

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk: Susan Anderson
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 9th DECEMBER 2009 at 7.25pm at THE 1912 CENTRE, COW LANE, HARWICH

Present: The Mayor, Councillor J Wares, in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor, Councillor S Tyrer
Councillors B Brown, J Brown, G Calver, A Colbourne, L Double,
M Gardner, B Howlett, D McLeod, A Morrison from 7.40pm, L Payne
and D Rutson

Clerk to the Council, Mrs S Anderson

Also present: Inspector K Griggs (Harwich Police Force), Mr Ian Taylor TDC,
1 member of the press and 7 member's of the public.

After prayers were said, Reverend E Lammens informed the Council that he would be moving to Wivenhoe in the early part of next year.

107/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Burke, R Callender and S Henderson.

108/09 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor J Brown declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 16 if the Skating Rink was discussed. Councillor's A Colbourne, D McLeod, D Rutson and J Wares declared a personal interest in Item 8.

109/09 MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor gave details of engagements she has recently undertaken including attending the FAME Theatre production of "Guys and Dolls" which was an excellent evening and also gave a special mention of the annual visit of Saint Nicholas to Harwich. The Mayor made a presentation to Reverend Lammens and thanked him, on behalf of the Council, for all his good work over the last five years, wishing him good luck with his new position in Wivenhoe.

110/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 28th October 2009 (previously circulated) be approved by the Chairman and signed as a true record.

111/09 HARWICH MASTER PLAN

Further to Minute 94/09, a member asked the Clerk if a response had been received from Councillor N Stock of Tendring District Council inviting him attend a future Council Meeting to discuss the Harwich Master Plan.

As no response has been received, the Council **RESOLVED:** to write to Councillor Stock inviting him to attend a meeting of Harwich Town Council.

112/09 REQUEST FOR A PUBLIC APOLOGY

Councillor Calver informed members that at a Full Council meeting of Tendring District Council held on 1st December 2009, a public apology should be given to the people of Harwich and Dovercourt following a “hovel” reference made by Councillor Tanya Ferguson in her speech regarding a motion to spend £855,000 on refurbishing Dovercourt swimming pool.

RESOLVED: to write to Councillor T Ferguson requesting an immediate public apology.

113/09 GENERAL PRACTITIONERS’ PRESCRIPTIONS ON SUNDAYS

Further to Minute 90/09, a response received from Harmoni stated that doctors can provide medication over the weekend when local chemists were closed. **RESOLVED:** to write to Harmoni asking them to ensure that all GPs, if called out at the weekend, should provide medication if there is no chemist available

114/09 MEN’S HEALTH CLINIC AT THE FRYATT HOSPITAL, HARWICH

Further to Minute 91/09, the Clerk informed Council that Dr P Zollinger-Read had resigned his position as Chief Executive of North East Essex PCT. **RESOLVED:** to contact new Chief Executive and ask if he will honour the appointment to attend the next Full Council Meeting at 7.00pm on 27th January 2010.

115/09 DOVERCOURT LEISURE FACILITIES

Further to Minute 97/09, a letter received from Councillor S Mayzes, Cabinet Member for Leisure at Tendring District Council was noted.

116/09 WASTE BINS

A letter received from Mr A Nepean of Tendring District Council in response to a request for extra waste bins in the Dovercourt area was discussed.

RESOLVED: to write to Mr Nepean requesting the outcome of the survey be reported to Harwich Town Council.

117/09 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – INVESTMENT INTO HIGH STREETS

Further to Minute 99/09, Councillor Double expressed his disappointment that no response had been received from Lord Hanningfield regarding the invitation to attend the next Full Council Meeting to explain Essex County Councils policy on investment into High Streets.

118/09 LANDSLIP BETWEEN MANNINGTREE AND HARWICH RAILWAY

Further to Minute 103/09, Councillor Morrison requested a further letter be sent to Network Rail as no response had been received. **RESOLVED:** to write to Network Rail regarding the disruption and inconvenience to commuters.

119/09 POLICING IN HARWICH

Inspector K Griggs of Harwich Police gave an in-depth report on policing in Harwich and confirmed that as from 7th December 2009 Harwich was in receipt of 24 hour police coverage.

Inspector Griggs agreed to address the council on a quarterly basis.

A member raised concerns over three bus shelters that had been smashed in Dovercourt and Parkeston. **RESOLVED:** to write to Essex County Council requesting vandal proof material be used for bus shelters.

120/09 CONSIDERATE PARKING INITIATIVE

Mr Ian Taylor of Tendring District Council informed the Council of the “Considerate Parking Initiative” currently used successfully in Brightlingsea. The Council welcomed the proposal and **RESOLVED:** to adopt the scheme and the item be placed on the agenda of the next Environment and Highways Committee meeting. It was agreed that after a trial period of 6 to 12 months, the scheme be reviewed and reported back to Council.

121/09 HOOK OF HOLLAND VISIT

Councillor J Brown raised concerns regarding a private and confidential report that had been leaked to the local press which was handed out in Part ‘B’ (exclusion of public and press) at the last Council meeting.

Councillor Double confirmed that the report contained recorded facts and recommendations for consideration by Harwich Town Council.

Councillor Calver stated that the report fully exonerated the late Clerk, Elaine Novorol.

RESOLVED: to adopt the recommendation within the report and the matter be referred to the Monitoring Office at TDC for further investigation.

122/09 450th ANNIVERSARY OF THE VISIT TO HARWICH BY QUEEN ELIZABETH I

Further to Minute 67/09, Councillor Calver requested the current working party should be disbanded as little response has been received from outside organisations and it appears there is no support in the town for this celebration. Councillor Calver suggested that a working party could be set up nearer the time, if required.

123/09 HARWICH TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Councillor Double left the room at 9.05 pm, whilst the application for £5000 extra grant funding for Harwich Tourist Information Centre, was discussed.

RESOLVED: to support the application and grant s.137 funding of £5000 on condition: a) to see a breakdown of expenditure, as normal procedure, and b) if funding support is not received from Essex County Council and

Tendring District Council then the grant request will be withdrawn, and c) that future funding be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

124/09 TENDRING COAST & COUNTRYSIDE VISITOR GUIDE 2010

The Clerk informed members that the back cover of the Tendring Coast & Countryside Visitor Guide was no longer available to place the advertisement of Harwich Town Council. **RESOLVED:** to place the advertisement on the inside page at a cost of £815.00 plus VAT.

125/09 HARWICH INTERNATIONAL PORT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The Council had been made aware of a vacancy on Harwich International Port Liaison Committee and endorsed the recommendation of the previous full council that Councillor Double be appointed as a representative for Harwich Town Council.

Councillor Rutson left the meeting at 9.35pm.

126/09 MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Councillor Tyrer presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd November 2009 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

127/09 MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Councillor Colbourne presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2009 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes be adopted.

128/09 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Councillor Double presented the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th November 2009 (previously circulated).

RESOLVED: that the minutes and all recommendations, be adopted.

129/09 DOVERCOURT LEISURE FACILITIES

Councillor McLeod reported the need to repair and maintain the crazy golf equipment. **RESOLVED:** to request Tendring District Council to inspect the equipment and carry out any necessary repairs.

130/09 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED: to authorise payments as listed Appendix A.

131/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Wednesday 27th January 2010 at The 1912 Centre, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50pm

TOWN MAYOR AND CHAIRMAN

DATE