

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 19 January 2004.

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Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. G. K. Primrose (Chairman)  
Cllrs: P. Hill, C. Thompson, S. Glozier-Green, C. Liddy,  
R. Davies and T. Roberts.  
County Cllr. J. Young.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. J. Richardson, P. Kraft, D. Purdey, K. Rogers and Borough Cllrs. E. Kraft, R. Newman and D. Adams.

**2. MINUTES.** RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2003 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to Cllr. Thompson's questions to County Cllr. J. Young being revised to read "Cllr. Thompson asked County Cllr. Young about the draft ECC/CBC Transportation Strategy and whether a) the route or routes being studied for the Southern Colchester By-Pass would pass through either of the Wivenhoe Wards, b) how the envisaged provision of a park and ride site on the A133 at Clingoe Hill would be appropriate when the Strategy document indicates that traffic on the road is above its capacity and will remain so in 2013, c) why the University, Rowhedge and other places are envisaged as being linked to Colchester by quality bus routes but not Wivenhoe and d) what ideas exist to expand the capacity of the car park at our rail station and to provide access for the disabled on the downside platform".

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.** None.

**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 provided members with a copy of her response to Cllr. Thompson's enquiries concerning the Draft Transportation Strategy, namely, if the route of the southern bypass would come near Wivenhoe; better access for the disabled; a bigger car park; a Park and Ride system; and if access from it to the A133 would make congestion worse. Cllr. Young replied that she shared his concerns regarding access on to the A133 at Clingoe Hill. With regard to the southern by-pass and the danger this would present to the 'green wedge' Cllr. Young would respond that the Town Council would not welcome this. Cllr. Roberts raised with Cllr. Young the issue of wheelchair access at Wivenhoe train station and she would look into this. Following a tendering exercise in which the specification had been increased to reflect a better quality hot meal Cllr. Young reported on the decision of County not to award a group contract because of the cost involved. Many school kitchens could close because of this and Cllr. Young was trying to get the decision overturned. Cllr. Thompson said that what matters most is what is best for the children, Cllr. Primrose added that eating a hot meal was important for the interactive socialization of children, and the Town Council would wish the service to continue. Cllr. Young would relay the feelings of the Town Council back to the County Council.

Cllr. Liddy raised the issue of the proposed scheme for a Visual Arts Centre for Colchester and the plans to move the bus station from Queen Street and provide an interchange service instead. All members were in agreement that this would be a deterioration of public transport services and that there was a danger of the public being 'short-changed' by these proposals and even more danger of the Visual Arts Centre becoming a white elephant. Cllr. Young was in agreement with the Town Council's views and it was decided that a letter would be sent to the Portfolio Holder, Cllr. Ken Jones and the Borough's Chief Officers, stating the Town Council's view that the Queen Street bus station should remain where it is and suggesting that a public meeting be held so that the people of Wivenhoe could have their say on the proposals.

**b) Borough Council:** Cllr. Davies reported on the issue of the Lion Walk Centre closing and how saddened he was about this. He would continue to oppose this. Concerning the Wivenhoe Business Centre, Cllr. Thompson asked Cllr. Davies to look into the matter of a sign for the Cross area; Cllr. Primrose asked Cllr. Davies to enquire about the missing street light on the lamp post outside the Post Office in the High Street; Cllr. Davies also reported that there was no decision yet on the Public Conveniences in the High Street car park. Cllr. Newman had sent in a written report stating that his main activities had been to do with the proposed redevelopment of the Wivenhoe Water Tower; supporting residents' views concerning the building of a new shop at Vine Parade, subsequently refused planning permission; proposed move of the Colchester Bus Station and that he had been appointed to the Waste and Recycling Working Party and would make a report on this after the first meeting.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

### **6.1 Planning:**

**a)** Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 8th January 2004 were received and noted. Cllr. Primrose reported that several residents had attended the meeting concerning the proposals for the redevelopment of the Wivenhoe Water Tower. A summary of the Town Council's Planning Committee's recommendations on the proposal was that it was totally inadequate and intrudes on a large number of residents, affecting their quality of life.

**b) Section 106 Working Party:** Cllr. Hill reported that there was nothing further to report, other than two years would soon be up on the conclusion of this. A formal letter had been sent to the Chairman of the Planning Committee asking what the delay was.

**c) Site Justification for New Surgery:** Following on from last month's meeting members discussed the detailed report from Cllr. Hill on the site justification for the new surgery and considered the proposal that the Town Council take the unusual step of submitting an outline planning application, with costs being reimbursed from the LIFT Project, to take the lead in the process. County Cllr. Julie Young expressed her support for the proposal. AGREED that Cllrs. Hill and Davies take the proposal forward by submitting the initial outline planning application to Colchester Borough Council Planning department.

**6.2 Personnel:** Cllr. Hill reported on:

- a) Progress on Op Admin and revisions to Front Office, which was advancing very well.
- b) Proposals for replacing position of Assistant Town Clerk following retirement of Mrs. Bradley at the end of April; Cllr. Davies would obtain advice from the Borough Council on the matter of job-sharing.
- c) Proposal that the Town Council should install a chair-lift to allow access to the Council Chamber so as not to disadvantage anyone with mobility problems from attending a Council meeting if they so wish. AGREED in theory to this and the Town Clerk would obtain estimates.

Cllr. Hill declared an interest in the following item.

- d) A final report from Mrs. B. Hill on the training of office personnel was circulated to members and members expressed their thanks to Mrs. Hill for undertaking this. It was AGREED that should it be needed further work on improving working practices would be carried out.

**6.3 Best Value Committee:** Nothing to report.

**7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.**

**7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:**

- a) **Wivenhoe Pantomime Group** – AGREED to the request for extension on 24 January for the after show party.
- b) **Toilet for the Disabled:** Members received and noted the written report from Cllr. Kraft on investigation into a toilet for people with disabilities in the William Loveless Hall. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Kraft for her work in investigating this.
- c) **Hand Drier:** Members considered two quotations for the replacement of the hand-drier in the ladies toilet and AGREED to purchase the higher specification model.
- d) The next meeting would be held on 11 February.

**7.2 General Amenities Working Party.**

- a) Report of meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January was received and noted. Cllr. Davies reported that he had been in contact with the building supplier who had damaged the brick pillars in the New Cemetery. The company had advised that they were waiting for a second quote for their insurance company. Cllrs. Roberts and Glozier-Green expressed concern that the resurfacing of the new path was not up to standard but Cllr. Davies disputed this fact, advising that it had been a difficult job for the contractor to do.
- b) **Old Cemetery, lopping of lime trees:** A quotation had been received for the lopping of two lime trees in the Old Cemetery, last done approximately 15 years ago, and it was AGREED to accept the quotation.

**7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party.** Nothing to report.

**7.4. Minibus Working Group:** The date of the next meeting would be arranged when Cllr. Richardson was present.

**7.5. Youth Facilities Working Party:** The report of the Working Party meeting held on 12 January was received and noted. Cllr. Liddy reported that the application for funding for a youth shelter had been submitted and that visits to three skateboard sites at Brightlingsea, Marks Tey and Witham had been arranged for Saturday 21 February. Consensus of the Working Party members was that the skateboard park/shelter should be sited somewhere on the King George V Playing Field, but consultation with local residents would be needed first.

**7. 6 Communications Working Group:** Cllr. Hill reported that the web site had received approximately 20,000 visits to date. There was almost 600 pages of information now on the site and Cllr. Hill added that he would be planning a celebratory party sometime in May for those who had contributed to the site.

**7.7 Engine Shed Working Group:** Nothing to report.

**7.8 WRUG:** Nothing to report.

**7.9 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:**

**a) Mayoral Activities:** Cllr. Primrose reported on attendances at the Colne Christmas Concert on 16 December, Carol Concert at the Congregational Church on 19 December, Morris Men dancing on The Quay on 26 December, where a cheque for £263 had been received for the Meningitis Trust and helping with taking down the Christmas lights on 3 January. Cllr. Primrose praised all those who helped this year with the Christmas Lights.

**b) Police Matters:** Members received and noted the January report from Cllr. Rogers.

**c) Theatrical Lights:** Cllr. Hill reported that the theatrical lights had moved into their new home with the Wivenhoe Gilbert & Sullivan Society over the weekend

**d) Broad Lane Football Club:** Cllr. Hill reported that the application for the car park extension and model car track had stalled on a planning matter.

**e) Twinning:** Cllr. Primrose reported that she had received an enquiry for a Friendship Link from La Ville de Sorgues in France. As the Town Council already had a Friendship Link with Pruszcz Gdansk in Poland it was decided that it would be preferable to encourage a Twinning Society to take this up. Cllr. Roberts would write an article for the web site on the idea of a Wivenhoe Twinning Society.

**8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.**

**8.1** The Town Clerk reported that no Burial Grants had been issued and four memorials had been approved since the last meeting. One interment had taken place.

**8.2 NALC Direct Information Service.** Issue Nos. 569 to 570 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 Christmas Lights had been taken down. Litter/bottles on the KGV field were being cleared almost daily. One seat had been vandalized at the Mede Way play area. Renovation work to the front office was progressing well. The number of customers and visitors to the Council Offices for the month of January totalled 122.

Members noted the Town Clerk's report.

### **9. FINANCE.**

#### **9.1 Current Financial Report.**

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

**b) Budget 2004/2005:** Further to the Budget meeting held on 5 January 2004 the Town Clerk reported receipt from the Borough Council Finance Officer of notification that the divisor figure had been amended to 2599.5 The Parish Grant of £31,410 remained unchanged. 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 £103,928 to meet its estimated expenditure for the financial year 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

Calculation of indicative Council Tax on the above divided by the equivalent number of Band D properties in Wivenhoe, now 2599.5 equalled a levy of £39.97 per Council Tax payer, representing an increase of 6.53% on last year's figures.

Members asked the Town Clerk to find out why the number of properties in Wivenhoe equivalent to Band D has only increased by 5.

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

#### **9.2 List of Cheques.**

The list of cheques numbered 501814 – 501830 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:**

New hand-drier for William Loveless Hall   £204  
Lopping of two lime trees in Old Cemetery   £500

**9.5 Appeals for Financial Support:** An application from the Wivenhoe Ferry Trust for sponsoring an advertisement in the Ferry Booklet was considered and it was AGREED to sponsor an advertisement as per last year at a cost of £50.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS.

### 10.1 Correspondence.

- a) **Colchester Community Safety:** Members received the guide for ‘Implementing a Practical Response to Section 17 and Mainstreaming Community Safety’.
- b) **CBC – Annual Meeting of the Parishes to Review Emergency Planning:** Members received the notes of the meeting held on 13 November 2003 at Town Hall, attended on the Town Council’s behalf by former Cllr. Steve Ford. Thanks were extended to Mr. Ford for this. It was AGREED that the exercise had been very useful and members noted that a further exercise had been provisionally set for 1 April 2004. Concerning the Civil Contingencies Bill it was established that the Town Council needed to kept in touch and consulted on this by MP Bernard Jenkin. The Town Clerk would write to MP Bernard Jenkin on this matter.
- c) **BT Removal of public payphones:** The letter from BT concerning the removal of payphones on Anchor Hill and outside the Council Offices had already been circulated to members and the response so far from members was that the public payphone outside the Council Offices needed to be retained for emergency use. The Town Clerk would relay this to BT as a matter of urgency requesting also that a sign be put up near the site of the kiosk to be removed indicating where the nearest public payphone was.
- d) **Tendring Hundred** – the copy of the Environmental Performance Report for 2002/03 was received and noted.

### 10.2 Conferences/Seminars. None.

**10.3 Notices.** Cllr. Primrose reminded members to get their applications in early for tickets for the Mayor’s Ball, to be held on 6 March 2004.

### 10.4 Licences. None.

### 10.5 Highway Matters:

- a) **Disabled Bay outside the Co-op:** Cllr. Roberts reported that the Estates Manager of the Co-op Supermarket had indicated to him that the Co-op would be happy for a disabled parking bay to be sited outside of the store.
- b) **Seat outside Co-op:** Cllr. Roberts also reported that the Estates Manager of the Co-op had stated that the Co-op was not happy for the seat to be reinstated on the forecourt of the store, although they would be happy to contribute towards a youth shelter, but in another location in the town. Cllr. Hill asked the Town Clerk to research how long the Town Council had been mowing the triangle piece of land, at the junction of High Street, Ernest Road and Belle Vue Road, previously owned by Colchester Poster Advertising Agency.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

