

Environment and Community Committee Minutes

of the Meeting of Harwich Town Council
held at
The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich
on
Thursday 2nd July 2026 at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllrs Davidson, McLeod, Saunders, Smith, Fay, Todd

In the Chair: Councillor Fowler

Clerk: Ms Maree Ratcliffe

Also Present: Assistant Yazmin Hornsby-Fry, Cheryl Thompson Horticultural Adviser

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

None

E01/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Armstrong.

E02/26 Declarations of Members' Interests

None

E03/26 Election of Vice-Chair

Members **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Saunders as Vice Chair for the 2026-27 Municipal Year.

E04/26 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes of the Environment & Community meeting held on 26th March 2026 (previously circulated) were **APPROVED** by the committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

E05/26 Matters Arising from Minutes

E46/25 – Speeding Issues Low Road and Surrounding Areas

The Clerk advised the committee that contact had been made with the PCSO, Essex Police regarding speeding issues, and an acknowledgment email was received back saying it would be looked into. The clerk requested an update however is still awaiting a response.

E47/25 – Winter Salt Bags / Scheme

The clerk advised members that the salt is now currently being moved from Harwich Space in George Street as a new storage space has been sought. Peter Davis, has kindly allowed for storage at the Arts and Heritage Centre (Mayflower School site).

The clerk informed the members that there are approximately 80 bags of salt, and have been these inspected by the Estate Supervisor, therefore there is no need to apply to the Salt Bag Partnership Scheme this year.

E06/26 Matters arising from previous minutes

None

E07/26 Horticultural Report

The Horticultural Adviser (HA) informed members that the Harwich Flood Memorial garden is looking quite good, however but the trees are not in good order. Cllr Fowler informed members that TDC volunteers have been over there and have tidied and weeded the area. HA said that the trees are not in good order, lots of the parts of the trees have died and are now shooting from the bottom which is not good. Cllr Fay asked whether the trees could be salvaged, HA responded that she believes they are not. Cllr Fowler requested that the HA make contact with TDC to discuss the condition of the trees.

HA updated members on the condition of the trees in Cliff Park. There are at least five dead trees and about six struggling. The watering bags are still in place but they have not been used, as happened last year. Cllr Fowler requested for HA to contact Cllr Henderson as this was within his ward. He could then communicate with TDC.

E08/26 Budget Update

The Assistant Clerk briefed members on the current financial position of the E&C budget:

Environment & Community Budget	£4,044.00
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Expenditure to Date

Schemes & Projects	£0.00
Tree and Shrub Planting budget	£0.00
Music and Memory	£0.00
Memorial Earmarked Reserve	£0.00

No works to be carried out - None

Budget Remaining	£4,044.00
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EMR Remaining Funds	£4,919.84
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E09/26 Emergency Planning

The clerk advised members that she had made contact to determine the dates of the next Parish and Town Council Community Resilience Meetings, however had not received a response.

Cllr Fowler, informed members that the last representatives were unable to attend the previous meetings and requested that the clerk send a communication out to all councillors requesting two new volunteers, once the new dates have been confirmed from Tendring District Council.

E10/26 Matters Received in the Post or Raised by Members

An email was received from Tyson Lord, Facilities Coordinator, HHA regarding dog waste issues in and around Harwich. It is in the intention of HHA to start a new local campaign for local businesses to install waste dog bag dispensers in Harwich to encourage dog owners to pick up after their dogs.

Cllr Fowler informed the committee that we should as a Town Council fully support this and request for the Clerk to put this on the agenda for the next meeting of the Full Council to discuss.

E11/26 Time and Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Committee will be held on **Thursday 1st October 2026 at The Guildhall, Church Street, Harwich at 7.00pm.**

Meeting Closed at 7.21pm

Chairman

Date