

MINUTES of the Meeting of Wivenhoe Town Council held in the Council Chamber on Monday 16 October 2006.

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. P. Kraft (Chairman),
Cllrs: C. Liddy, D. Purdey, T. Roberts, P. Hill, S. Gillman and K. Rogers,
Borough Cllr: S. Ford, County Cllr. J. Young.
Mrs. A Stinson (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. S. Glozier-Green, F. Richards, N. Lodge, B. Sinclair and Ward Cllrs. A. Quarrie, D. Adams and E. Kraft.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 18 September 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Cllr. Rogers' objection to the wording of the first sentence of the second paragraph of the item on policing, viz: 'The Town Council expressed their concern for the lack of communication between the police and general public and that better public relations were needed'.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

6.3 Dates for meeting with Colne School: Town Clerk to send further dates.

4. POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

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

a) Essex County Council: Cllr. Young reported on the decision made to close Queens Road although she had backed the Town Council's proposals. Town Councillors expressed concern that they had not been formally notified of the decision and this would be looked into. Cllr. Hill asked if Cllr. Young could obtain a formal statement from the County Council on the reasoning and how they came to arrive at the decision. This would then be put on the Town Council's website. Concerning elderly person's residential care homes, Cllr. Young reported that Exelcare were proposing dramatic cuts to the food budget.

b) Borough Council: Cllr. S. Ford congratulated Cllr. Kraft on a very successful and enjoyable Civic Service. He then reported that he had walked around Wivenhoe with Highways officer Paul Maplestone and Taylor Woodrow representatives to identify lorry damage done to pavements etc. Areas needing attention had been marked with orange paint and would be fixed within three months. Cllr. Ford also reported on the flooding recently and was pleased to announce that the Environment Agency had accepted responsibility for the Town Drain and would be trying to resolve the flooding problem within the next nine months. He had also taken on board a complaint about a tree in the High Street car park which had tarmac around it. The Borough Council would be removing the tarmac shortly. He had attending a meeting of NAP (Neighbourhood Action Panel) and agreed that the presence of Community Support Police Officers in Wivenhoe needed promoting more.

Cllr. Kraft thanked Cllr. Ford for his efforts in resolving the flooding issue in Wivenhoe.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning

a) Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26 September were noted. Town Clerk to chase CBC on two matters - the Planning Department regarding an officer from the Borough Council coming to a Planning Committee re S106 Agreements and a response to the request of the Town Council re intranet connection.

b) **Town Plan:** Cllr. Purdey reported that the Town Plan Group were holding a public meeting at the Philip Road Youth Centre on 14 November to discuss the needs of the young people in Wivenhoe.

c) **Section 106 Working Party.** Nothing further to report.

d) **Health Centre:** Cllr. Hill reported that Realize Health was trying to organize a meeting with the Highways department, but due to the restructuring of the PCT this was taking some time.

6.2 Finance and Administration Committee. Nothing further to report.

6.3 Best Value Committee

a) The notes of meeting held on Monday 9 October 2006 were received and noted.

Main items of report:

- Draft proposal for the new Hiring Agreement for the KGV Field now being worked on.
- Civic Centre: A group of 25 students would be visiting the Council Offices on 25 October at 2.30pm.
- Fire Officer's Report: Following an inspection by the Fire and Safety Officer a report on the William Loveless Hall had been received itemizing areas needing attention. Cllr. Rogers would go through the report and summarise what was needed in the William Loveless Hall.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) The report of the meeting held on 27 September 2006 was circulated.

b) The request from Wivenhoe pantomime group for extension of hall hire on Saturday 27 January for after show party was AGREED.

7.2 General Amenities & Landscaping Working Party. Nothing to report.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party: Nothing to report.

7.4. Minibus Working Group. Nothing to report.

7.5 Youth Facilities Working Party.

a) **Skateboard park:** Cllr. Purdey reported that following the concerns raised by a resident about the sound deadening installation, GBH had been contacted and they would come out to look at the installation when next in the area.

AGREED that it would be a good idea to ask the Police if they would carry out a bike postcoding session on the skatepark. Cllr. Rogers said he would arrange this.

7.6 Wivenhoe Engine Shed Trust.

The following proposal was submitted for consideration.

That the Wivenhoe Town Council support the endeavours of the Wivenhoe Engine Shed Trust to save the building known locally as the 'Engine Shed' and to turn it into a Cultural Heritage Centre for the benefit of the residents of Wivenhoe and the area. That the Town Council supports the proposal to appoint an architect to help in the preparation of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and in aspects relating to building design, structural engineering, costing and planning. It will contribute a third share in this cost, matching contributions from the Engine Shed Trust and Colchester Borough Council. The Council will conclude a lease with Network Rail for the building which has been offered for 999 years when development funds are secured, and is willing to enter into an agreement with the Engine Shed Trust as soon as a document can be drawn up that confirms the position of the Trust as managers of the building for a minimum of 30 years as required to support the Heritage Lottery bid.

Cllr. Hill declared a non-pecuniary interest.

RESOLVED that the above proposal be AGREED upon.

7.7 WRUG. Nothing to report.

7.8 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) Mayoral Activities: Cllr. Kraft reported on attendances at the Colne School Awards Evening on 20 September ; Broomgrove Infants on 21 September to give a talk; 30 September Afternoon Tea Dance and 1940's dance in the evening at the William Loveless Hall; 1 October Harvest Songs of Praise at St. Mary's Church; 5 October launch of Oral History Project; 8 October Essex on Tour; 9 October visit to British Legion; 10 October NAP meeting; 11 October Colchester Institute to celebrate the partnership between the University and the College; 14 October Colne School Open morning; 14 October Amnesty International Social Evening and 15 October the Town Council's annual Civic Service, which was very successful and Cllr. Kraft thanked all those who helped with the event.

b) Community Safety and Police Matters:

Cllr. Rogers circulated minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch meeting held on 28 September. He also reported that there had been an increase in house burglaries. He had deposited some forms at the Council Offices reception for residents to fill in and return

c) Remembrance Day Arrangements: Cllr Hill proposed that the Town Council support the Wivenhoe Remembrance Day arrangements by making the Wm Loveless Hall available for the Young People's Service on Sunday 12th November as usual, and for the Town Council to invite everyone back to the Hall after the Act of Remembrance as last year. Also, for the Town Council to fund the cost of refreshments at approximately £50 and in 2007 to take over the cost of the band from the Wivenhoe Branch of the British Legion at approximately £100.

This was AGREED.

d) Oral History Group: Cllr. Hill proposed that the Town Council thanks on behalf of Wivenhoe residents the work of the Oral History Group in the launch of the Book – Wivenhoe Remembered and a DVD. Members AGREED that Paul Thompson and the Oral History Group had done an excellent job in interviewing over 190 residents and gathered a lot of valuable material which was very important to the town. The book was on sale at the moment and the DVD was expected to be available shortly.

e) Cycle Path: Cllr. Liddy reported that CBC had carried out a survey on the Cycle Path identifying a number of works to be carried out.

f) Car Park: A letter sent by a resident to Cllr. Quarrie had been copied to the Town Council. The letter raised concerns about the lack of parking spaces available due to the number of residents' cars which appeared to be always parked in the car park. Agreed that the matter be taken up with Colchester Borough Council, the authority responsible for the High Street car park. An acknowledgement would be sent to the resident concerned.

g) University: Agreed that a letter be formally sent to the University of Essex stating that the Town Council would like to work with them concerning the formation of a cyclepath from Wivenhoe to the University, utilising some of the Section 106 funds expected from the new University's new development.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 Burial Grants and approval of memorials.

One Burial Grant had been issued and one memorial had been approved since the last meeting. Two burials had been carried out.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issues No. 640 and 641 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 grass cutting was still continuing in some areas. Overhanging elder trees had been cleared from the Churchyard wall, following a complaint from a resident. The fencing at Mede Way play area had been completed and most of the play equipment repainted but the newly refurbished bench had since been vandalized. Outdoor staff had also helped with the riverbank clear up. The skatepark was being cleared of broken glass and rubbish daily but the litter bins were being used. A bench had also been installed on the skatepark. The number of visitors to the Council Offices for the month of September totalled 146.

Concerning the bench, a suggestion was made that backless benches be used instead, as this was the part which was easily broken. Agreed that this be looked into.

Members also noted that new wooden bus shelters were being put in by the County Council as part of the Quality Bus Scheme.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report

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

9.2 List of cheques numbered 502463 – 502489 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) **Wivenhoe Bookshop** – Members received the letter of thanks from the proprietor of the Bookshop concerning the Town Council's donation.
- b) **Colchester PCT annual report 2005/06:** Noted receipt, available at meeting.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars. None.

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

Mayor's Charity coach trip to France/Belgium Saturday 25 November £15

10.4 Licences. Nothing further to report.

10.5 Highway Matters.

- a) **ECC Highways Vehicle Activated Signs and Speed Indicator Devices (SID).**
Members received the letter from Geoff Harris and copy of ECC Highways Practice Note governing use of the above signs.
AGREED that the Town Council were interested and more information would be obtained.
- b) **ECC Temporary 10mph speed limit:**
Noted that a temporary 10mph speed limit would be in force on Rectory Road/Rectory Hill from 17 to 26 November for resurfacing works.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.

CHAIRMAN