

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 20 January 2003.

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. D. Craze (Chairman)
Cllrs: P. Hill, C. Liddy, G. Primrose, P. Gaster, C. Thompson, M. Jarvis,
R. Davies, and J. Richardson.
In attendance: County Cllr. J. Young
Jane Cole and Press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

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

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 16 December 2002 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

10.5.a) Colchester Road: Cllr. Hill thanked County Cllr. Julie Young for taking the matter up with Colchester Borough Council's Highways department. Town Clerk reported that an acknowledgement to Cllr. Craze's letter about the flooding had been received from CBC Street Services stating that the letter had been passed to CBC technician Geoff Harris for attention. Cllr. Davies reported that he had also raised the issue of flooding in Colchester Road with the Borough Council.

5.a) Playgroup Shed. In view of the Borough Council's slow progress concerning the siting of a shed behind the paper shed in the Council yard Cllr. Hill proposed that the Town Council write to the Borough Council's estates department indicating that they had no objection to the siting of the shed. This was Agreed. County Cllr. Young stated that she had sent an e-mail concerning the matter to Cllr. Arnold but that so far no reply had been received.

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 football ground Cllr. Hill reported that the Borough Council's Arts and Leisure Committee did have a policy on radio masts and that Borough Cllr. Bob Newman had indicated that he would put on the agenda of the next Environmental Well-Being Panel that the policy should be revisited. Cllr. Hill would keep members informed of progress.

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's report referred to a policy to encourage walking; pavement gritting; Community Care; price increase for Meals on Wheels; Delayed patient discharge. With regard to the search for a new site for Health facilities in Wivenhoe Cllr. Liddy reported that he had carried out the Land Registry Search on the land in question and Cllr. Craze would contact the Chairman of Elmstead Parish Council

to discuss the matter. Cllr. Hill raised the concern that a public consultation exercise should be considered.

With regard to the LOIS Study Cllr. Thompson asked Cllr. Young to look into the issue of inadequate parking at Wivenhoe Station and the tight timetable for corresponding to the consultation, which was 24 January 2003. Cllr. Young would also look into the matter of the barrage and report back.

b) Borough Council: Cllr. Davies reported that he had been liaising with the Borough Council during the recent spell of snowy weather and had organized more gritting of the roads in Wivenhoe. A delivery of salt had also been received by the Town Council for the groundsmen to attend to other areas in need.

Cllr. Davies was also attending a meeting with Ken Jones and Richard Mash regarding the Wivenhoe Wood Management Plan the next day.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning:

a) Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 2 January (unsigned) were received and noted.

b) Section 106 Working Party: Cllr. Hill reported that there was a new draft on the Section 106 with some modest changes – but that the most significant area was that the Highways still wished to pursue the proposal for The Folly to be surfaced which was totally against everyone's wishes. An eleventh hour proposal for a one way system for lower Wivenhoe was also featured in the new draft to which all members of the Town Council were most concerned about. AGREED that Cllr. Hill represent the Town Council at the Borough Council's next Planning meeting to speak on this.

Concerning Sun Lane, Colchester Borough Council Estate's department were unable to further any compulsory purchase order because the owner of the area of land was still unknown. Cllr. Liddy would undertake some research into this, in the meantime Cllr. Hill would go back to the Borough's Estates department stressing how important it was that the land be managed properly, otherwise it would deteriorate into a dumping area for cars, etc.

6.2 Personnel:

Cllr. Davies reported that the next meeting would be on 30 January 2003.

6.3 Best Value Committee:

a) Nothing to report.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) Affordable Access for the Disabled: Members received the written report of Cllr. Primrose which they found very interesting. Cllr. Primrose said that the interpretation of the DDA appeared to be that best endeavours should be made to accommodate disabled

persons but that if it was impossible then an indication where the nearest toilet for the Disabled was located should suffice. The report would be circulated to all members of the Working Party to study at length.

Cllr. Liddy suggested that the report be added as an appendix to the Town Council's overall strategic plan. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Primrose for her report.

b) Wivenhoe Pantomime Group – The request for an extension on 25 January for After show party was Agreed.

7.2 General Amenities Working Party.

a) Cllr. Richardson reported that notes of the meeting held on 13 January would be circulated shortly.

b) Clifton Terrace Steps: Town Clerk would check with the Town Council's insurers on the matter of the sweeping of the stones from the Clifton Terrace steps. Members noted that the Borough Council was carrying out coppicing in Wivenhoe Woods in accordance with CBC's Management Plan.

7.3. Mini-bus Working Group: Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2002 were received and noted. The Town Clerk would look into the problem with the ramp. Cllr. Richardson reported that a fund-raising campaign for a replacement bus would begin this year and that an Auction of Promises was scheduled for 25 October 2003.

7.4 Communications Working Group:

a) Broadband: Cllr. Hill reported that BT had responded positively to the need for Broadband Access for Wivenhoe; more work had been done on the web site with an Artist's section now created to promote Wivenhoe's connection with the Arts.

7.5 Strategy 2000+: Nothing to report.

7.6 Golden Jubilee Celebrations: Nothing to report.

7.7 Engine Shed Working Group:

a) Cllr. Hill reported that the planning application for the building was now ready for submission and showed members the plans. As the Town Council hoped to take a lease on the building Cllr. Hill proposed that the Town Council should submit the planning application, along with the required fees. This was Agreed by members. Members congratulated Cllr. Hill on the project so far.

7.8 WRUG: Nothing to report.

7.9 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) Mayoral Activities: Cllr. Craze had nothing to report other than that a Town Council team would be needed for the St. Mary's Quiz Night on 8 February; a good response had been received for tickets for the Mayor's Ball on 1 March and that he was arranging to have the Mayoral Chain engraved with the names of past Mayors from 2000 onwards. Essex on Tour would be organizing a tour starting in September 2003 and Cllr. Primrose was keen that the Town Council be involved again this year.

b) Police Matters: Members received the letter from Chief Supt. D. Murthwaite on changes to the leadership of the Northern Community Policing Team. It was noted that WPC Tracey Allen had been monitoring traffic and issuing speeding tickets in the village.

Neighbourhood Watch Report: Noted the report of Ken Rogers.

c) GM Crops – The suggested proposal from CROW, which was deferred from the last meeting, was considered. Members discussed the proposal from CROW and decided not to follow CROW’s proposal but instead considered the following motion, put forward by Cllr. Thompson:

“If, in the future, a GM crop trial within the civil parish of Wivenhoe is announced, the Town Council shall inform local residents via its website and newsletter.”

Members AGREED unanimously that the above motion be adopted by the Town Council.

d) Working Party for Wivenhoe Woods: Cllr. Hignell put forward a proposal for the creation of another standing Town Council Working Party, namely Wivenhoe Wood Working Party. After discussion members AGREED to the proposal of another standing Working Party which would consist of Town Councillors and lay people. Chaired by a member of the Town Council the Working Party would report directly each month to the full Town Council after liaising with Colchester Borough Council’s Park Ranger team over work in Wivenhoe Woods. The duties of the Working Party would be to meet with the Park Ranger from time to time, to represent the views and feelings of Wivenhoe residents and to periodically review the Borough Council’s strategic Management Plans determined by their Park Ranger team.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 The Town Clerk reported that no Burial Grants had been issued and no memorials had been approved since the last meeting. No burials had taken place either.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issue Nos. 541 to 544 had been circulated. The Town Clerk drew attention to the following item of note:

544/11 New Joyriders Laws – Police Reform Act 2002.

“Joyriders and nuisance drivers who blight communities by using local streets, parks, wasteland and public footpaths as race tracks will have their vehicles seized on the spot under a new police power coming into force on New Year’s Day. The Police Reform Act specifically allows the police and community support officers to seize a vehicle where it is being driven without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for others in contravention of section 3 of the road traffic act 1998 and in addition is being driven in such a way that it is causing or is likely to cause alarm, distress, or annoyance to members of

the public. This includes on a road or other public space, so this will for example catch those using housing estate roads as illegal race-tracks; and on common land, moorland or any other land that does not form part of the road or on a footpath or bridleway. It applies to both motor vehicles and off-road vehicles”

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

8.4 Work Management.

a) **General:** The Town Clerk reported that the Christmas Lights had been taken down. During the icy weather a delivery of grit had been arranged to enable the groundsmen to deal with emergencies and grit areas unable to be reached by the gritter lorries. The number of customers and visitors to the Council Offices for the month of December totalled 125.

Cllr. Hill asked if the goalposts could be moved again to allow the turf to recover.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report.

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

b) **2003/2004 Budget:** Further to the Preliminary Budget meeting held on 11 December 2002 the Town Clerk reported receipt from the Borough Council Finance Officer of notification that the Parish Grant would be £31,043 and that the divisor figure would be 2591.7 A new budget sheet containing revised budget figures had been prepared to reflect this and had been circulated to all members for consideration.

Members AGREED that the revised budget figures be adopted.

RESOLVED therefore that the Town Council precept on the Colchester Borough Council for the sum of £97,266 to meet its estimated expenditure for the financial year 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

Calculation of indicative Council Tax on the above divided by the equivalent number of Band D properties in Wivenhoe, now 2591.7 equalled a levy of £37.53 per Council Tax payer, representing an increase of 3.55% on last year's figures.

Members noted that the cemetery paths needed resurfacing and that although there were some reserves set aside for this it may not be enough. Cllr. Davies would prepare some costs of the resurfacing. Cllr. Hill also proposed that some of the William Loveless Hall reserve of £9,000 be utilized for the cemetery paths if needed.

Members proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Len Horner for his assistance.

9.2/3 List of Cheques.

The list of cheques numbered 501581– 501591 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) **Late Night Shopping and December Market:** Members received the letter from Mrs. Bonnie Hill for permission to hold this year's event on 4 December 2003 and were delighted to grant permission for the St. Mary's Fund Raising Committee to organize the year's event again this year.

- b) **ECC Multi Modal Transport Studies – M25 and London to Ipswich**
Members received the summary of studies to be debated at Area Forums in January and early February. The County Council will be considering the findings of the studies at its Cabinet meeting on 28 January 2003. Any comments to be sent in by 24 January 2003.

- c) **Shipyard Project:** Members received the letter from Eugene Kraft concerning the AGM of the Shipyard Project and donation of surplus funds towards the skate board park fund and were pleased to note the decision of the Shipyard Project members to donate funds to the skate park fund. However clarification on the outcome of the funds would be needed should be skateboard park idea be abandoned. Town Clerk would write back to Eugene Kraft on this.

- d) **ECC – Government Proposals for Elected Regional Assemblies:**
Members received the letter from Lord Hanningfield on the ODPM's launching of a "soundings exercise" and noted the summary of key points. Responses would be needed by 10 February 2003.

- e) **Freedom of Information Act 2000:** Town Clerk reported that the Town Council's Model Scheme had been approved for a period from 28 February 2003 to 28 February 2007.

- f) **Police Custody Visiting Scheme:** Members received details that Essex Police were currently seeking to attract suitable members of the public to join the Authority's Custody Visiting Scheme. Anyone wishing further information to contact the Town Clerk for more information.

- g) **CBC Focus Group:** Members noted that the Borough Council was proposing to hold a focus group meeting at a suitable venue. Details would follow later.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars: Members noted the following:

ECC East Area Forum – 21 January 2003, Marks Tey Hotel, Stanway.
Details and agenda were available at meeting.

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

Tendring Hundred Show – community meeting on 28 January 2003,
Council Chamber. Cllr. Primrose would be attending the meeting.

10.4 Licences. None had been received:

10.5 Highway Matters: None.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

CHAIRMAN