

Full Council Minutes

of the Meeting of Harwich Town Council
held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
on
Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 7pm

Present:

Cllrs Armstrong, Calver, Chable, Davidson, Fowler, I Henderson, J Henderson, McLeod, Morrison, Richardson, Smith, Todd and Wade

In the Chair: Councillor Fay

Clerk: Ms M Ratcliffe

Also Present: Admin Assistant Yazmin Hornsby-Fry and the Rev Canon Ian Smith

Prayers were taken prior to the meeting.

037/26 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Powell, Saunders.

038/26 Declarations of Members' Interests

Cllr Chable declared an interest in the Ark Centre Harwich, appointed as Director and Chair. The committee congratulated him on his appointment.

039/26 Public Questions

A resident asked the committee about Harwich International Port and changes to their conditions which relate to the A120. Cllr Henderson responded in saying that before members can answer or make comment, communication will need to be made with HIP to ask if they have made changes to the commitments on the development of Bathside Bay in the future.

The member of public displayed concerns over the increase in population in the town and the quality of the A120.

Cllr Calver informed members, as there are no policies or financial implications, it was agreed to contact Jeremy Poon, Head of Corporate Affairs, Hutchinson Ports to ask what changes to the conditions are being sought.

The member of the public also expressed their concern over safety issues regarding pavements being taken over by electric bikes, electric scooters and bicycles on pavements in the town. They are riding two or three abreast on pavements and it is impossible for pedestrians to use the paths. They are also riding at high speed on the wrong side of the roads. Cllr Morrison reported it has been reported to the Police and it is within their remit to deal with these issues.

040/26 Introduction to Essex County Councillor

The Chairman welcomed newly-elected county Councillor Linda McKenzie who introduced herself to the council. Questions were put to Cllr McKenzie and responses were given.

041/26 Mayor's Engagements

Members acknowledged a list of recent engagements attended by Cllr Fay or his deputy, Cllr Todd.

Cllr Fay informed members that one of the events attended was the very successful Blessing of the Waters, in Brightlingsea.

Cllr Todd attended the Harwich Annual Festival Launch at the Ebenezer Chapel on 18th June. He also attended Spring Meadow Primary School for Children's Parliament Mace and Tour Elections, which was an excellent day, with pupils being given the opportunity to learn about the voting and democratic processes. He thanked Cllr Morrison for accompanying him.

042/26 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 9th June 2026 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of Harwich Town Council held on 25th June 2026 (circulated separately) were approved as a correct record.

043/26 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Last Meeting

- **MIN 017/26** – Members acknowledged a response from Greater Anglia following a request for a later service on the Manningtree to Harwich branch line. RPPC, Mistley and Wrabness parish councils were supportive of the request.

- **MIN 018/26** – The clerk confirmed that letters had been written to the MP, Barclays, Santander, TSB and Nationwide in relation to a request for the reinstatement/retention of face-to-face banking services and only an acknowledgment had been received from Santander with further responses awaited.

Members were informed that the clerk had written to Cash Access UK and is still awaiting a response.

- **MIN 018/26** – Cllr Chable reported on meeting with Harwich Sing Tendring Voices on 13th in relation to Music & Memory dementia friendly singing sessions. Cllr Chable informed members that a meeting was held with Cllr Saunders, Clerk and Claire Leach who runs the sessions. Claire's concern was that in other areas, attendance was at around 40 people per session, however only 20 attending at the Park Pavillion. After lengthy discussion, it was agreed to contact Claire Leach regarding details other local organisations in the town, to engage with care homes, doctors surgeries and other groups running in the area. It was agreed for flyers to be printed and distributed to appropriate local groups and organisations to increase reach.

- **MIN 028/26** – The clerk reported on the progress made with Memory Walk event. The page has been set up and needs to be shared on website and social media pages. The seafronts application for the walk has been submitted to TDC and insurance documentation has to be sent over.

044/26 Matters Arising from the Minutes of Previous Meetings

- **MIN 111/25** – Members considered a request to transfer the Phone Box art project to the Harwich Festival of the Arts. The HF has been advised that the contents are neither provided, funded or insured by the council.

RESOLVED: to transfer the Phone Box art project to the Harwich Festival of the Arts

045/26 Brief Reports by Members appointed to outside bodies by the Council

- Cllr J Henderson reported on her attendance at a TeenTalk trustees meeting recently. Their services are still very much in demand. Funding is becoming an issue. As the pots for bidding are reducing and charities bidding for funds are increasing. Hopefully, some positive news will be around the corner.

- Cllr Chable attended a meeting at The Ark Centre on 14th July, where he was elected as Chair. The ARK continues to thrive with a fantastic senior management team with dedicated staff and volunteers. The centre is in a very healthy financial position. The nursery is thriving, training continues for staff and a full time SENCO is now in place. The ARK Centre continues to provide a foodbank and are always grateful for donations.

- Cllr Wade informed the committee that he had attended a Music and Memory session recently.

046/26 Committee Meeting Minutes

Members received the Minutes of the following meetings:

Finance & General Purposes Committee – 23rd June 2026.

Environment & Community – 2nd July 2026.

Members considered a request, referred from the committee, to support Harwich Haven Authority with their Dog Waste project.

RESOLVED: to write to Harwich Haven Authority to inform them that Harwich Town Council fully supports the campaign. The Guildhall, being a Grade 1 listed, would be unable to install a sack dispenser, however there are possibilities nearby.

047/26 Accounts

RESOLVED: To receive the financial report and to approve accounts for payment as per the schedule (circulated separately).

048/26 Correspondence Received in the Post or Matters Raised by Members

Cllr Davidson advised Council there had been issues with motorcycles using The Hangings footpath. After an onsite meeting with Tendring District Council and Cllr Fay, two sets of kissing gates will be installed in the North Sea Cycle Route to deter motorcycle usage.

049/26 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Harwich Town Council will be held on **Tuesday 8th September 2026** at **The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich** at **7.00pm**, or at the rise of the Town Planning Committee, whichever is the later.

The meeting was closed at 8.41pm.

Chairman

Date