

HARWICH TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

held on

Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 7.00pm
at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich

Present:	Councillors Davidson, Fay, McLeod, Saunders Wade and Henderson (Substitute for Cllr Smith)
In the Chair:	Councillor Fowler
Clerk:	Ms Maree Ratcliffe
Also present:	Miss Yazmin Hornsby Fry – Administrative Assistant Horticultural Advisor - Cheryl Thompson 0 members of the public and no members of the press

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

E28/25	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies received from Cllrs Morrison, Smith and Armstrong
E29/25	<u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS</u> None.
E30/25	<u>LHP PANEL</u> Cllr Henderson provided a highways update to the committee. Highways panel funding Cllr Henderson informed members that there are no schemes this year due to delays and backlog of other schemes. They have been building up and the budget in place has been used up. The budget is committed to complete all the of the outstanding projects, however Highways will have to wait for the 2026/2027 budget to be approved which will be on 12 th February 2026. Member Highways Initiative Cllr Henderson informed members a programme of pothole repairs that need to be carried out as been submitted: Fronks Road – Main Road from the cemetery down to the Trafalgar Pub. Main Road on approach to Royal Oak Pub – Adjacent to the Mayflower School. Main Road – Zebra Crossing on approach to the Hospital Parkeston Road – Including the roundabout Fallowfield Close and Clarks Road – several potholes between Rose Gardens and Parkeston Road mini roundabout.

	<p>Vehicles Speeding</p> <p>Low Road – There have been three accidents on the same bend in the road all on the approach to the junction of Abbot Road, resulting in damage to the same property all occasions. This is a cause for concern and the residents are worried. There is a lot of speeding on Low Road and previous requests have been made to install a zebra crossing, however there isn't anywhere to place one.</p> <p>Cllr Wade said that there is a lot of speeding taking place along the seafront near the skating rink. He suggested that a 20-mph limit put in place.</p> <p>Cllr Fowler – agreed that an agenda item would be added to discuss speeding issues at the next meeting of the Environment and Community Committee taking place on 26th March 2026.</p> <p>Cllr Saunders requested for another pot hole to be put on the list for repair at the Manor Road / Fronks Road Junction.</p> <p>Cllr McLeod requested that white lines are to be placed on an area near the pharmacy at Tollgate, Dovercourt.</p> <p>Cllr Henderson requested that photographs need to be taken and submitted to him to progress the requests from Cllrs McLeod and Saunders.</p>
E31/25	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment & Community Committee meeting held on 8th October 2025 (previously circulated) be approved by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.</p>
E32/25	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>MIN E17/25 – To provide an update on faulty streetlight, St Nicholas Church. The Clerk informed members that the light had now been repaired.</p> <p>MIN E19/25 – The clerk reported that contact had been made with Open Space at TDC regarding the condition of the new trees in Cliff Park. A response was received which stated that the hydration bags will be removed and some mulching be provided during the winter period. Any trees that have sadly died will be replaced.</p> <p>MIN E22/25 –The Assistant Clerk updated members on progress of the three cast iron mile posts.</p> <p>Contact has been made with ECC and TDC requesting permission for the installation of the new mile posts and awaiting outcome.</p> <p>Contact still to be made with Community Health Partnerships Limited who own the land of the Fryatt Hospital.</p> <p>Payment has been made (£1575.00) and the design has been delivered to the pattern makers in Great Dunmow. They will be cast soon.</p>
E33/25	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</u></p> <p>None.</p>
E34/25	<p><u>HORTICULTURAL REPORT RECEIVED FROM CHERYL THOMPSON</u></p> <p>In the Autumn, a group of hardworking volunteers cleaned up and repainted the white stone shapes on the Cliff Slopes. They really stand out now.</p>

	<p>Towards the end of last year, Tendring District Council purchased a remote-controlled grass-cutter to cut the Cliff Slopes. It was brought on a trailer and three or four men operating it. The cutter caused a lot of upheaval on the grass with the result that there are now lots of bald areas. The strip at the top of the slopes near the railings is bare although the weeds are poking up now. Fortunately, they didn't mess up the recently painted shapes.</p> <p>Contact was made with Mike Carran and suggested it would be a good time to think about sowing some wild flower seeds. An email was received James Hill at Tendring District Council saying that they will be doing a trial seed sowing in the spring BUT it is only a trial.</p> <p>The Horticultural Adviser informed members that the trees in Cliff Park haven't been removed yet or mulched. It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk will contact Tendring District Council if they still haven't been removed and mulched when it was next inspected.</p>								
E35/25	<p><u>EMERGENCY PLANNING</u></p> <p>Members RESOLVED to appoint Cllrs Armstrong and Saunders to attend the Parish & Town Council Community Resilience Forums run by Tendring District Council for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.</p> <p>It was further resolved, should one, or both of the appointed representatives not be available to attend the Parish & Town Council Community Resilience Forum meeting, to seek any available member(s) of the council to substitute.</p>								
E36/25	<p><u>BUDGET UPDATE</u></p> <p>Members noted a budget update from the clerk in respect of financial activity during 2025/26.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Tree shrub and Planting Budget:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VE-Day 80 Budget:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£1593.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schemes and Projects spend:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£2145.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right; padding-top: 10px;">TOTAL: £3738.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Memorial Ear Marked Reserve: £4919.84</p>	Tree shrub and Planting Budget:	£0.00	VE-Day 80 Budget:	£1593.00	Schemes and Projects spend:	£2145.00	TOTAL: £3738.00	
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E37/25	<p><u>MATTERS RECEIVED IN POST OR RAISED BY MEMBERS</u></p> <p>None</p>								
E38/25	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The next meeting of the Environment & Community Committee is scheduled to be held at 7.00pm, on 26th March 2026 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich.</p>								

The chairman closed the meeting at: 19.34pm

CHAIRMAN:

DATE: