

MINUTES of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL held at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich on Wednesday 23rd November 2011 commencing at 7.15 pm

Present: Councillors C Callender, R Callender, Calver, Day, Double, Flavell, Gibbins, I Henderson, J Henderson, King, McLeod, Thompson, Thurlow and Todd

In the Chair: Councillor B Brown

Clerk: Mrs L Ballard

Also present: 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Major George Warren who attended in place of Rev. Mann.

Prayers were said by Major Warren.

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The Chairman informed members of an emergency item to be added to the agenda under item 19 due to the timeframes given for a response.

97/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr O'Neill.

98/11 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None.

99/11 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

100/11 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave an account of some of the 31 engagements attended since the last meeting, including the inaugural Sausage Throwing Competition, FAME's production of high School Musical, the Guy Carnival, HIYA AGM and a visit from the Blackeberg Gymnasium students.

101/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 12th October 2011 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

102/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Further to Minute 80/11 Cllr Calver commented on a response from Peter Martin, Leader of ECC in relation to the additional resources required to place parking cones in Kingsway on Market days. **RESOLVED:** to write to Peter Martin requesting an explanation now be given and ask the reason for his previous response, copying to Bernard Jenkin MP.
- Further to Minute 84/11 Cllr Calver commented on a response from the PCT in relation to weekend dispensary services in Harwich and Dovercourt. **RESOLVED:** to write to PCT requesting they provide HTC with their

proposals for ensuring the need is met for an out of hours service, including Sundays.

- Further to Minute 87/11 members further discussed the removal of the Flood Siren. **RESOLVED:** to monitor the situation and await follow up from MP.
- Further to Minute 88/11 Cllr Flavell commented that the raised area at the Sailing Club had been further damaged and there appeared to have been no response from TDC to confirm their intentions for this. The Clerk confirmed that she was expecting to receive confirmation in due course.

103/11 STANDING ORDERS

Cllr Flavell reminded members about the recent changes to the public questions element of Council meetings due to the adoption of revised Standing Orders. He advised of the possible other forms of raising concerns with the Council but proposed a slight amendment to standing order 1f to allow flexibility, which was read by the Chairman. **RESOLVED:** to amend standing order 1f to read “Subject to standing order 1(e) above, a member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business of the Council and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. Questions to the Council can either be received by the Clerk prior to the publication of the agenda or in person at the meeting”.

104/11 FORMER STARLINGS SITE

Cllr Gibbins referred to a complaint received by a businesswoman in Dovercourt in relation to the condition of the former taxi premises/Queens Hotel.

RESOLVED: to invite the Chief Executive and Leader of TDC to brief HTC to brief on the current situation and plans for the site and to take any questions.

105/11 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL S106 AGREEMENTS

Cllr I Henderson referred to a recent press article in relation to the loss of some £700k of S106 monies by ECC due to not expending the money within the agreed timeframe.

RESOLVED: to write to Chief Executive of ECC and ask if any of the money had been designated for the Harwich area and if so, where and how much.

FURTHER RESOLVED: to ask ECC if any of the remaining £42m of S106 monies they hold are designated to the Harwich area on schools and highways and if so where and how much.

106/11 CCTV IN HARWICH AND DOVERCOURT

Cllr Calver put forward a motion for HTC to undertake to upgrade the existing CCTV coverage and fund the capital expenditure of the upgrade and provide an annual grant to support the enhanced system. Cllr Double provided information on the costs and Insp. Chris Willis and Leanne Thornton (TDC) informed members of the expected benefits and operational implications.

RESOLVED: unanimously to proceed with the upgrade.

107/11 BT KIOSK

The Clerk gave an update on initial efforts made to obtain quotes for necessary works to the recently acquired BT kiosk in Harwich. **RESOLVED:** to set up a working party consisting of the 4 East Ward councillors to move this forward and feedback at future meetings.

108/11 LIFEBELTS

Cllr Flavell reminded members of a previous incident in the waters off Harwich Quay earlier on 2011 and that only 1 lifebelt was currently placed,

near to the LV18. **RESOLVED:** to write to TDC and request 2 further lifebelts to be positioned on Harwich Quay; 1 by the Merchant Navy war memorial, the other further down by Trinity House.

109/11 PUBLIC CONDUCT AT COUNCIL MEETINGS/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Cllr King referred to a recent incident involving a member of the public at a Council meeting and asked that HTC reaffirm expectations of the public during Council meetings. **RESOLVED:** to display a notice in the Guildhall that harassment to members of Council and staff will not be tolerated and failure to comply may prevent members and staff carrying out their duties to a satisfactory level.

110/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 14 November 2011 (previously circulated) be received.

111/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST GUILDHALL COMMITTEE MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Guildhall Committee held on 7 November 2011 (previously circulated) be received.

112/11 ACCOUNTS

Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted.

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

113/11 BRIEF REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

- Cllr Flavell confirmed recent attendance of the Harwich Conservation Panel.
- Cllr Todd confirmed attendance at a meeting of the Merchant Navy Welfare Board and extended thanks for the use of the Guildhall Chamber to hold the meeting.
- Cllr Thompson confirmed attendance of a British Legion Committee meeting during which it was expressed that they felt unrecognised by HTC. He reported lack of membership and money.
- Cllr Brown reported on issues discussed at a recent meeting of the Petrochem Carless Environmental Liaison Group. Cllr Brown also reported, briefly, on issues discussed at the last meeting of the Crime Prevention Panel.
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114/11 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Members noted a request for use of images held in HTC archives for a book on the 1953 Floods. **RESOLVED:** to provide images and ask honorary archivists to assist where possible.
- The Chairman informed members of a period of consultation commencing in relation to ECC's Waste Development Document and that a response was required in readiness for the next meeting.
- Cllr J Henderson raised concerns over the worsening condition of Pound Farm building. **RESOLVED:** to write to Planning portfolio Holder to ask for his personal intervention.

115/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 4th January 2012 at The 1912 Centre, Cow Lane, Harwich, at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

116/11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Pursuant to Sub-section 2 of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the meeting was closed to members of the press and public for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

- Permanency of Clerk following probationary period
- To hear report from Chair of F&GP committee on period of lone working

The Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 8.50pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE