

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 17 February 2003.

Present: The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr. G. Primrose (Chairman)
Cllrs: P. Hill, C. Liddy, P. Gaster, M. Jarvis, S. Ford, R. Davies and J. Richardson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. D. Craze, C. Thompson and M. Hignell, Borough Cllrs. D. Adams and B. Newman, County Cllr. J. Young.

In accordance with Standing Order 6, Cllr. Primrose as Deputy Town Mayor took the Chair for the meeting in the absence of the Town Mayor, Cllr. Craze.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 January 2003 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendments –

7.7a) “as the Town Council hoped to take a lease on the building” to replace *‘the Town Council were technically the owners of the building’*

7.9b) “It was noted that WPC Tracey Allen had been monitoring traffic and issuing speeding tickets in the village” to replace *‘It was noted that WPC Tracey Allen had been conducting speed trials in the village.’*

7.1a) “the report be added as an appendix to the Town Council’s overall strategic plan” to replace *‘ the report be added to the Town Council’s overall strategic plan’*

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

9.1b) Cemetery paths: Cllr. Davies reported that the estimated in-house costs of resurfacing the paths in the cemetery would be in the region of £3000. Members AGREED that a start on this programme could begin as soon as practicable.

10.5a) Colchester Road: Cllr. Hill reported that a response had been received from Beverley Gould of Colchester Borough Council stating that an outline scheme had been drawn up and submitted along with other schemes, including Elmstead Road, the cycle route and Rectory Road, in the Local Transport Plan (LTP) for funding. The LTP schemes were currently being evaluated and prioritized by Essex County Council and the results should be known by March 2003.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Young for taking the matter up with the Borough Council.

Cllr. Hill advised that he had photographed the ‘lake’ in front of the Wivenhoe Surgery at The Cross, which also occurred after heavy rainfall and had sent this to CBC Highways. He was awaiting a reaction from them.

10.5a) Shed: A letter had been sent to the Borough Council’s estates department indicating that the Town Council had no objection to the siting of the shed. Cllr. Hill reported that no response to the e-mail had yet been received from the officer concerned.

7.9d) Wivenhoe and District Sporting Facilities Trust – radio mast: Concerning the proposal for the erection of a radio mast within the site of the Broad Lane Sports Ground football ground Cllr. Hill reported that he had given a presentation at the meeting of the Borough Council’s Environmental Well-Being Panel where Cllr. B. Newman had requested that the item be placed on the agenda. The meeting proved hopeful that the Trust could generate several thousand pounds annually to invest in the ground. Cllr. Hill thanked Cllr. Newman for his help.

7.2b) Clifton Terrace steps: Members read the response from the Town Council’s insurers, obtained by the Town Clerk, and noted the advice that the Town Council could be creating a personal liability issue by taking on this task. AGREED that no action be taken to sweep the steps while further investigation into the ownership of the steps and clarification of other liability issues, such as gritting icy patches of pavements, was being taken up with the insurance company.

8. 544/11 New Joyriders Laws – Police Reform Act 2002. Cllr. Hill drew attention to the fact that the term ‘vehicle’ referred to in this new law covered motor-cycles as well and that members needed to be aware of this when receiving reports of youngsters riding motor-cycles, for instance, on the King George V Playing Field, Wivenhoe Trail, Henrietta Close open space or land behind Field Way.

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

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

a) Essex County Council: Members noted the report submitted by Cllr. Young. Apologies had been received for the tight timescale for the LOIS Study but assurances had been given that all stations along the Great Eastern Route would be reviewed with the aim to extend parking where possible, including Wivenhoe. An enquiry had been made about the barrage but no response had been received yet. The update on the Wivenhoe Centre was that no children had moved in yet although carpets had been laid. Agreement had been obtained on fencing for the Queens Road side of the centre. With reference to the Wivenhoe Centre, Cllr. Hill advised an issue had been raised by a resident at the end of Phillip Road about access to his property by rescue and service vehicles at times when children were being deposited or collected, as the new fence prevented cars from going around the Centre building.

b) Borough Council: Cllr. Davies had nothing to report other than that he was still attending meetings concerning certain issues.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning:

a) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 23 January (unsigned) were received and noted. Cllr. Primrose reported that an amended application for the hardstanding at Ferry House had been submitted again and that the Planning Committee’s comments remained unchanged. With regard to the Wivenhoe Society meetings Cllr. Ford explained that two of their meetings had clashed with Town Council meetings but that he had sent his apologies. As Cllr. Ford wished to step down Cllr. Richardson

offered to attend the Wivenhoe Society meetings from now on. Thanks were extended to Cllrs. Ford and Richardson.

b) Section 106 Working Party: Cllr. Hill reported that CBC Legal Services had now applied for a time extension on the highway issues still outstanding and that Cllr. Arnold had also taken the matter up with Nicola George, Head of Planning Services, on behalf of Wivenhoe. Cllr. Liddy said the Land Registry Search was in hand regarding the land behind the Old Fire Station and Cllr. Hill had also written to the Estates Officer again about the dangers of the piece of land in question becoming a dumping area for cars should it be left as it is.

c) Rowhedge Port Development: Members noted that a meeting of the Working Group would be held on Tuesday 4 March at 7pm. Cllr. Davies would be attending.

d) CBC – Local Plan Inquiry Inspector’s Report: Members noted that the Inspector’s Report on the Local Plan Inquiry had now been received. A CD Rom version was expected shortly.

6.2 Personnel:

Taken in camera at the end of the meeting.

6.3 Best Value Committee:

a) Nothing to report.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) The notes of the meeting held on 23 January were received. Cllr. Primrose explained to members that an indication of where the nearest toilet for the Disabled was located was not meant to be a solution and was a temporary measure only while the matter was under investigation. Cllr. Davies had seen a drawing of the Hall which incorporated a disabled toilet within the Gent’s toilet and he asked that the Town Clerk pass this to Cllr. Primrose.

b) Hall floor: Cllr. Primrose explained that the hall floor was due for the yearly re-sealing, as recommended by Tim Snow, and that a quotation had been obtained. AGREED that the re-sealing take place during the Easter holidays.

c) Teenage Concert: The letter of thanks from the organizers of the concert for allowing the Hall to be used for this purpose was received. Members noted that the event had been much appreciated by the youngsters and was very well behaved. The organizers had stated that a donation to the town’s skate park fund would be made after finalizing the profits of the event.

d) Wivenhoe Gilbert & Sullivan: The request for an extension on 22 March for After show party was Agreed.

c) CBC –Information on Grants: Members received a copy of the updated information

7.2 General Amenities Working Party.

a) The minutes of the meeting held on 13 January were received and Cllr. Richardson gave a report of meeting held 10 February 2003, adding that there were a few items which she would raise with the Town Clerk. The shrubs at the top of the KGV Field had been moved, as requested and it was AGREED that up to £200 be set aside to purchase

some more to make the shrub border more substantive. Cllr. Hill requested that the shrubs be re-planted in a wavy line, instead of in a straight line.

b) BG Transco: The Town Clerk would chase up the landscaping around the gas kiosk on the KGV Field.

c) Mrs. Blair's Legacy: Cllr. Primrose reported to members that the legacy of £1,000 left to the Town Council by resident Mrs. Blair had now been received. Mrs. Blair had stipulated that the amount be used to purchase roses and trees for the town.

d) Sponsorship letters: Cllr. Richardson would chase these up.

e) Bus shelter, Bowes Road: Cllr. Richardson would take this forward at the next Amenities Working Party meeting.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party: Members received Cllr. Hill's notes of the meeting held in Wivenhoe Woods and Cllr. Hill reported that it had been a very useful meeting. Cllr. Hill would check with the Chairman of the Working Party, Cllr. Mary Hignell, about placing the notes on the web site.

7.4. Mini-bus Working Group: Cllr. Richardson reported that in addition to the Auction of Promises, scheduled for 25 October 2003, the Group were planning a Harvest Ball on 6 September 2003.

7.5 Communications Working Group:

a) Wivenhoe Web Site: Cllr. Hill reported on the transfer to a new web server to allow more frequent upgrades and that there would be an annual server fee of £100. AGREED to reimburse the annual server fee of £100. Cllr. Hill had drafted a letter of thanks to Dr. Rich, Registrar of the University, with a copy to Anthony Vickers, for their help in hosting the web site since 1996 and this was Approved.

7.6 Strategy 2000+: Nothing to report.

7.7 Engine Shed Working Group:

a) Cllr. Hill reported that the planning application had now been lodged and that CBC Leisure Services had been very helpful with the business plan and the preparation for lottery application. He reported meetings with potential Project partners. Alan Skinner, Principal of Colchester's Adult Community College, had written back enthusiastically supporting the Project.

Cllr. Liddy reported that he had not heard anymore from the Railtrack concerning the lease. AGREED that a copy of the draft lease be sent to the Town Council's insurers to see if they had any comments on it. Cllr. Liddy would undertake this.

7.8 WRUG: Nothing to report.

7.9 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) Mayoral Activities: Cllr. Primrose reported that the Town Council's team had done very well in the St. Mary's Quiz Night on 8 February and came fourth.

b) Police Matters: Members noted the Neighbourhood Watch report from Ken Rogers.

c) Health Centre site: Cllr. Primrose reported that as no suitable site had been found Wivenhoe had missed out on the first phase of funding from LIFT (Local Improvement Funding Trust) but would be next on the list. The next programme would begin in approximately 2/3 year's time. Cllr. Hill proposed and it was Agreed that a letter be sent to the PCT expressing the support of the Town Council for the Doctors' need for a new Health Centre for Wivenhoe.

d) CBC Level of interest in a regional referendum for the East of England: Members received the documentation from Anne Sherer, on the ODPM's "soundings exercise" on the level of interest from each of the eight English regions on holding a referendum to establish an elected regional assembly. The deadline for a response was Friday 21 February 2003. Members considered the documentation and decided that they would support very strongly for a regional referendum.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

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

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issue Nos. 545 to 547 had been circulated.

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

8.4 Work Management.

a) General: The Town Clerk reported that the goalposts on the King George V Field had been moved to their alternative location to allow the turf to recover and the shrubs at the top of the playing field had also been moved. Some work had been done to level the potholes at the Broad Lane car park. The fence at the allotments had also been repaired. Work had begun on tidying the shrub beds at Vine Parade.

The number of customers and visitors to the Council Offices for the month of January totalled 188.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report.

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

9.2/3 List of Cheques.

The list of cheques numbered 501592– 501610 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:

- a) Hall Floor: AGREED to re-seal the main hall floor of the William Loveless Hall at a cost of £1280 .

9.5 Appeals for Financial Support: None.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Correspondence.

a) Wivenhoe May Fair 2003: Members considered the letters from Miranda Locker of the Wivenhoe May Fair Committee requesting permission to hold this year's event on Monday 26 May 2003 and also requesting permission to erect an entrance banner at the bottom of the field. Both were AGREED to.

b) Essex Stragglers - change of date of orienteering event: Members had no objection to the change of date from 18 May to 11 May 2003.

c) NHS – Consultation on ‘Improving Primary Care and Community Health Services’ : Members received the documentation, which Cllr. Davies took to study.

d) Environment Agency: Members received and noted the commemorative brochure on the 1953 East Coast Floods, which was passed to Cllr. Richardson.

e) Emergency Planning: Cllr. Ford reported on an emergency planning meeting to be held on Wednesday 19 March concerning a simulation exercise. Agreed that Cllr. Primrose attend the meeting with Cllr. Ford.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars: Members noted the following:

Colchester Community Safety – launch of problem solving partnership ‘US’
Tuesday 8 April, Moot Hall 9.30am – 12.30pm

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

Civic Service St. Mary's Church, Sunday 28 September 2003

10.4 Licences. None had been received:

10.5 Highway Matters:

a) CBC Town/Parish Liaison: The Town Clerk reported on the Borough Council initiative for better communication between the Borough and Town/Parish Councils and on the second Clerks and Officers meeting held on 13 February which was very well attended by parish/town clerks. Andrea Hill, Chief Executive, was in attendance at the meeting along with Nicola George and Anne Sherer. The Town Clerk had been given a list of topics to raise with Highways officers if they were present. As they were not, Communications Officer Gareth Mitchell offered to look into the items raised by the Clerk. The next meeting would be in 3 month's time.

Members AGREED that the Liaison meetings were an excellent idea, especially the initiative for a ‘parish/town Walkabout’ for councillors and service managers on a twice

yearly basis. The Town Clerk would relay this to John Simpson, Head of Highway Services and also write to Andrea Hill thanking her for arranging the Liaison meetings.

b) Colchester Road Flooding: Members noted the response from Beverley Gould, CBC Design and Projects Manager, indicating that the following issues:

- Footpath in Elmstead Road
- Double white lines in Colchester Road (vicinity The Flag and the bend)
- Solution to puddle in Colchester Road (vicinity Cross Farm)
- Cycle track to University

had all been put forward for funding in the LTP Programme which was currently being evaluated and prioritized by Essex County Council, results should be known in March 2003.

Prior to closing Cllr. Primrose informed members of the some provisional dates for Mayor's Charity events:

14 June	Tea-dance
20 July	Teddy-Bear's picnic in the KGV Field
4 October	Air Raid party
1 November	50's Rock 'n' Roll night
6 March 2004	Mayor's Ball

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

CHAIRMAN