

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. P. Kraft (Chairman),
Cllrs: T. Roberts, P. Hill, S. Gillman, F. Richards, K. Rogers, C. Liddy, N. Lodge and B. Sinclair.
Borough Cllr. D. Adams.
Mrs. A. Stinson (Town Clerk)
Mr. Mark Cory and Mr. Simon Bacon.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. D. Purdey, Borough Cllrs. E. Kraft, S. Ford and A. Quarrie, County Cllr. J. Young.

2. MINUTES. RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 19 March 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Cllr. Richards as attending the meeting on the Cycletrack (3.5a)

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.

5.a) Cycletrack: Town Clerk to press a reply from Geoff Harris, Area Highways Manager, re the feasibility of a cycle track from Wivenhoe to the University of Essex.

4. POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Two had been received.

a) Mr. Mark Cory re Colchester Road bus stop. Mr. Cory addressed the meeting stating his concerns about the situation of the bus stop sign which was on the telegraph pole before the bus waiting shelter. It was decided that because of the bend in the road Mr Cory's proposal was not viable because a) if pole as positioned beyond the bus stop it would not be visible and b) it would mean another pole and the Town Council were trying to reduce the number of poles, not add to them.

It was decided to ask both bus companies to advise their drivers of this problem to ensure they stopped at the raised kerb.

b) Mr. Simon Bacon re memorial to Sid Cox. Mr. Bacon addressed the meeting about a proposal for a memorial of kind to the late Sid Cox, community policeman. Members were in agreement with the proposal but it was felt that contact needed to be made with Mrs. S. Cox first.

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

a) **Essex County Council:** Nothing to report.

b) **Borough Council:** Cllr. Adams reported mainly on footpath issues and that he was continuing to press for replacement styles on public footpaths where necessary.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

6.1 Planning

a) Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on April (unsigned) 2007 were received and noted. The Chairman reported that the application no. F/COL/07/0160 Former Works corner West St/Quay St. had gone to appeal and that the Town Council would be reiterating their earlier comments in triplicate to the Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/13a

Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN. Appeal state date was 2 April for 6 weeks.

b) Section 106 Working Party. Town Clerk to write to Taylor Woodrow concerning the recent Notice of Planning Decision reminding them that the Town Council would like the public convenience to be sited in a separate location near the public car park, not as shown on the plan. Cllr. Hill had sent a copy of the leases direct to Sue Jackson, as requested. He had sent the Town Council's initial observations on the leases to Dave Blishen at Taylor Woodrow on 30th March but had not heard anything since.

c) Style of Lamp posts: Cllr. Hill advised that the style of the lamp posts was a Planning issue, not Highways, and that this would need to be taken up with Sue Jackson.

d) Health Centre: Cllr. Hill reported that the Board of the North East Essex PCT had taken a significant step forward by agreeing to the proposal of Matt Bushell, the Director of Strategic Development and Commissioning to make progress with a new Health Centre at Wivenhoe along with similar schemes at West Mersea and Parsons Heath.

Although positive there was a series of issues to go through including the need for the PCT to recruit a team of 3 people (Project Director, Project Manager and Administrator) to carefully assess local health needs and specify the requirements for the building before commissioning anything.

6.2 Finance and Administration Committee. Nothing to report.

6.3 Best Value Committee

a) The notes of meeting held on Monday 16 April 2007 were received and noted. The issue of the Ferry Marsh was raised and it was AGREED that the Town Council write to the Environment Agency expressing their concerns for the continuing high water table on this marsh which, if left undrained and combined with the recent warm weather, would create a breeding ground for mosquitoes, presenting a health hazard to residents living nearby and users of the Cycle Trail/Riverside Walk.

b) Personnel Committee. Date of the next Personnel Committee meeting would be held on 30 April at 7.30pm.

7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.

7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:

a) Cllr. Kraft reported on the completion of the works which was under budget by £3,632. Final cost of the works was £35,172. Funding summary as follows:

Amount held in Town Council reserve	£11,000
Amount held in Town Council improvement budget	£9,500
Community Initiative Fund Grant from CBC	£15,000
Amount vired from Skatepark Fund	<u>£3,304</u>
Total	£38,804

In addition to the above an extra grant of £3,000 was received from Essex County Council.

A 'snagging' meeting had been held with the builder and nothing untoward reported. Items still to be completed were a fire warning system and the pollarding the large Holm Oak which was overhanging the ramp for the disabled. Estimates for both of these were

being obtained. The state of the asphaltting around the Hall would also be considered. Work on the kitchen was also well underway.

The next meeting of the Working Party will be on 17 May 2007.

7.2 General Amenities & Landscaping Working Party.

a) Cllr. Gillman reported on the site inspection of the New Cemetery held with Cllrs. Lodge, Richards, the Town Clerk and the groundsmen on 16 April. The next meeting of the Working Party would be on Tuesday 8 May.

b) May Fair Committee: Members noted receipt of the letter from the May Fair Committee concerning legal issues with the Hiring Agreement for the KGV Field. Town Clerk would find out if CBC Legal Services would be willing to advise on a suitable form of alternative wording prior to arranging a meeting between all parties.

7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party: Cllr. Richards reported on a good turnout on 15 April where the path for disabled was improved. Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Sinclair for his article on the volunteer group's work in Wivenhoe Woods and the report on the flooding on Ferry Marsh. Noted both articles were now on the Wivenhoe web site

7.4. Minibus Working Group. Town Clerk reported the end of year balance to be £16,121.91. It was noted that the running costs of the minibus was being covered by the income from hirings. It was put forward that a business plan be drawn up detailing depreciation of the current vehicle, repair costs and vehicle replacement costs in order to make sure hiring charges were kept in line to ensure that there would be sufficient to meet the cost of the vehicle's eventual replacement.

7.5 Youth Facilities Working Party. Nothing to report.

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 a visit to Colchester Town Hall with Broomgrove School on 28 March; unfortunately Cllr. Kraft could not attend the Colne School concert on 29 March due to illness; on April 13 a fish and chip supper at the home of Brian and Carol Green, which raised £130 for the Mayor's Charity fund and on 22 April the St. George's Day Service at Lion Walk with Colchester Borough Council.

b) Community Safety and Police Matters:

Cllr. Rogers presented his report which was circulated to members.

c) **Temporary Barriers:** Cllr. Roberts proposed that the Town Council press ECC Highways to install proper kerbing over the High Street railway bridge to replace the temporary barriers which were becoming a hazard for motorists and pedestrians. This was AGREED and the Town Clerk would send a letter to ECC Highways.

8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.

8.1 Burial Grants and approval of memorials.

Three Burial Grants had been issued and two memorials had been approved since the last meeting. Two burials and two interments of ashes had been carried out.

8.2 NALC Direct Information Service. None received this month.

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

8.4 Work Management.

a) General: The Town Clerk reported that the 2nd round of grass cutting had already been carried out on Town Council owned areas. The new fencing at Mede Way had suffered some vandalism. The New Cemetery had been cut twice and the entrance to the Old Cemetery had been cleared and tidied. Tub planting was scheduled to start shortly. Sponsorship of the tubs was starting to come in and Certificates would be sent out at the end of the month.

The number of visitors to the Council Offices for the month of March totalled 203.

b) Town Clerk also reported that an analysis of groundsmen's hours for end of year in comparison with the previous figures had been circulated and this was noted by members.

c) Sycamore Tree: Cllr. Sinclair reported on a sycamore tree which was overhanging a property in De Vere Close. Town Clerk would find out if the groundsmen could trim it with a handsaw.

9. FINANCE.

9.1 Current Financial Report

a) The March spending and income Report was received and noted. Town Clerk reported that the end of year balance to the bank at 31 March 2007 was £102,148.38.

9.2 List of cheques numbered 502577 – 502597 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. Noted the following:

William Loveless Hall Fire Alarm System: Formal notice from Working Party for expenditure of approx £2,000 for a fire alarm system for the William Loveless Hall. Estimates have been obtained.

9.5 Appeals for Financial Support.

a) AGREED to sponsor a month in the 2008 FOSM calendar - £75.00.
Those members who were a member of FOSM all declared their interest.
Cllrs. Gillman, Lodge and Sinclair supported the sponsorship.

b) Young Explorer's Project – Members considered the request from N. Jones and AGREED to support the Project with a donation of £60.
Cllr. Hill declared an interest.

10. NEW BUSINESS.

10.1 Correspondence.

a) **a) Post-box:** Members received the letter from Royal Mail requesting their preference on a replacement for the vandalized wall mounted box in The

Avenue. AGREED to that Option 3 (a stand-alone box) be requested to be sited near the bus-stop at Rosabelle Avenue, not on the pavement. Royal Mail would also be asked if an additional post-box facility could be installed on the forecourt of the Co-op Supermarket.

b) Memoriam for Sid Cox: Taken under 4.b)

c) Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007 (SI No. 1159)

Town Clerk advised on this new Statutory Instrument effective from 3 May 2007. A copy would be made available to all members. Town Clerk would ask the Monitoring Officer, (A. Weavers) for New Register of Interests Packs, ready for the Parish Election on 3 May 2007.

d) CBC Parks and Green Spaces Strategy: Members received the Consultation document which Cllr. Richards took to look through. Deadline for comments was end of May 2007.

10.2 Conferences/Seminars. Members noted the following:
Transport Information Day – Tuesday 19 June 2007 County Hall.

10.3 Notices. Members noted the following:

Annual Cricket Match – Town Council versus the Wivenhoe Town Cricket Club
Wednesday 11 July 6.00pm. Proceeds to the Wivenhoe Mayor's Charity Fund.

10.4 Licences. Nothing to report, other than that taken at 7.2b).

10.5 Highway Matters. Members noted the following:

- a) **ECC Various Traffic Orders:** Queens Road, High Street, Park Road, Valley Road and Temporary Prohibition of traffic for Brook Street.
- b) **Bus Shelter in Belle Vue Road:** Cllr. Kraft reported that she had been successful in obtaining further grants towards the replacement of this shelter and would be looking into a model suitable for this narrow piece of pavement.

CHAIRMAN

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.