

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. P. Kraft (Chairman),
Cllrs: C. Liddy, D. Purdey, T. Roberts, P. Hill, S. Gillman, F. Richards, N. Lodge, S. Glozier-Green. K. Rogers and B. Sinclair. Borough Cllrs. A. Quarrie and S. Ford and County Cllr. J. Young.
Mrs. A Stinson (Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. E. Kraft.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 20 November 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of Cllr. Ford's apologies for absence.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

6.3a) WL Hall Fire Safety Regulations: Cllr. Rogers reported that he had been consulting with the Fire Brigade on a less costly installation and would report back.

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 congratulated the Town Council on the town's Christmas lights display. Cllr. Young also reported that the proposal for the cycleway from Wivenhoe to the University was put forward but was not successful. She would keep pressing for the scheme which might be reconsidered in the future; other items of report – concern about school places arising from the housing element on the Research Park development and whether there will be a split catchment with St. Andrew's.

b) Borough Council: Cllr. Quarrie reported on behalf of Cllr. Adams that a 'lollipop person' for the school crossing at Colchester Road was needed and that although the appointment had been advertised no one had come forward yet. Cllr. Kraft suggested that an advertisement be placed in the 'Look' magazine.

Cllr. Quarrie also raised the issue of no car parking on Wivenhoe Quay during the summer months. Members advised Cllr. Quarrie that the Town Council was currently discussing the issue of the Quay with Essex County Council Highways and a copy of the Town Council's policy on the Quay would be sent to Cllr. Quarrie. Cllr. Quarrie said she would talk to those residents residing on the Quay individually to obtain their views.

Cllr. Ford said that he was still looking into flooding issues. He reported though that quite a few drains in Wivenhoe were to be 'jetted' shortly. He had also held a meeting with concerned residents over the recent increase in the amount of dog fouling in Wivenhoe.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning

a) Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 28 November (unsigned) were noted. Cllr. Liddy reported that the first draft of the Core Strategy document had been circulated. Concerning the matter of tables and chairs outside the Rose and Crown PH members noted that Mr. Alan Stephens, landlord, would be attending the Planning Committee meeting on the following night.

b) **Section 106 Working Party.** Cllr. Liddy reported that the Borough Community Partnership Officer, Matt Sterling, had attended the Planning Committee meeting to talk to the Town Council about the Borough Council's new policy on S 106 Planning gain. The Community Partnership team meet fortnightly to go through all planning applications for large developments in order to ascertain those applications likely to attract planning gain. Mr. Sterling said it was important therefore that the Town Council kept him up to date on Wivenhoe's needs for community facilities.

c) **Health Centre:** Cllr. Hill reported that this was still in abeyance.

6.2 Finance and Administration Committee. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December were received and noted. Concerning the proposal for an increase in the budget for Christmas Lights, the allocation would be re-assessed following the meeting with the volunteers in January when costings and condition of the lights currently in use would be known.

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

6.3 Best Value Committee

a) The notes of meeting held on Monday 11 December 2006 were received and noted.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) The notes of the meeting held on 29 November 2006 were received and noted.

7.2 General Amenities & Landscaping Working Party.

a) Cllr. Gillman reported that his first allotment inspection, held on 10 December, had been very enjoyable and informative. There were a few plots needing attention and these would be notified to the Town Clerk.

Cllr. Kraft read out a letter of thanks from Celia O'Donnell of WAGA for those members who attended the inspection.

b) Major Tom Burt's Bench: As St. Mary's Church PCC had indicated that they did not want any more seats in the Churchyard it was decided that a couple of members meet with the PCC to discuss the Town Council's reasons for suggesting the Churchyard for the relocation of the seat.

c) Bus Shelters: Cllr. Kraft reported that Essex County Council had confirmed that they would be adding a seat to the shelter at Rosabelle Avenue, but had not decided about the addition of a seat to the shelter outside Toad Hall, Colchester Road. This was to be looked at again.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party: Cllr. Richards reported that the working party day to remove the sycamore seedlings on November 26th had been very successful. Quite a few volunteers were now being recruited.

7.4. Minibus Working Group. Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November were received and noted.

7.5 Youth Facilities Working Party.

a) **Skateboard park:** Town Clerk reported that a response had been received from GBH to the effect that they were waiting for better weather to carry out the work.

7.6 Wivenhoe Engine Shed Trust. Nothing to report.

7.7 WRUG. Nothing to report.

7.8 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:

a) **Mayoral Activities:** Cllr. Kraft reported on attendances at the Mayor's Charity trip to France on 25 November, thanks were expressed to Cedric Coaches for donating this; meeting at Broomgrove School re swimming pool on 1 December; Late Night shopping and switching on Wivenhoe's Christmas Lights on 7 December; Over 60's festive tea dance on 9 December at the William Loveless Hall, thanks here to Mike Rollo and Dennis Free for providing the entertainment; also on December 9 meeting St. Nicholas on The Quay; Christmas Concert at Colne School on 13 December; Over 60's Christmas Lunch on 15 December and Carol Service at St. Mary's Church on 17 December.

b) Community Safety and Police Matters:

Minutes of the Neighbourhood Watch Meeting held on 30 November had been circulated by email. Cllr. Rogers reported on two burglaries and a number of issues concerning youths gathering in Wivenhoe.

c) **EALC Government White Paper:** Cllr. Roberts reported on his attendance at this seminar and gave a copy of the summary to be deposited at the Council Offices.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 Burial Grants and approval of memorials.

One Burial Grant had been issued and two memorials had been approved since the last meeting. One burial had been carried out.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. Issues No. 645 and 646 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 the last cut of King George V Playing Field had been carried out. Areas of scrub on the dog exercise area had been cleared and a rustic bench put in. Holly and greenery had been cut for St. Mary's Church. Christmas lights had been put up outside the William Loveless Hall, the Council Offices and the Town Council's crib put out. The number of visitors to the Council Offices for the month of November totalled 168.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report

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

b) **ECC Pension Fund:** The 2005-2006 report was received and noted.

9.2 List of cheques numbered 502503 – 502529 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) **Tendring Hundred Water Corporate Responsibility Report 2005/06**
Noted receipt of copy.
- b) **CBC Emergency Planning meeting 16 November:** Noted receipt of a copy of the presentation.
- c) **J.R. Waite & Co:** Members received the letter from Mr. A. Revell announcing his intention to close in January 2007 and were sad to learn of the closure of yet another retail shop in Wivenhoe.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars. Members noted the following:

EALC – “The Funding Game and How to Win It” 1 March 07 - Foakes House, Gt. Dunmow – 9.30 – 3.30pm £20 per delegate.

Cllr. Roberts to attend.

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

Mayor’s Charity New Year’s Eve Party – William Loveless Hall
8.30pm – 1.00am 31 December - tickets £10.

10.4 Licences. None.

10.5 Highway Matters.

- a) **Queens Road Drainage Issues:** Members noted receipt of a copy of the Borough Council’s response to residents re drainage issues on Queens Road.
- b) **Parish Council Liaison:** Following on from the proposals for improved liaison between Parish Councils and Highways members noted receipt of an invitation for a representative of each Parish Council to attend a meeting at East Area Office, 910 The Crescent, Colchester Business Park at 2.00pm on Thursday 18 January 2007. The intention of the meeting was to discuss issues of concern to Parish Councils in relation to County Council policies and strategies.
Cllr. Liddy said that he might be able to attend this.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 9.03pm and an invitation was extended to all by Cllr. Kraft to join her and Cllr. E. Kraft at their home for a festive drink, cheeses and mince pies.