

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

Present: The Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr. G. Primrose (Chairman)
Cllrs: C. Liddy, M. Jarvis, C. Thompson, R. Davies and J. Richardson.
Cllr. P. Hill arrived at the close of the meeting.
County Cllr. Julie Young.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. D. Craze, S. Ford, P. Gaster, P. Hill and M. Hignell, Borough Cllrs. D. Adams and B. Newman.

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 17 February 2003 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to 14 July being changed to 14 June for the Tea Dance .

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

16/12/02 3.10.5a) Flooding Colchester Road : Members noted the response received from John Simpson, Head of Street Services to Cllr. Craze's letter on the subject of flooding in Colchester Road.

Cllr. Davies added that he was on the Borough Council committee that deals with flood issues.

7.9c) Health Centre site: Cllr. Young reported that she had spoken to Nicola George who advised that there could be a problem with the Colchester Road site being granted planning permission. The Bowes Road site might be a better option, provided the covenant on the land could be removed.

7.2b) BG Transco: The Town Clerk reported that she had received a response from BG Transco stating that they would carry out the hedge planting soon.

3.7.2b) Pavement gritting: Cllr. Young reported that she had been advised that the issue of whether or not to grit pavements during icy weather was being looked into again by the County Council.

3.10.5a) Colchester Road: The response from John Simpson was noted. Cllr. Young added that it should be known in two weeks if Colchester Road scored high enough to enable the work to be included in the LTP funding for the current year. Cllr. Young requested Town Councillors to do a much lobbying as possible as this may just tip the balance.

Cllr. Davies suggested questioning the Highways Agency to find out how many times a year the gullies are cleared out.

7.4. Mini-bus Working Group – Fund raising: Cllr. Richardson asked members to note that in addition to the Harvest Ball on 6 September there would be an Auction of Promises in the William Loveless Hall scheduled for 25 October.

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 reported on the high Council tax bills this year; Health Scrutiny panel and that there was some issues concerning the School Dinners contract and that she had asked for the contract to be scrutinized.

b) Borough Council: Cllr. Davies reported that he had attended a meeting of ALMO (Arms Length Management Organisation). A document on the revamping of the Public Toilets in the car park was awaited and the potholes were expected to be filled in that week.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning:

a) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 13 February (signed) and 6 March (unsigned) were received and noted

b) Section 106 Working Party: Cllr. Hill was not present to make a report.

c) CBC – Local Plan Inquiry Inspector’s Report – Noted that three copies of the CD Rom were available in the Town Council offices.

d) ECC Planning - notification of new structure: Members received and noted the letter from Geoff Gardner, new Head of Planning at Essex County Council, introducing himself and the new structure of the ECC Planning Services.

6.2 Personnel:

Draft minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2003 were circulated.

6.3 Best Value Committee:

a) Cllr. Thompson stated that under the Town Council’s Standing Orders all members had a right of access to all material held by the Town Council pertinent to their duties.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) Members noted that the hall floor was being sealed over the Easter holidays. A storage problem with hirers had occurred and a temporary compromise agreed. The matter would be discussed fully at the next Working Party meeting on 2nd April 2003.

7.2 General Amenities Working Party.

a) No meeting had been held. It was AGREED to redo the compost in the tubs this year and Cllr. Richardson would organize sponsorship letters shortly.

Cllr. Richardson reported that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 15 April.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party. Nothing to report.

7.4. Mini-bus Working Group: Members noted the estimated end of year balance, prepared by the Town Clerk, and were pleased to see how well the bus was being used.

7.5 Communications Working Group:

a) Wivenhoe Web Site: Nothing to report.

7.6 Strategy 2000+: Nothing to report.

7.7 Engine Shed Working Group:

Cllr. Hill was not present to make a report.

7.8 WRUG: Nothing to report.

7.9 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) Mayoral Activities: On behalf of Cllr. Craze Cllr. Primrose reported that the Mayor's Ball had been very successful, that approx £1301 had been raised for the Mayor's Charity and the Mayor and Mayoress expressed thanks to all those who helped.

b) Police Matters: Members noted the incident which occurred outside the William Loveless Hall and that the broken seat was being repaired in house. It was noted by Cllr. Primrose that the Town Council had not had a report from the police, as promised, for some time and therefore it was AGREED that the new Sergeant be invited to come and introduce himself to the Town Council.

c) Cllr. Primrose reported that, following a conversation with a tenant of the Business Park, enquiries should be made as to why there appeared to be no sign indicating how to get to the Wivenhoe Business Park. Cllr. Davies would look into this.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 The Town Clerk reported that one Burial Grant had been issued and two memorials had been approved since the last meeting. One burial had taken place and one interment of ashes.

a) Churchyard: A report had been received that one of the memorials in the Churchyard was in need of attention. The Town Clerk would get the groundsmen to look into this.

b) Notice Board: Cllr. Thompson asked that the matter of the Dene Park noticeboard be chased up.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issue Nos. 548 to 549 had been circulated.

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

8.4 Work Management.

a) **General:** The Town Clerk reported that bark had been obtained and put on all landscaped areas and that trees and shrubs had been pruned. The Cemetery gates had been repainted and grass cutting commenced in the Churchyard. The gate to the children's play area on the KGV field had been broken off by vandals.

b) Town/Parish/Borough Council Discussion Forum.

Notes were circulated of the meeting held on 13 February 2003, which was attended by the Town Clerk.

c) **Visit by Borough Officers:** Town Clerk also reported on the meeting held at the Council Offices and attended by Colchester Borough officers Peter Braithwaite and Sue Smith of Waste Management. The purpose of the meeting, which was attended by all Town Council staff, was to establish better relations and communication between the Borough and the Town Council. The meeting proved very useful and to reciprocate an invitation was extended to the Town Council staff to visit and tour the Shrub End depot.

The number of customers and visitors to the Council Offices for the month of February totalled 144.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report.

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

9.2/3 List of Cheques.

The list of cheques numbered 501611 – 501630 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: None.

9.5 Appeals for Financial Support: None.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Correspondence.

a) **CBC Draft Cultural Strategy for Colchester and the Surrounding Area :** Members received and noted the letter from Keith Nicholson, – the document was available at the meeting and would be passed to Cllr. Hill.

b) **ECC – Essex Youth Service , Mobile Unit:** Members received the letter advising of the availability of a Mobile Unit during the summer holidays and AGREED to hire the unit for one day and one evening and that the cost, amounting to £150, would be met by the Mayor's Charity Fund. The vehicle would be positioned at the top of the King George V Playing Field. Town Clerk would contact Essex Youth Service to arrange a convenient date. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were pleased to help fund such an event, for the youth of Wivenhoe, from the Mayor's Charity Fund.

c) ECC Consultation on qualifying distance for the transport to school of children of primary school age.

Comments needed by 31 March 2003 – The document would be passed to Cllr. Craze.

d) ECC Essex Minerals Local Plan Second Review :

Members noted receipt of the documentation, available at the meeting, closing date for comments 17 April 2003. Cllr. Davies took the document to study.

e) ODPM - Making the Connections: New Report by the Social Exclusion Unit: In Spring 2001 the Prime Minister asked the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) to explore, and make recommendations to overcome, the problems experienced by people facing social exclusion in reaching work and key services. The Final Report ‘ Making the Connections’ is the result of the SEU’s wide-ranging study and the copy available at the meeting would be passed to Cllr. Hignell.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars: Members noted the following:

Conference on Burial Grounds – London, April 4-5 £75.
Agreed that Mr. J.Young attend the conference.

10.3 Notices.

Bowls Club Quiz 22 March
Town Council’s Annual Cricket Match – Wednesday 9 July 6pm
Pam’s Challenge, Easter Monday

10.4 Licences. None had been received:

10.5 Highway Matters: Nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

CHAIRMAN