

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 26th April 2017

Present:	Councillors Urwin, J Brown, I Henderson, F Powell, C Powell, Smith and Fay
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Mrs Michelle Townsend
Also present:	No members of the public and no press Cheryl Thompson – Horticultural Adviser

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Miss Thompson asked the council to consider displaying a copy of HTC's emergency z-card in all community notice boards. Councillor C Powell confirmed that posters have been displayed promoting the z-cards and gives details of where any new residents to the area can collect a copy from.

E64/16	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Councillors Morrison and Ashley
E65/16	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> Cllr I Henderson – Member of the Essex Local Highways Panel Cllr Fowler – Harwich Society Trustee (reference to item 10)
E66/16	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED that the minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 23 rd February 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record. FURTHER RESOLVED that the confidential minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 23 rd February 2017 (previously circulated) be approved by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
E67/16	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> E59/16 – Local Highways Panel – Report has been submitted to the LHP to request the installation of a zebra crossing - Parkeston Road
E68/16	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u> RESOLVED: to extend a further invite to Cath Bicknell to attend a future meeting of the E&C committee.

E69/16	<p><u>TREE PLANTING & OUTDOOR SPACES</u></p> <p>The report from the Horticultural Adviser detailed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Newly planted hedging by the Putting Green is growing well. Leisure Attendants have agreed to water regularly when they are on duty. Possibly 3 are not growing too well. •The owners of Old Bank Studio in Kings Quay Street have kindly agreed to take on responsibility for watering the newly replaced trees nearby. •Cheryl Thompson has been watering the newly planted replacement trees in Harbour Crescent and they are surviving and starting to blossom. •The Flood Memorial boat is just about hanging together. Cheryl Thompson has replanted a few spring plants and used some of the money lodged with HCPS to buy some geraniums to plant for the summer. •Cheryl raised concerns over the number of unkempt areas and flower beds which have not been weeded. Cllr Ivan Henderson agreed to report her concerns to TDC and enquire whether the Rangers would be able to undertake. Cheryl agreed to e-mail Trevor Mills and ask him to weed kill 3 weeks before Secret Gardens which is taking place on 15th and 16th July 2017. •Tree by the low light house/playpark is dead. <p>Mark Stanford reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The damaged trees opposite The Bank have now been replaced. •Trees on the A120 roundabout – one had blown over in the high winds. A group of volunteers have put back up and staked. •Secret Gardens and the Residents Association have placed bark around the trees planted last year on St Helens Green.
E70/16	<p><u>Emergency Guidelines Card</u></p> <p>The Chairman provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Z-cards have been printed and packaged with a launch letter •Press release for launch arranged for Friday 21st April 2017 •Delivery will be made by Royal Mail to local residents in CO12 3 and CO12 4 week commencing 24th April 2017 •Electronic version of the z-card will be available on HTC website week commencing 24th April 2017 •Additional costs which were noted: Increased cost of Door to Door delivery service – additional £1.87 – Royal Mail Collection cost – Royal Mail - £108.00 <p>Councillor C Powell made the committee aware that he had received complaints stating that the envelopes containing the z-cards were placed inside junk mail leaflets and that a handful of residents had therefore binned the correspondence from HTC.</p> <p>PROPOSED: Clerk to write to Royal Mail highlighting the council's concerns and the unacceptable delay with the collection.</p> <p>Councillor C Powell gave thanks to the staff and working party and the Chairman gave thanks to Councillor C Powell.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Catherine Boyer Besant to thank her for her time and input.</p>
E71/16	<p><u>LOCAL HIGHWAYS PANEL</u></p> <p>Councillor I Henderson provided the Chairman with the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Gateway Sign – Historic Harwich – Has been fully validated and is now awaiting panel consideration for funding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Blue Roundabout – The foundation design is complete and the road space and traffic management will be arranged. Costs have increased. Cllr I Henderson has asked for an additional £30k to cover the increased costs. •Gateway Sign – Historic Harwich – Agreed. •No Through Road Sign – King Georges Avenue – The replacement of the ‘no through road’ sign at the junction has been agreed. Similar signs have been requested to be added on to the road name plate. •Bus Stop Cage/Shelter – Main Road – This has been fully validated by the Passenger Transport Department and is awaiting panel consideration for funding. •Church Street Right of Way – Submitted and will be going through validation. •Parkeston Road – Both Chief Inspector Russ Cole and ECC School Crossing Patrol Services have written to the LHP expressing their concerns. <p>Williamsburg HGV Parking Restrictions – Measures already put in place are not working so stricter measures are being considered. The Port now offers parking for HGVs so there is no reason to park there.</p>
E72/16	<p><u>CONCRETE BUNKER IN CLIFF PARK</u></p> <p>Members agreed that suggested art work to be painted on the concrete bunker located in Cliff Park would be a welcomed improvement. The Chairman has spoken with Teen Talk who have confirmed that their Wildlife Projects Group would be interested in undertaking the work. Chairman has agreed to chase Teen Talk again.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Trevor Mills TDC stating that HTC welcome his suggested improvement and to forward contact details for Teen Talk.</p>
E73/16	<p><u>STATIC PLANTERS</u></p> <p>Members considered a request to install planters in Dovercourt and Harwich as part of Harwich in Bloom. Members welcomed this positive proposal which will enhance the appearance of the town. Members felt that should the Harwich Society decide to take this forward, funding for this project to purchase the planters, plants and regular watering, could form part of Harwich Society’s Harwich in Bloom grant application to the Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED: Clerk to write to Harwich Society advising them of the outcome and highlight actions which the Harwich Society may need to undertake.</p>
E74/16	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Councillor I Henderson - item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting – LHP referral – public footpath connecting Deanes Close to Long Meadows. •Chairman gave thanks to all members and clerk for their support and members reciprocated thanks to the Councillor Maria Fowler.
E75/16	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is at 7pm, on a date to be confirmed, at the Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich, CO12 3DS</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50 pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE