

**HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**  
 held on  
**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm**  
 at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich**

<b>Present:</b>	Councillors Davidson, Fay, Saunders, Smith and Wade
<b>In the Chair:</b>	Councillor Fowler
<b>Clerk:</b>	Ms L Ballard
<b>Also present:</b>	Horticultural Advisor Cheryl Thompson, Assistant Clerk Maree Ratcliffe, no members of the public and no members of the press

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** Horticultural Advisor, Cheryl, asked about Item 10 on the agenda (Suicide Prevention Signage) and whether there had been any suggested wording for the signs. Cllr Fowler said the item had been withdrawn and wouldn't be discussed.

<b>E36/24</b>	<b><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></b> Cllrs Armstrong, Morrison, McLeod and Todd
<b>E37/24</b>	<b><u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u></b> None
<b>E38/24</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>RESOLVED:</b> that the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
<b>E39/24</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></b> <b>MIN E29/24</b> – The Clerk confirmed that following contact with the Wilder Towns Initiative team, two dates had been suggested for a meeting and it was agreed to go with 7 <sup>th</sup> April and to open it up to all council members. The clerk confirmed members would be advised in due course as to whether this would be held in person or remotely. <b>MIN E32/24</b> – The Clerk confirmed the litter picking programme of CVST and Harwich Litter Pickers, who had suggested Bathside could be covered. Cllr Fowler suggested liaising with Cllr I Henderson as TDC ward councillor to agree on the location and date. All agreed.
<b>E40/24</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></b> None
<b>E41/24</b>	<b><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT</u></b> The Horticultural Advisor reported to members a number of matters including the newly planted Cliff Park trees, which appear to be doing well and are in early leaf bud with no vandalism; the trees at the bottom of The Drive which are also flourishing despite the watering bags having been removed; and the completion of the community gardening team project by the Pavillion Café, which was completed with the help of TDC who provided materials.

	<p>Mrs Thompson also reported evidence of rats along the path on the promenade by the Queen Victoria statue, which she feels is as a result of leftover food thrown under seats or left for the gulls. Cllr Fowler agreed to follow this up with Tendring District Ward Councillor, Ivan Henderson. She also reported a vandalised bench along the promenade and Cllr Fowler agreed to follow up on this also.</p>								
<b>E42/24</b>	<p><b><u>LHP PANEL</u></b> Nothing to report.</p>								
<b>E43/24</b>	<p><b><u>FAULTY STREETLIGHT, CHURCHYARD, ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH</u></b> Cllr Fowler briefed members on a faulty streetlight, which is within the curtilage of St. Nicholas Church, and which had previously been attended to by TDC, however subsequently it's been confirmed as falling under the responsibility of the church. It's very dark without the light and residents have raised concerns. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To write to the Reverend Canon Ian Smith and the Bishop of Chelmsford to request the light be fixed.</p>								
<b>E44/24</b>	<p><b><u>HARWICH TURNPIKE ROAD</u></b> Members considered a request from Phillip Cunningham of Manningtree Museum for general support in the acquisition of 3x replacement mile posts in Dovercourt. There is one near Gypsy Lane, one along Main Road and one in the town centre. Cllr Fay discussed how Ramsey and Parkeston Parish Council covered the cost of replacement milestones in that parish. The Clerk advised that in the first instance the Committee may simply want to consider supporting the project and referring the decision to take them as an asset, to Full Council. Members felt a presentation from the Manningtree Museum would be beneficial before a full commitment is given and this could be given to either this committee or to Full Council. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To offer general support and request a presentation at a meeting to be agreed with the chair of E&amp;C and Full Council.</p>								
<b>E45/24</b>	<p><b><u>SKATE PARK</u></b> Members considered commissioning a local graffiti artist to carry out an art project at the local skate park. Local artist Scott King spoke with the Assistant Clerk, who offered to carry out the works at no charge. The cost of materials is expected not to exceed £100. The clerk suggested that this could be an opportunity for engaging with either the school community or skate park and Cllr Fay thought it would be nice to have it completed in time for the Skatepark Jam in September. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To commission Scott King to carry out graffiti art project at the Skate Park, at a cost of £100, to be expended from the 25/26 Schemes and Projects budget.</p>								
<b>E46/24</b>	<p><b><u>BUDGET UPDATE</u></b> Members <b>noted</b> a budget update from the clerk in respect of financial activity during 2024/25.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Tree shrub and Planting Budget:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D-Day 80 Budget (to be renamed to VE DAY 80):</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£57.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schemes and Projects spend:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£909</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><b>TOTAL: £966.28</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Memorial Ear Marked Reserve: £0</p>	Tree shrub and Planting Budget:	£0	D-Day 80 Budget (to be renamed to VE DAY 80):	£57.28	Schemes and Projects spend:	£909		<b>TOTAL: £966.28</b>
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<b>E47/24</b>	<p><b><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN THE POST OR ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></b> None</p>								

<b>E4824</b>	<b><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></b> The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee will be held at <b>7.00pm</b> , on a <b>date TBC</b> at <b>The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</b>
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The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.36pm

**CHAIRMAN**

**DATE**

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