

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 16 June 2003.

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. G. Primrose (Chairman)
Cllrs: P. Hill, C. Liddy, C. Thompson, R. Davies, J. Richardson,
P. Kraft, T. Roberts, D. Purdey and K. Rogers.
Borough Cllr. D. Adams and County Cllr. J. Young
Mrs. S.R. Bradley, Assistant Town Clerk

Prior to commencement of business members welcomed Inspector Tony Dale, who was attending to introduce himself and also explain the new science-led, problem-solving type of reactive policing which Wivenhoe had been experiencing since Rural Policing closed in 1999 under the Rural Policing Review. WPC Tracey Greenwood was also in attendance. Inspector Dale, who had been in the police force 17 years, stated that the crime figures showed Wivenhoe to be relatively problem-free and therefore did not warrant more officers. Inspector Dale showed members graphs to prove this.

Cllr. Hill maintained that the Town Council would not be entirely happy unless two officers were seen regularly again in the town. Vandalism, unsocial behaviour and youth nuisance had increased alarmingly since 1999, some residents, in particular the elderly, were becoming afraid in their own homes. Reassurance was greatly needed and this would only return when there was more visible policing in Wivenhoe. He proposed the Police investigate the possibility of recruiting 'specials' which Inspector Dale agreed to.

Cllr. Thompson said that the Town Council had already held two or three meetings with the police where similar assurances were made but not kept; people had lost faith in the police force. Inspector Dale explained that he was not there to make promises and that there was no plan to move back to the methods of policing that Wivenhoe used to have in the past. Cllr. Rogers put forward the point that the Town Council, as a body, has a duty to explain all this to its residents when they complain about the poor service for which all Council tax payers were paying for. WPC Greenwood said that she patrolled Wivenhoe as much as possible but she could not baby-sit the teenagers, although she had issued some Acceptable Behaviour Contracts which were producing good results. Cllr. Purdey said that reassurance was most important and a way of how to create this should be concentrated on. Cllr. Kraft added that elderly people did not know who to approach when reporting anything. It was suggested that a form be left in the Council Offices for residents to complete and this could then be passed to WPC Greenwood when she called into the offices.

Inspector Dale did admit that there was a problem with the call-handling centre and that this was mainly down to the number of 999 calls received from mobile phones. The immense increase in calls had led to employees being drafted in from all over the County to deal with them. Therefore local knowledge had been lost.

Agreed that the matter of reassurance be addressed by a) information on the web site b) a police form in the Council Offices which can be passed to WPC Greenwood and c) more encouragement to the Neighbourhood Watch.

Thanks were expressed to Inspector Dale and WPC Greenwood for coming and members welcomed the ideas put forward.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Borough Cllrs. B. Newman and E. Kraft.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of the Town Council held on 14 May 2003 and the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 May 2003 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. Cllr. Thompson pointed out that the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 May 2003 omitted any mention of his submission of a draft letter to be sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission on the illogical internal warding of Wivenhoe for Borough and Town Council elections, and no other reference, apart from being mentioned under New Business - item 17.1(a), to his report to the Town Council on Wivenhoe's proposed inclusion within a Harwich County Constituency for Parliamentary elections and of the request subsequently made to him to draft a letter of objection to this proposal. He also pointed out that, under 9. Matters Arising from the Minutes 8.4b) Notice Board, he had asked for the matter of the Dene Park notice board to be completed rather than "kept ongoing".

RESOLVED that subject to these amendments being made, the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 May 2003 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

22/4/03 7.9d) Boundary Commission. The letter drafted by Cllr. Thompson (drawing the Local Government Boundary Commission's attention to the illogical division of the civil parish of Wivenhoe into the Wivenhoe Cross and Quay Wards and calling upon it to ensure that, in any future review, all eleven members of the Town Council are returned from a single ward covering the entire community and that, if the Borough Council still exists, three Borough Councillors are similarly elected to represent Wivenhoe) was circulated to members at the meeting of the Town Council on 19 May 2003 for their comments. No amendments to the letter were submitted and the letter was sent to the Boundary Commission on 12 June 2003.

8.4b Dene Park Noticeboard: Cllr. Thompson asked if the outstanding matter of the noticeboard could be put on the worklist and completed as soon as possible.

22/4/03 5.b) Wivenhoe Public Conveniences: Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Borough Council conveying that the Town Council was not in favour of a single coin-operated facility costing £64,000 and that it would be more economical to spend a lesser sum on updating the present public conveniences. Cllr. Davies said that he had also taken this matter up with the Portfolio Holder.

Annual Town Meeting: High Street Car Park: Cllr. Davies said that eight abandoned cars had now been removed from the High Street Car Park.

7.9b) Tendring Show: Cllr. Hill reported that he, Cllr. Primrose and Cllr. Kraft had viewed the photographs taken of Wivenhoe Quay by Robert Priseman and had chosen one to be the large scale photograph for the Show.

17.4 Cllr. Hill also reported that a number of Cllrs had joined the Mayor and himself on a 'beating the bounds' tour of Wivenhoe on Saturday 24 May 2003.

4. POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. None.

5. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILS.

a) Essex County Council: Cllr. Young gave a report concerning LTP funding for road improvement schemes in which the B1028 had been earmarked for work commencing soon. A lot of work was being planned for the A133. The County was proposing to sell off all the County Council-run homes for the elderly and Cllr. Young would be opposing this. Cllr. Thompson asked Cllr. Young to investigate the New Transport Strategy Area Review of Local Transport for Essex with Wivenhoe in mind.

b) Borough Council: Cllr. Adams reported that he had attended a Street Services meeting with Beverley Gould. Proposals for the B1028 were discussed and work was scheduled to commence later this year on resurfacing and improved lighting. There were no proposals for Rectory Hill and because of the development at the back of The Flag the Borough was not keen to do anything in Elmstead Road. The A133 plans for a roundabout should be opposed and concerning The Folly, Cllr. Adams said he would also press for it not to be made up.

Cllr. Davies reported that he had attended meetings with the planning department concerning The Folly as well and was also pressing for it to remain as it is.

Cllr. Thompson asked Cllr. Davies if he had looked into the matter of a sign at the top of the village indicating the direction to the Wivenhoe Business Centre. Cllr. Davies said he would take this up with the Borough.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning:

a) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 29 May (unsigned) were received and noted. Cllr. Primrose requested that as many Councillors as possible attend the Planning Meeting scheduled for 19 June at which several residents of the Port development were attending to voice their concerns on the Engine Shed proposals.

b) Section 106 Working Party: Cllr. Hill reported that Jonathan Frank had suggested a meeting before commencement of work and it was Agreed that Cllr. Davies and Cllr. Primrose meet with Jonathan Frank on 25 June. Site clearance had also taken place in preparation for the first 11 units. Highway improvements had to be completed before the sale of the first 11 units. The diversion of footpaths process was a lengthy one which was likely to take about 18 months, as some had to stopped up and others re-established. The preferred route for cars and other vehicles was yet to be decided and also the making up of The Folley. The Section 106 Agreement gave the final say to the Portfolio Holder who had become Cllr. Richard Gower. Members agreed that if Queens Road was stopped up, or became one-way, residents in Valley Road would suffer and especially those in East Street/Brook Street with much increased danger for everyone. Members confirmed their position of last September, namely that traffic to Cook's Shipyard should be shared between all three access routes, with Colchester Borough Council's option 2 for Queens Road, which would create two speed-reducing tables. Cllr. Hill said he would write to Cllr. Gower.

6.2 Personnel:

Cllr. Hill reported that the Personnel meeting held on 11 June was very productive in that a Workplan would be created, a maintenance schedule for the William Loveless Hall Working Party drawn up; refreshment of job descriptions for Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk carried out; Handbook; Contracts of Employment updated and appraisals were also discussed.

It was also AGREED that the Assistant Town Clerk be entitled to overtime rate of pay when attending Town Council meetings.

6.3 Best Value Committee:

a) Cllr.Hill reported on the meeting held on 3 June 2003. Targets and an Overall Action Plan were discussed which would eventually become part of the new Workplan.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) Noted that the next meeting would be on 18 June 2003. Cllr. Richardson gave her apologies for this.

b) The request for reduction in hire charges for a fundraising birthday party in aid of the 'Communty' bus and Stuart Pawsey Court and extension to 12.30am on 12 July 2003 from Mrs. A. Stinson/Mrs. M. Davies was noted and it was Agreed to give a grant towards the hire cost of the Hall.

7.2 General Amenities Working Party.

a) Cllr. Richardson apologized for the meeting scheduled for 9 June having to be cancelled and said that the next meeting would be on 14 July 2003.

b) **Circus Starr:** Members considered the request for reduction in hire fee of KGV Field for a one-day event on 28 October when the Show was being held to raise funds for the Colchester League of Hospital Friends.

After discussion members decided that Circus Starr be advised that they would have to pay the normal hiring charge of £90.00 for a one day hire of the KGV Field.

Cllr. Davies left the meeting at this point.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party. Nothing to report.

7.4. Mini-bus Working Group: Cllr. Richardson advised that a meeting would be convened shortly.

7.5 Communications Working Group: Nothing to report.

7. 6 Engine Shed Working Group:

Cllr. Hill reported that there was some objection to the proposals and that a meeting would be held with the local objectors to hear their views. He would email the office with a list of the proposed activities that would be held in the building.

7.7 WRUG: Cllr. Purdey reported on his first attendance at the Colne Estuary Advisory Group meeting. It was important that all views are collected and followed through, although, he added, how this was to be done was not clear from the meeting. A report was due out soon on the Tidal Area by the Hythe.

7.8 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) Mayoral Activities: Cllr. Primrose reported that a Monthly Mayor's Diary had now been set up on the website. Attendances this month were at the Scout and Guides AGM, tour of Wivenhoe, May Fair, Launch of the New Essex Air Ambulance at Castle Park, Colchester Civic Service, June Market and Art on the Railings, Colne School American School exchange evening and the Mayor's Charity Tea-Dance at the William Loveless Hall on 14 June.

b) Police Matters: Cllr. Rogers reviewed the earlier meeting with the Police. More Specials should be recruited to deal with some of the petty crime. Signs of drug abuse had been seen in Tower Road and on The Quay. There was also a danger of misplacement crime from the Greenstead Area. A follow-up meeting should be held and Superintendent Dave Murthwaite invited to attend. It was also pointed out that the Essex Constabulary had fewer officers per head of population than other counties. AGREED not to let the matter rest and that Cllr. Primrose write to Inspector Dale putting these points to him.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 The Town Clerk reported that two Burial Grants had been issued and two memorials had been approved since the last meeting. Three burials had taken place.

Members noted the recent death of Philip Baines, Wivenhoe Town Clerk from 1984 – 1991. The Funeral service had been held that day and was attended by the Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, past Councillors and office cleaner and retired groundsman and members of staff. Mrs. Bonnie Hill had also attended, representing Cllr. Peter Hill. The funeral service was followed by an interment in Wivenhoe Cemetery.

Cllr. Hill put forward that the Town Council plant a tree in memory of Philip Baines and it was AGREED that an Indian Bean Tree be obtained to recognize Philip's expertise and love of trees.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issue Nos. 553 had been circulated.

8.3 Tenancy Allocations/Changes from Colchester Borough Council. None.

8.4 Work Management.

a) General: The Town Clerk reported that grass cutting had been the main priority, following cutting of the field for the May Fair. The footpath behind Field Way had been cut back and a start made on weed control. The Old Cemetery had been cut and work had now commenced on the second cut of the New Cemetery. Constant vandalism was becoming a problem, and much of the workmen's time was being spent clearing up after them. The gate to the KGV play area had been broken again and litter bins set on fire.

The 'steep slope' sign had been removed and shrubs pulled up. Official complaints of vandalism were regularly being emailed to WPC Allen by the Assistant Town Clerk.

A skip had been obtained and the workmen had cleared a lot of rubbish from the Old Cemetery and other areas. Tubs had been planted up and the number of customers and visitors to the Council Offices for the month of May totalled 178.

Cllr. Primrose asked members to note that the Assistant Groundsman, Andy, had watered the tubs on Saturday and Sunday. Members expressed thanks to Andy. Cllr. Kraft said that she had asked at the Co-op if they could water their tubs which were outside the store.

A complaint had also been received over the state of the KGV field after the May Fair in that the 'clear up' was not as thorough as in previous years. The Town Clerk would write to the May Fair Committee about this, and also ask that more toilet facilities be provided for the event.

Members noted the report

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report.

a) The May Spending and Income Report was received and noted.

9.2/3 List of Cheques.

The list of cheques numbered 501660 – 501681 drawn since the last meeting of the Town Council was approved and signed. The list of payments from the Imprest Account since the last meeting was received and noted.

9.4 Motions under Standing Orders Recommending Expenditure:

AGREED to purchase two fireproof replacement litter bins for the KGV Field at £169 each.

9.5 Appeals for Financial Support: None.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Correspondence.

a) **CBC – Local Strategy on Gypsies and Travellers** - public consultation exercise. Members noted the document .

b) **Colne and Blackwater Flood Management Strategy** – Members noted the information bulletin, previously circulated.

c) **CBC Disabled Parking Bays – Station Road and Britannia Crescent** – Members received the details and had no observations other than a request for two disabled parking bays outside St. Mary's Church. The Town Clerk would follow this up with the Borough.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars: Members noted the following:

East Essex Area Forum Tuesday 17 June, Wix Village Hall 7.00pm

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

Mayor's Garden Party, Meadowcroft, 28 June 2-5pm
Teddy Bears' Picnic KGV Field Sunday 20 July 2-5pm

10.4 Licences. None had been received:

10.5 Highway Matters:

a) CBC – Town/Parish Liaison Update – Street Services

Members received the letter from Peter Braithwaite updating parish councils on the initiative so far and also informing the Clerk of his retirement. The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had already had their first visit from Street Services team and a follow up meeting would be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

CHAIRMAN