

there were widespread misgivings concerning the fairness of the court-martial. The full facts of the case have not been revealed, but he was fully reinstated in 1810 'in consideration of his long and meritorious service.' Harvey was advanced to vice-admiral, received a K.C.B. in 1815, was admiral in 1819 and G.C.B. 1825.

Harvey's political career began in 1780 when he was returned unopposed for Maldon at a by-election and at the general election in the same year. He did not stand at the 1784 election. Harvey probably came to Maldon on the Strutt family interest, as his fellow member was John Strutt, in return for paying two-thirds of the election expenses. He supported Lord North's administration and was considered a Pittite in 1784.

Under the compromise arrangement by which the Essex county representation was shared between Tories and Whigs, he was returned unopposed as a Tory and John Bullock was the Whig in 1802. Most of his speeches were on maritime matters, and there is an echo of his feelings when he was court-martialled in a speech he made on the reappointment of the Duke of York to the office of commander in chief on 6 June, 1811: 'Was it no punishment to a man of a feeling mind to be removed out of the sphere to which he was accustomed to move and in which he presumed to think his services had been and might still continue to be useful.' Harvey remained one of the Essex members until he retired in 1812, and took a leading part in the general election of that year supporting John Archer Houblon.

He represented Essex again as a Tory from 1820 to his death in 1830, his parliamentary colleague being Charles Callis Western (Whig). In 1823 he presented a petition from Essex to the House of Commons praying for the repeal of the duty on malt, and said that the petition spoke for itself. At a meeting at Chelmsford in 1826 for the abolition of colonial slavery he agreed to present a petition to the House of Commons against colonial slavery. Harvey was bitterly opposed to Catholic emancipation and lost all interest in parliamentary work after the act was passed.

Harvey often took a leading part in local affairs and was frequently on the vestry at Chigwell. For a short time he was churchwarden, but was replaced as he was with the Navy on active service. He was elected verderer of Epping Forest in 1785, and in 1815 served on a central committee dealing with encroachments on Epping and Hairault Forests. He was appointed chairman of a parish committee in 1799 to draw up 'a just and equal assessment of the Poor Rate for Chigwell.' During a sudden agricultural depression in 1816 Harvey set an example by reducing his rents by ten shillings an acre.

He was an eccentric man of violent and uncertain temper. His wife wrote to her daughter, Lady Ashton, in 1818: 'We are all in a bad way at Chigwell. Never was anything equal to him, the whole