

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL
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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE
 held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
 on
Wednesday 20th May 2014 at 7.00pm

Present:	Councillors Brown, I Henderson, F Powell, Flavell, King, and Todd
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	Horticultural Adviser Paul Preece and Barrie Cocker from Tendring CAMRA No members of the public or press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E01/14	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies were received from the Horticultural Adviser Chris Greenfield and Councillors Day, Thompson, McLeod and I Henderson.
E02/14	<u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR</u> RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr I Henderson as Vice-Chair of the Environment & Community Committee.
E03/14	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> None
E04/14	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 12 th March 2014 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E05/14	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> E62/13 – Community Notice Board . Area is being assessed by TDC now that BT has completed the installation of the communication box. E75/13 – Trinity House Car Park - Trinity House have confirmed that they do not have the resources to manage the operation of a public car park, but suggest that the local event organisers contact them directly to discuss the possibility of utilising their facilities. The relevant organisations have been made aware.
E06/14	<u>TREE PLANTING & OUTDOOR SPACES</u> Paul Preece highlighted the issues of replacing the tree in St Austins Lane Car Park and recommended requesting TDC to replace it in the original position or elsewhere in the car park. Due to the delay with resolving this matter, Paul has agreed with Mr Mills to plant the tree already purchased for the replacement in the shrubbery at the entrance to Wellington Road Car Park. RESOLVED: Not to request TDC to plant any further in this location, however, to enquire whether TDC would provide two replacement trees.

	<p>Mr Preece confirmed that the hebes have been planted and all trees recently planted are doing well except one situated on the sea front which TDC are considering replacing. There are issues with Brown Tail caterpillar in the Parish which TDC are dealing with. Paul has confirmed that he will work with Chris Greenfield to produce planting recommendations to commemorate World War I.</p> <p>Councillor Brown made a request for the Horticultural Advisers report to be available prior to any future meetings in order to give due consideration to any recommendations made.</p> <p>Councillor Flavell asked if a new tree by the bench at Cox Pond could be considered as part of the next planting scheme.</p>
E07/14	<p><u>ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE</u></p> <p>Barrie Coker, Tendring CAMRA Pub Preservation Officer, asked members to consider nominating The Trafalgar Public House as an asset of community value in order to give the local communities the opportunity to retain their pub if, as a result of being for sale, it is in danger of closing. Members debated the advantages along with any disadvantages and guidance for the process. Mr Coker confirmed that he happy to assist the Clerk with the process should HTC wish to proceed with nominating.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To nominate the Trafalgar Public House as an asset of community value. Decision to be ratified at Full Council.</p>
E08/14	<p><u>PUTTING GREEN</u></p> <p>Approximate costs for the wish list have been received from TDC and David Hall has now been requested to provide firm costings and the exact amount of S106 funding in terms of where each amount has originated from and for what purpose or purposes it may be used for. A suggestion for a promotion has been passed to the Clerk to be discussed at the next F&GP Committee.</p> <p>Essex Parking Partnership have confirmed that waiting restrictions can only be rescinded, dependent on them passing public consultation, the necessary legal process and having sufficient budget which is complex and time consuming. In order to progress HTC request, a formal application for a new traffic regulation order will need to be submitted.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to request a letter of support from TDC and Essex Highways. Once received, a formal application is to be submitted to Essex Parking Partnership.</p>
E09/14	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>The Clerk provided an update on Councillor I Henderson's behalf confirming that the next LHP was due to take place on 12th June 2014. A new recommendation will be made by Harwich Primary School due to speeding traffic on the junction by their school and Cllr Henderson is due to meet engineers on 27th May to progress improvements to the blue roundabout.</p>
E10/14	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Members of the working party agreed that HTC would play a support role and aid the emergency services and District Council with disseminating information to the local community. A review of TDC Risk Table was undertaken and additional risks added. The working party are now collating suggested contacts for key locations for use as places of safety, community organisations that may be helpful in identifying vulnerable people and any local skills and resources i.e. trained first aiders, food/water supply etc. It was agreed to invite Damian Williams from TDC to the next meeting.</p>
E11/14	<p><u>CYCLING IN HARWICH & DOVERCOURT</u></p> <p>Continuing with the success of Tour de Tendring, the launch of Harwich Festival of the Arts and the Women's Cycle event, Councillor D Flavell has consulted with local bike users to gain feedback to improve and encourage cycling in our area. Broken glass on the cycle route through Cliff Park was raised along with the lack of places in the Town Centre to secure bikes.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to TDC to highlight the issue and request a thorough clean of the cycle route is undertaken. Councillor Flavell to work with the Clerk to identify 3 locations in the Town for cycle racks.</p>

	FURTHER RESOVED: £300 from the Environment Projects budget to be set aside for the cost of purchase and installation.
E12/14	<u>COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH</u> Following a review of the information provided by the local police, Members showed support in running such a scheme but raised concerns with gaining the required number of volunteers and noted that the local residents association and police had been unsuccessful in securing a team of volunteers RESOLVED: No further action at this time.
E13/14	<u>PROPOSAL FOR BUOY AT GAS HOUSE CREEK</u> Planning Services are processing the planning application and have subsequently requested a flood risk assessment and wind survey to be carried out. An application for advertising consent has been submitted following recommendations made by TDC. All three requirements are now being given consideration by TDC and the relevant consultees, however Trinity House have now provided details of an additional structure to be installed on top of the buoy. HTC is awaiting revised drawings which will then be submitted to TDC so that the consultation process can be carried out again. A request for an extension of time has been submitted in order to accommodate the above.
E14/14	<u>REVIEW AND PRIORITISE OUTSTADING PROJECTS FROM THE CLERKS REPORT</u> Members undertook a review of the clerk's report and outstanding projects grading each project to highlight those of priority.
E15/14	<u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u> None
E16/14	<u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich on 15th July 2014 at 7pm .

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.42pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE