

**AT A MEETING of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
held at **1912 CENTRE, HARWICH, ESSEX**  
on **WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2008 at 7.25pm**

**PRESENT**

The Mayor Councillor D McLeod in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor Councillor D Rutson

Councillors:

B Brown  
J Brown  
S Tyrer  
L Double  
B Howlett  
G Calver  
P Burke  
L Payne  
R Callender until 8.15 pm  
J Wares  
S Henderson

Clerk to the Council Mrs E Novorol

Also present were one member of the press and two members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gardner, Morrison and Colbourne

**149/07 REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A representative of Parkeston Welfare Park requested that Harwich Town Council reconsider its request for the return of grant funding as surplus to the project's needs. Members advised that this was not possible as a resolution had been passed to request the grant's return and a cheque for £500 was handed to the Clerk.

**150/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor J Brown declared an interest in the item regarding the Parkeston Welfare Park and Councillor Calver declared a personal interest in E62/07 and item 16 of the Full Council agenda and a prejudicial interest in E56/07 and item 13 of the Full Council agenda.

**151/07 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor gave details of engagements undertaken since the last meeting including the visit of Dutch councillors and business representatives and the opening of the new Teen Talk (Harwich) centre in Clacton.

**152/07 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

<b>153/07</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER REPORT REGARDING REQUEST TO ABOLISH HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL</b>	Councillor Calver raised concerns regarding a newspaper report of Councillor Callender's comments that Harwich Town Council should be abolished. Subject to the Local Government Act 1972 and supporting case law, a council cannot lawfully decide any matter not specified on the agenda. The Chairman agreed to take the item and members discussed many of the duties and responsibilities carried out by Harwich Town Council. Councillor Callender was invited to comment and advised members that he had spoken in the heat of the moment and apologised for his comments. Councillor Callender then left the meeting (8.15pm).
<b>154/07</b>	<b>HARWICH AND MANNINGTREE STANDARD</b>	Further to minute 136/07, an email from the editor of the Harwich and Manningtree Standard, advising that reporters' notes are never disclosed to third parties, was noted.
<b>155/07</b>	<b>ESSEX AREA FORUMS</b>	Reference minute 147/07, members discussed the importance of representation at Essex Area Forums and it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the Clerk to the Council will attend future meetings.
<b>156/07</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE</b>	Councillor D Rutson presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2008. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the minutes be adopted.
<b>157/07</b>	<b>HILL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	Councillor Henderson presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2008. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the minutes be adopted.
<b>158/07</b>	<b>FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE</b>	Councillor Wares presented the minutes of the meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2008. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the minutes and all recommendations, including disbanding the Hill School committee and referring its matters to this committee, be adopted.
<b>159/07</b>	<b>HORSLEY CROSS DEVELOPMENT</b>	Members considered the Public Inquiry regarding application 06/00891/OUT, commencing on 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2008. Councillor Double advised that he will be attending. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that Councillor Henderson, as representative of Harwich Town Council, will also attend
<b>160/07</b>	<b>THE HARWICH SOCIETY</b>	A request to use the Mayflower Avenue access to the Redoubt on 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2008 was considered. <b>RESOLVED:</b> to agree to the request.

<b>161/07</b>	<b>BRIEF REPORTS OF MEMBERS</b>	Councillor Howlett advised members of the current situation regarding Teen Talk (Harwich) and the successful fund-raising of the organisers. <b>RESOLVED:</b> to write to Teen Talk (Harwich) and congratulate them on this achievement and assure them of the continued support of Harwich Town Council.
<b>162/07</b>	<b>450<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF VISIT TO HARWICH BY QUEEN ELIZABETH I</b>	Councillor Calver advised the meeting that 2011 will mark the 450 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the visit to Harwich by Queen Elizabeth I. <b>RESOLVED:</b> that a working party, consisting of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Chairman of the Guildhall Committee and Councillor Calver is established to arrange commemoration of the occasion.
<b>163/07</b>	<b>ESSEX TOURISM AND LEISURE ASSOCIATION</b>	Councillor Payne advised councillors of the benefits of becoming a member of the Essex Tourism and Leisure Association to promote tourism throughout Harwich. <b>RESOLVED:</b> to refer the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.
<b>164/07</b>	<b>LAND TO THE REAR OF THE HILL SCHOOL SITE</b>	Councillor Calver request that the Council consider possible access onto land to the rear of the Hill School site for the Harwich Detached Team c/o Vibe Youth Club. <b>RESOLVED:</b> to refer the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and to investigate if the land can be used as a short-term solution for Vibe and to further investigate whether the land can be used as a play area.
<b>165/07</b>	<b>LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT PROJECT</b>	Councillors considered the information regarding Local Area Agreement Priority 12 – Cleaner Streets. Members noted that this is a proposal only and would include all of East Ward, Harwich. Councillor Payne advised that it will be an active programme which can be amended as it progresses.
<b>166/07</b>	<b>NEWSLETTER</b>	Members considered the example of the proposed newsletter and the costings provided by the Clerk. <b>RESOLVED:</b> for the Clerk, together with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to go ahead with production and distribution of the newsletter.
<b>167/07</b>	<b>FINANCIAL UPDATE</b>	Payments and receipts, current balances, financial activity against budgets and earmarked funds were noted. <b>RESOLVED:</b> to authorise payments as listed.

**168/07 RELOCATION OF THE FOOTBALL CLUB** Councillors noted a letter from a local resident advising of concerns regarding the possible relocation of Harwich and Parkeston Football Club. Members considered that there are no plans for this at present but that Harwich Town Council would expect to comment should such a planning application be submitted.

**169/07 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS** **RESOLVED:** that pursuant to Section 1 of Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, the meeting is closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under-mentioned business.

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

**TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**