

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES

of the Meeting of HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

held at

The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich

on

Wednesday 16th July 2025 at 7.01pm

Present:	Councillors Calver, Chable, Davidson, Fay, Fowler, I Henderson, McLeod, Powell, Richardson, Smith, and Wade
In the Chair:	Councillor P Morrison
Clerk:	Ms M Ratcliffe
Also present:	Rev. Cannon Ian Smith and Phillip Cunningham, Manningtree Museum

Prayers were taken by the Rev. Canon Ian Smith.

035/25	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Cllr Armstrong, J Henderson, Saunders and Todd
036/25	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u> Cllr Morrison and Cllr Fay declared non-registrable interest in item 9 (Reception Expenses) and left the chamber during the discussion and vote. Cllr Fowler chaired the meeting for this item.
037/25	<u>MILE POSTS PRESENTATION</u> Members received a presentation from Philip Cunningham of Manningtree Museum in relation to the Harwich and Dovercourt Mile Posts, which need replacing. Phillip discussed the location of each post in Harwich and Dovercourt. It was discussed that if the Mile Posts were to be installed the locations would be as follows: Gypsy Lane would be next to the original stone mile post in the exact location. Permission required from Essex County Highways. Mile post near The Fryatt Hospital would be placed on private land near the hospital. Permission would be sought from the landowner. Mile post in Dovercourt town centre would be located at the front of the new car park in town. Permission required from Tendring District Council.
038/25	<u>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</u> None
039/25	<u>MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS</u> Members acknowledged a list of recent engagements attended by Cllr Morrison, which had been previously circulated.

	Cllr Fay, as Deputy Mayor, attended the opening of the Harwich Festival along with the Mayor's Consort on 19 th June 2025.
040/25	<u>MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u> RESOLVED: That the Minutes and Confidential Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 3 rd June 2025 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.
041/25	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIN 16/25 – Members discussed how to best support the work of the Alzheimer's Society and the Integrated Dementia Commission following a presentation from Mark Neville of the Alzheimer's Society. All agreed that no formal association was required and that the council would continue its work to raise awareness through events such as the Dementia Friendly Music & Memory sessions, fundraisers and signposting. • MIN 16/25 – Cllr Morrison provided an update to members following a meeting of the Dementia Fundraiser Working Party and approve activities and expenditure. She explained that a Memory Walk would be organised for Sunday 21st September at 10.00am from the Leading Lights to the Low Lighthouse and back again. Cllr Morrison informed members that Cllr Todd is looking into obtaining collection boxes for the day. RESOLVED: Councillors to support the work of the Working party and agreed to proceed with the memory walk on 21 st September 2025.
042/25	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> None
043/25	<u>RECEPTION EXPENSES</u> Cllr Fowler chaired the meeting for this agenda item Members considered the funding of refreshments when the council host a reception. The clerk confirmed that for some years, it has been custom that the council covers the cost of all refreshment for some events but for others, alcohol is not funded. RESOLVED: To agree for the council to fund all refreshment expenses, either from the Hospitality Budget or Mayor Making Budget, whichever is appropriate and, for the latter, where costs exceed the budget, the surplus will be funded by the mayor-elect. FURTHER RESOLVED: To retrospectively fund the unpaid refreshment expenses for Mayor Making 2025, to be expended from the Mayor Making budget.
044/25	<u>ARK FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE</u> Members considered a grant funding application for training costs to expand services. RESOLVED: To award a grant of £2529.60.
045/25	<u>BRIEF REPORTS BY MEMBERS APPOINTED TO OUTSIDE BODIES BY THE COUNCIL</u> Cllr Henderson declared an interest in this item. Cllr Powell updated members on Harwich Foot Ferry and the involvement with Freeport. The future of the ferry looks very certain, and discussions have taken place regarding the requirement for a bigger boat to increase its services. This

	will be dependent on what happens with devolution as the Suffolk border will want to invest.
046/25	<p><u>COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES</u></p> <p>Members received the Minutes of the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments Committee – 12th June 2025 • F&GP Committee – 17th June 2025 • E&C Committee – 1st July 2025 <p>Noted</p>
047/25	<p><u>ACCOUNTS</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: To receive the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).</p>
048/25	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN THE POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>The clerk briefed members on the PCSO provision within Harwich.</p>
049/25	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.</p>
050/25	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u></p> <p>Pursuant to Sub-Section 2 of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was RESOLVED: that the meeting is closed to the press and public for the transaction of the under-mentioned business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGPS ‘Access and Fairness’ Consultation

The Chairman closed the public part of the meeting at 7.58pm

CHAIRMAN

DATE