deposit regular sums of money (up to £10k) and earn interest, making funds available for those needing to take out loans at a low monthly cost (2%) which equates £13.47 per month on a £100 loan with no penalties for late payment. It's intended to stamp out the 'payday' lenders who charge extortionate rates. They confirmed only one loan can be taken out at any one time but the Colchester branch is flexible and takes each case on its merits. There is also a scheme for under 16s. Access points are staffed by volunteers and the space is provided for free. The scheme is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Currently Harwich take-up is only 4 members, with Manningtree with 26 members and Clacton with 24. They feel the location isn't suitable since the Job Centre is perhaps associated with a very specific function and they want a more amenable venue. They asked for suggestions for consideration. Cllr I Henderson suggested Connexions might be able to accommodate and the Clerk agreed to provide any contacts they may need. Cllr C Powell thought it was a wonderful organisation and did a great job. Cllr Todd hadn't heard of the scheme much previously and suggested the press are informed of the scheme in order to better publicise it. There was a press release before Christmas in the hope it would increase uptake. Cllr McLeod referred to a credit union launch some years back and it was well received and felt another launch may work.</p>
134/14	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min 116/14 – Members reviewed a response from Cllr Mick Page regarding a request to implement a 3-month trial of a parking dispensation in the Town Centre Car park. Cllr J Henderson expressed disappointment at the response and suggested more pressure is needed from the traders and members agreed to note the response.

135/14	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Min 89/14 – Members reviewed a response from Cllr Nick Turner regarding a request for plans on how TDC propose to tackle the increasing problem of dog fouling in the area. Cllr J Henderson referred to the Harwich Day of Action and thanked Cllrs Brown and Flavell for taking part. It was a positive day and the group spoke to 81 residents, with 84 cases of mess reported and handed out around 250 poo bags. The public were positive and glad measures were being taken. Cllr Henderson has spoken to Ian Taylor at TDC about better signage and he's agreed to look into it. And they've agreed to hold another Day of Action in the spring and suggested when the laws of no dogs on the beach are in force, when it's hoped for a better turnout. Cllr Henderson said people can report fouling anonymously rather than tackle people directly. Cllr Brown said the greensward behind Long Meadows was a bad area and said the notice was clear but there was a lot of mess right near the signage. He said the bins are cleared regularly but there's a lot of apathy surrounding this. Cllr Morrison said it was interesting as the majority of offenders are the early walkers (before 8am) and there's a pattern to the people who are out so likely to be the same offenders. She referred to an incident today when someone allowed their dog to foul. Cllr McLeod referred to the suggestion of 3 wardens when the scheme first started and said it's much harder with just 2 wardens so it's great they've extended the hours of patrol. Cllr Brown further referred to about 30+used bags which had been thrown into the hedges rather than using the dog bins. Cllr J Henderson said the district council would be phasing out the dog bins because bagged mess can go into general waste bins. She felt a relocation of bins may help also and is in talks with TDC about one in particular. Cllr Morrison said there is a bin near West End Lane but the surrounding groups is water logged and may be why people are not using it, but there are plenty of others. There is an issue with how to attach the posters. Cllr Todd felt that by prosecuting just one person would send a sharp message to other would-be offenders.
136/14	<p><u>CAPTAIN FRYATT</u></p> <p>Cllr Calver gave a brief background on Charles Fryatt, a former resident of Oakland Road in Dovercourt. HTC's archivists have researched the subject in great depth. On the day he declined to surrender and attempted to ram a U-Boat, another unarmed passenger ferry was sunk by a U-Boat. Later another U33 challenged an unarmed hospital ship and whilst allowing them 15 minutes to evacuate, they actually torpedoed the vessel after only 6 minutes. Fryatt's actions saved his entire crew. Capt. Fryatt is not only a local hero but a national hero, and at the end of WWII his body was returned in same vehicle as the Unknown Warrior. He was afforded a state funeral, attended by members of the monarchy. He was awarded the Belgian Insignia of the Order of Leopold and the Belgian Maritime Cross but was never honoured by his own country. He's not received true recognition. The Clerk read aloud the following proposal: Harwich Town Council requests that Captain Charles Fryatt be posthumously awarded the appropriate honour in recognition of his remarkable courage, gallantry and sacrifice which resulted in his execution by firing squad on 27th July 1916. In order to achieve this the Council requests that a document detailing his story be drawn up by the Council's honorary Archivists and that this be forwarded to Bernard Jenkin MPO to be pursued on the Council's behalf through the appropriate Government channels. RESOLVED: To accept the proposal.</p>

137/14	<p><u>2015/2016 BUDGET AND PRECEPT</u></p> <p>Members gave consideration to the estimates for income and expenditure for the 2015/16 financial year, taking into account any under/overspends, along with recommendations to earmark funds. Cllr Day confirmed there is no increase to the 'per property' cost.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the council precept on Tendring District Council for £162,645 (figure after LCTSS grant has been deducted) based on a summary of the detailed figures in Appendix A, having an impact of £32.02 per annum for a Band 'D' council tax payer based on a tax base of 5080 and representing a freeze on the 2014/15 cost.</p>
138/14	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 10th December 2014 (previously circulated) be received.</p>
139/14	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 16th December 2014 (previously circulated) be received.</p>
140/14	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to authorise payments as presented.</p>
141/14	<p><u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS.</u></p> <p>Cllr C Powell attended his first meeting of the Harwich Festival of the Artsas HTC representative. He reported a good start to this year's planning.</p> <p>Cllr McLeod reported on the Older Peoples Forum and said he'd accepted a request to act as Vice-Chair of the forum and said he could circulate the minutes if needed.</p>
142/14	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members considered a letter from a local resident in relation to measures needed to tidy up the town. Cllr Calver said it's ECC policy to remove trees from pavements. Cllr I Henderson said most matters referred to in the letter are the responsibility of TDC or ECC and members agreed for the Clerk to send an appropriate response. • Cllr Todd read aloud a letter received from Bernard Jenkin MP, regarding recent questions about the monitoring of sulphur content of fuel. He also read aloud a letter from the Rt. Hon. John Hayes who confirmed that sampling of fuel to test the sulphur content would be carried out by inspecting the vessel once in berth, but there were no plans to prevent ships from entering UK harbours if suspected of non-compliance, nor were there plans to introduce the use of drones to monitor this. He referred to the 37m Euros secured from EU grants to assist UK ports and ferry companies to install green technology and help towards the costs incurred in complying with the new regulations. Cllr Todd said that Stena Line haven't actually installed scrubbers but switched to marine gas oil and lengthened their sailing time to save fuel. Any increased costs will be passed onto the customer. Stena have received a grant from the EU and the Stena Germanica will shortly be converted to methanol and if successful the rest of the fleet will be converted. The Clerk agreed to distribute the correspondence

	received to all members.
143/14	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on 25th February 2015 at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
144/14	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS</u> Pursuant to Sub-Section 2 of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under-mentioned business: <u>Estates Supervisor</u> To confirm permanency of Estates Supervisor following period of probation.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.06pm.

CHAIRMAN

DATE