

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 24 April 2006.

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. T. Roberts (Chairman),
Cllrs: F. Richards, N. Lodge, C. Liddy, P. Hill,
S. Glozier-Green, D. Purdey and S. Gillman.
Mrs. A Stinson (Town Clerk)
Press

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P. Kraft, K. Rogers and B. Sinclair and Borough Cllrs. E. Kraft and S. Ford.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 March 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

5.b) Cllr. Hill said he had emailed James Moodie of Taylor Woodrow about vehicles not sticking to the agreed route to Cook's site and that he had received a response stating that Knight Environmental had confirmed that all their drivers had been informed about this.

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

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

- a) **Essex County Council:** No report.
- b) **Colchester Borough Council:** No report.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning

a) Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 March and 11 April were received and noted.

b) **Section 106:** Cllr. Hill reported that Taylor Woodrow had been in contact concerning the Wet Dock and that they would be placing 8 mooring rings on either side of the Wet Dock for the fishing boats in accordance with the Section 106 Agreement. He had discussed these arrangements with Rodney Bowes, Chairman of the Wivenhoe Fishermen's Association. Cllr. Hill advised he had requested that railings be put around the Wet Dock similar to those at West Quay and set back 1 metre from the edge of the dock to allow access by the fishermen to their boats through a properly secured access point. Maintenance of waterfront areas other than the Wet Dock would be the responsibility of a residents' management company, not the Town Council or any other public authority.

Regarding the proposed various Highway Works around lower Wivenhoe, Cllr. Hill proposed the Council hold a public exhibition of the plans over a three-day period in the Council chamber and invite comments from the public as part of the formal public consultation on them, which was likely to be in May.

Concerning the letter sent by Geoff Harris and Paul Bradford to residents, following initial concern to proposals expressed by many of them to the informal consultation step taken by ECC Area Highways Office, Cllr Hill voiced his own concern that one part of that reply

implied Wivenhoe Town Council fully supported the proposals. He said there were two important aspects where we were totally at odds with the Highways Office and these concerned the proposal to make Queens Road a cul-de-sac and the other concerned a hardened surface in the Folly 'suitable for cyclists'. Councillors confirmed unanimously that the Town Council's view remained unchanged, viz: that The Folly be left as it is and not hard surfaced and that all three access roads to the site be left open to share the burden of the extra traffic.

c) Health Centre: Cllr. Hill reported on discussions he had had with the Doctor's Practice and Joan Clarke, Chief Executive of Realise Health. Stage 1 Funding had been agreed by Colchester PCT for a new Health Centre by the Fire Station and Realise Health were now actively working towards getting plans drawn up and on site acquisition. As there were significant highway issues to be sorted out it was expected to be a lengthy process before any work would begin.

6.2 Personnel Committee:

a) Cllr. Purdey reported that the next meeting on 3 May would be the first meeting of Finance and General Purposes Committee which included the responsibilities of the Personnel Committee. Responsibilities of this broader Committee would include Town Council finances and communications. Accordingly, all Councillors were invited to attend.

6.3 Best Value Committee

a) The notes of meeting held on Monday 10 April 2006 were received and noted. The matter of the sign at the north end of the King George V Playing would be under discussion again.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) The notes of the meeting held on 22 March were received and the date of the next meeting would be on 24 May 2006. Members noted the start date of 26th June for the building works which would go on for approximately 4 weeks. The Working Party would be asked to suggest an alternative location for the Blood Doning sign, which was often draped over the roadside railings at the junction of Belle Vue Road, Ernest Road and High Street, felt by some people to cause a traffic hazard.

7.2 General Amenities & Landscaping Working Party.

a) A report of the meeting held on 4 April 2006 was received and noted.

b) **Memorial Bench in New Cemetery:** Cllr. Glozier-Green reported on a satisfactory conclusion in that a bench already in situ in the New Cemetery had been 'adopted' by Mr. P. Knappett in memory of his family members buried in the New Cemetery. Mr. Knappett had agreed to be responsible for upkeep and ongoing maintenance of the seat and had sent a letter of appreciation to the Town Council on the novel solution proposed by Cllr. Glozier-Green.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party: Cllr. Richards said that it was hoped to arrange a meeting soon.

7.4. Minibus Working Group. Noted the end of year financial statement for the mini-bus accounts which showed a year end balance of £14,452.02 at 31 March 2006.

7.5 Youth Facilities Working Party.

a) Cllr. Purdey reported that the Certificate of Lawfulness for the skateboard play facility had been granted by CBC Planning Department on 21 April 2006 and the Working Party had scheduled a meeting for 4 May to discuss the next steps.

b) Youth Club: Cllr. Purdey reported that the Working Party had given consideration on how to progress reviving the Youth Club. A meeting was being set up by Cllr. Eugene Kraft and Essex County Council.

7.6 Wivenhoe Engine Shed Trust. Cllr. Hill reported that Network Rail Property had finished scaffolding the building as a means to prevent its collapse. The Trust were working on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. He reported that there was little chance of any significant Arts Lottery money for the scheme. The group were now priority on emphasizing the heritage aspects of the scheme and using art to encourage interest in Wivenhoe's heritage that seemed to be disappearing under housing.

7.7 WRUG. Nothing to report.

7.8 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) **Mayoral Activities:** Cllr. Roberts reported on attendances at the Colne Community School for official opening of new ICT Centre on 24 March; Presented a cheque for £600 to the Mary Barron Suite, Essex County Hospital on 7 April, £580 of which was raised on the New Year sponsored walk.

Attended press presentation of Spok'n Word, an arts initiative created by Martin Newell on 13 April and opened an art exhibition in the Boat House, Alma Street, also attended the formal launch of Spok'n Word at the Wivenhoe Bookshop, all on the same day.

Non-mayoral attendances included:

2 April – took part in Wivenhoe Society's spring clean-up of river bank

6 April – Town Plan meeting at the William Loveless Hall.

24 April – Attended Parish Public Transport Representatives' meeting at Quaker Meeting House, Colchester.

b) Community Safety and Police Matters:

Cllr. Rogers had submitted a written report detailing five calls which members noted.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 Burial Grants and approval of memorials.

One Burial Grant had been issued and three memorials had been approved since the last meeting. Two interments of ashes had been carried out.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issues No. 627 and 628 had been received and circulated electronically.

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

8.4 Work Management.

a) General: The Town Clerk reported that wooden half barrels were being prepared for tub planting; the second round of grass cutting had been carried out on Town Council owned areas and more graffiti had been removed from the childrens play area.

The number of visitors to the Council Offices for the month of March totalled 127.

Town Clerk had also circulated to members an analysis of groundsmen's hours for end of year in comparison with the previous three year's figures.

b) Annual Report: The first draft of the Annual Report had been emailed to all members for comment. Some amendments had already been received and incorporated. The Town Clerk would circulate the second version with the final date for any more comments being Friday 28 April.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report

a) The March spending and income Report was received and noted.

b) **End of Year Balance:** Town Clerk to report that the end of year balance to the bank at 31 March 2006 was £86,144.41.

9.2 List of cheques numbered 502340 – 502355 drawn since the last Town Council Meeting was approved and signed.

9.3 List of Payments made from the Imprest Account since the last Town Council Meeting was approved.

9.4 Motions Under Standing Orders Recommending Expenditure. None.

9.5 Appeals for Financial Support. None.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Correspondence.

- a) **Colchester NHS** – formal consultation on future location of Colchester NHS 'Walk-in Centre and out of hours Service' Consultation period 17 March 2006 – 12 May 2006. Received and noted.
- b) **Colchester Association of Local Councils:** Members received the letter from EALC about the reformation of the Colchester Association of Local Councils and AGREED to indicate their support by writing to the EALC stating that they would be pleased to consider rejoining and would look forward to the Association concentrating more on specific issues such as planning and training.
- c) **Villa Farm Quarries:** Members received and noted with interest the letter and leaflet from Friends of Cockaynes Wood. A letter would be sent indicating the Town Council's support in view of the fact that many Wivenhoe residents visited the woods.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars.

Colchester's Future – workshop designed for Town and Parish Councillors
Tuesday 2 May 2006 6.30pm at Lion Walk Church.

Members noted that this was being held on the same day as the Town Council's Planning Committee meeting.

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

East Essex Forum 19 June 2006 Venture Centre Lawford

Cllr. Roberts stated that he would be attending this.

10.4 Licences. Nothing to report.

10.5 Highway Matters.

- a) **ECC – Traffic Calming Works being promoted as part of the redevelopment of the former Cook’s Shipyard site:** Members had already received the letters from Paul Bradford dated 31 March 06 and letter with maps dated 18 April 06 from Geoff Harris. As referred to earlier under item 6. b) the Town Council’s view remained unchanged, viz: that The Folly be left as it is and not hard surfaced and that all three access roads to the site be left open to share the burden of the extra traffic.
- b) **Pavement Resurfacing:** AGREED to write a letter of thanks to Geoff Harris of ECC Highways in recognition of the recent pavement resurfacing and also to pass on the thanks of one resident who had written to the Town Clerk expressing thanks for the resurfacing and pavement works. A minority of members felt the workmanship was of poor standard.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN