

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 20th December 2004.

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. P Hill (Chairman),
Cllrs: P Kraft, C Thompson, T Roberts, F Richards, C Liddy, D Purdey,
M Davies, K Rogers , S Glozier-Green.
Borough Cllrs: S Ford
County Cllr. J Young
Mrs. A Stinson (Town Clerk)
Mrs. M Goodchild (Notes)

Members were pleased to welcome Cllr. Rogers back after his recent illness.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs. Primrose, Borough Cllrs. D. Adams, A. Quarrie and E. Kraft.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 15th November 2004 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

5.1 (b) Litter bins at Vine Parade – noted that during the walkabout there was no litter to be seen in this area, however the Borough Council were considering whether they could replace the two old litter bins.

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 tabled details of correspondence on various highway issues she was having with Tony Ciaburro, Head of Highways and Transportation. Cllr. Thompson wanted someone to come and look at the junction of A133 with B1028. A report on this subject is expected in the New Year. Cllr. Ford had asked her to mention that Beverly Gould was looking into making the right-hand turn onto the A133 on the Colchester Road coming out of Wivenhoe safer.

Concerning the Cancer Urology Service, the decision had been made to place this at Colchester (not Ipswich) which is good news for local residents.

Question from Cllr. Thompson – could a request be put in for WTC to benefit from monies available for website improvements. He also raised the possibility of a half mile ‘No Parking’ zone under a proposed ECC policy adversely affecting Broomegrove and Millfields schools. Cllr. Young replied she had forwarded the observation that this policy would be totally impracticable. Comments awaited from Highways on this.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning

a) The Minutes of the meetings on 16th November and 7th December 2004 were received and noted. It was noted that details about the planning application for the 1st phase of residential

development for St. Johns Road at Cooks Shipyard had been put on the Town Council's website and that plans were available for inspection at the Town Council Offices.

- b) **Section 106 Working Party** Concerning the small area of land known as Sun Yard behind the old fire station that has no known ownership, Cllr. Hill reported his meeting with Nicola George, Head of Planning and Control, and Jonathan Frank of Lexden Restorations to determine how to prevent it become a dumping ground, had once again been postponed, this time through ill-health of the particular planning officer
- c) **Health Centre.** A meeting had taken place at the Surgery on 2nd December that Cllr. Roberts had attended together with MP Bernard Jenkin and the newly appointed Director of the LIFT company, Joan Clark, who had direct and sole responsibility to see that the new Health Centre in Wivenhoe gets built. Reported that this meeting was very positive and that plans for a new Health Centre by the Fire Station could be submitted in the spring. Cllr. Hill suggested organising a meeting with the doctors and the Town Council to consider what range of facilities the new 'state of the art' Health Centre could have. Cllr Roberts suggested doctors and practice manager visit a modern Health Centre elsewhere and Cllr Hill agreed to forward the suggestion.

6.2 Personnel:

- (a) Cllr. Purdey reported that pay scales for 2004/05 had been agreed.
- (b) Agreed the W L Hall and Office cleaners to get holiday pay from 2005.
- (c) The Council offices will be close on 24th December and re-open on the 4th January 2005.
- (d) A Work Plan for next year to be proposed and agreed.

6.3 Best Value Committee

- (a) Notes of meeting on 13th December had been circulated.
- (b) Strategic Priorities for WTC had been circulated by Cllr. Hill, with a few minor changes. Members would let Cllr. Hill know by e-mail if there were any further amendments needed. Agreed these should be published on the WTC's website and sent to local organisations after Christmas by Cllr. Hill, with a request for comments or observations.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

- (a) Noted minutes of the meeting held on 30th November had been circulated.
- (b) Toilet for the Disabled – quotes are being obtained. Cllr.Kraft said that funding was being looked into. Letters about the proposals and seeking observations had been sent out to the principal users of the Hall in early December. One response had been received to date.
- (c) The Working Party was proposing to set up a users' meeting once a year.
- (d) Stage - Lining paper will be used on the back wall instead of hessian.
- (e) Private hire for 21st Birthday Party on Saturday 18/12. Some hooks had been screwed into some walls in contravention of the agreement, leaving unsightly marks when removed. Cllrs. Roberts and Kraft would have a look and agree whether the hirer should be invoiced for the necessary making good.
- (f) The use of a marquee lining for this recent event had transformed the interior of the Hall and the Working Party will consider whether something similar might be possible to arrange in the future to increase the attractiveness of the Hall for weddings and as a means to increase hiring revenue.

7.2 General Amenities Working Party.

- a) Notes of the meeting held on 1 December were received.
- b) Cllr. Glozier-Green reported that the piece of land adjacent to the footpath near Tower Road (off the main road) needed clearing as residents were complaining that it was a fire hazard. The land was not registered with the Land Registry. AGREED to clear the undergrowth, as it presented a fire hazard.
- c) Cllr. Hill proposed a 'beating the bounds' tour again some time over the Christmas break to look at areas such as play equipment, where money needed to be spent. Cllr Hill to email members with a date and time (Friday 31st Dec at 10.30am).

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party. Nothing to report.

7.4. Minibus Working Group:

- a) Cllr. Kraft, with colleagues on the Working Group, had selected a nearly-new mini-bus, achieving a substantial saving on the list price for a new vehicle. The bus was officially 'launched' on Saturday, 4th December. Thanks were extended from the members of the Town Council to Cllr. Kraft and all involved in achieving this. Cllr Kraft advised there was still approximately £12,000 in the Mini-bus account, including the proceeds of sale of the old mini-bus.
- b) Cllr Kraft advised the next meeting would be in May 2005.

7.5. Youth Facilities Working Party:

- a) Cllr. Rogers reported that the new Youth Shelter would be installed on Thursday 13th January 2005. The grant to the Wivenhoe Community Safety NW Group from Essex Community Foundation would be £6,000 and would cover the cost of installation. It was proposed and agreed that the official opening would be on Saturday 15th January.
- b) Cllr.Purdey reported that the Skateboard Park report has just been received and will be considered by the Youth Facilities WP in January.

7. 6 Communications Working Group: Nothing to report.

7.7 Engine Shed Working Group

Cllr. Hill reported that the name of the Wivenhoe Community Association had now been changed officially to 'Engine Shed'. He proposed and it was agreed to invite Project Committee Chairman Peter Cook and colleagues to give a short presentation about the latest Business Plan to Councillors at 7.00pm prior to the next Town Council meeting on 17th January.

7.8 WRUG: Nothing to report.

7.9 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

- a) **Mayoral Activities:** Cllr. Hill reported on attendances at: the Mayor's Charity Coach Trip to France/Belgium with Cedric Coaches on Saturday, 20 November; Friday 26 November; visited several opening nights of Wivenhoe's art galleries plus Wivenhoe Society's wine testing evening; Saturday 27 November - the Mayor's Charity Tramp's Supper event in the William Loveless Hall; Thursday 2 December - St. Mary's Christmas Market and Late-Night Shopping; Saturday 4th December - the unveiling of Wivenhoe's new 'Community Bus', Millfields School Christmas Fayre, and Angie Diggins Christmas Concert in the William Loveless Hall in the evening; on Friday 10th December, the Over-60s Christmas Lunch; on Friday 17th December the

Congregational Church Christmas Concert; Sunday 19th December, Pam Glover's Tea Dance and Waltz with the Emperor of China and St. Mary's Christmas Carol Concert in the evening.

b) **Community Safety and Police Matters** Cllr. Rogers reported he had received complaints about door-to-door 'salesmen' promoting patios and paving. He had details of vehicle registration numbers that he had passed on to the police who would take action. He had received two reports about youngsters using drugs, which he will be looking into with the police. People knocking bricks off the top of walls in the gardens of local residents was also under investigation. Cllr. Rogers also raised the health hazard of rubbish not being collected on time, with plastic bags being ripped open by cats or wildlife and food being left on the ground, particularly in Chaney Road and surrounding area. Cllrs. Ford and Kraft would report this to the Borough. Cllr. Ford is in liaison with Peter Chillingworth, the portfolio holder at CBC. Car-parking in WLH car park had once again become a problem, particularly when the Hall is booked for an event. Cllrs. Rogers and P Kraft will work on this problem together. It was suggested that, before parking there, police check with the office whether the Hall is being used.

c) **Learning Partnership:** Cllr. Hill enquired if any Councillor was aware the state of the Learning Partnership at the University as he understood funding was being withdrawn and courses cancelled.

d) **Street Signs:** The recent proliferation of street signs in Wivenhoe was raised by Cllr Hill and it was agreed the Borough Council be asked if the number and size of signs, as well as the number of poles on the roads in Wivenhoe could be the subject of a review. It was noted that the recent speed camera warning signs had added to the general street clutter because of their number, their size and that they had been fixed on new poles instead of existing ones. Also raised by Cllr Roberts was whether residents' parking permit signs could all be attached to garden walls, instead of high on poles. Cllr. Hill will write to Adrian Pritchard, Chief Executive of CBC to see whether CBC could accept a challenge to do something about this proliferation of street signs.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 The Town Clerk reported that no Burial Grants had been issued and three memorials had been approved since the last meeting.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issue No. 589 had been circulated.

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

8.4 Work Management.

a) General: Fencing at Mede Way play area had been repaired following vandalism. Christmas lights had been put up and holly cut for the churches. Bark chippings had been delivered by the Borough Council's rangers for use on footpaths etc., as in previous years.

b) The number of visitors to the Council Offices for the month of November totalled 128.

c) Walkabout Report with CBC Officers. A report from Brian Godden was circulated by the Clerk.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report.

a) The November Spending & Income Report was received and noted.

b) Preliminary Budget 2005/06: A report of meeting held on 15th December was made by Cllr Hill. The budget to be finalised at the January meeting when the Parish Grant will be known.

c) ECC Pension Fund 2004/05 report was received and noted.

9.2 The list of cheques numbered 501999 – 502028 drawn since the last meeting of the Town Council was approved and signed.

9.3 The list of Payments made from the Imprest Account since the last Town Council Meeting 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 Waste Collections and Recycling:** The letter from Dave McManus on minor changes to collection days had been circulated.
- b) **CBC: Rural Business Survey:** Cllr. Kraft to look at the report.
- c) **CBC: Consultation notification of the St Botolph's Quarter Masterplan Sustainability Appraisal:** Deadline for comments 20th January 2005. Cllr. Glozier-Green expressed interest in looking into this further.
- d) **Essex Community Foundation: Annual Review 2004:** Cllr. Purdey to look at.
- e) **ECC Shaping the Future of Essex:** Cllr. Richards to look at.
- f) **CBC Emergency Planning Meeting:** A copy of notes of the meeting held on 11 November 2004 was received, Cllr. Glozier-Green to look at.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars. Members noted the following:

Colchester 2020 Wednesday 26 January 2005 at the United Reform Church, Lion Walk 9.30 a.m.

10.3 Notices. None.

10.4 Licences. None.

10.5 Highway Matters

- a) **CBC: Waiting Restrictions:** Copy of Public Notice concerning no parking restrictions at Britannia Crescent received and noted with no observations.
- b) **New Bus Stop:** Cllr. Hill circulated a letter from Mr David Whymark concerning the bus stop in Rectory Road. Members noted its contents.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm and an invitation was extended to all by Cllr. Hill to join him and Bonnie at their home for a festive drink and mince pies. Also invited were Town Council staff, members of the Mayor's Charity Fund-Raising Committee and the leading members of the Wivenhoe Christmas lights team. A small presentation of some port wine to be made there to Dave Sleightholm by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as a thank you for his considerable efforts to light up Wivenhoe at Christmas during these last several years.

CHAIRMAN