

Present: The Town Mayor, Cllr. D. Purdey (Chairman),  
Cllrs: C. Liddy, M. Iacovou, B. Sinclair  
F. Richards, N. Lodge, A. Vaughan and C. Fox.  
Borough Cllrs. M. Cory and S. Ford.  
County Cllr J. Young  
Peter Kay, Public Transport representative  
Mrs. A. Stinson (Town Clerk)  
James Cameron of Evening Gazette

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. P. Hill, P. Kraft and K. Rogers and Borough Cllrs. E. Kraft and A. Quarrie.

**2. MINUTES.** RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 17 December 2007 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES.** Members noted the Wivenhoe Rail Access Group would be pursuing the improvement of the access on the downline side, particular the steps, following the successful lowering of the track by Network Rail on the other side, which resulted in a reduction in the gap between the platform and the train.

**4. POINTS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.**

**Planning:** Cllr. C. Fox had received an email from a resident on a planning matter. Agreed that this be forward to Colchester Borough Council Planning Enforcement Team.

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

**a) Essex County Council:** Members welcomed Cllr. Young who reported on the success of the Youth Bus visit on Saturday 19 January. The scheme could become a reality provided more volunteers are recruited. Training would be offered to volunteers. Cllr. Young also reported on the cycleway which was being put forward into LTP 2011, a revised scheme was being put together, result of which would be known by the end of March if successful although it would be a lengthy process. Concerning potholes members should note that the County Council had increased the criteria depth from 1" to 2" for repair work. On a good note Cllr. Young reported that Footpath 129 was now open at the Hythe bridge end. Concerning the troubled junction at Greenstead roundabout Cllr. Young would ask for an update on how the roundabout would cope with the traffic congestion from the extra 200 houses proposed.

**b) Borough Council:** Cllr. Cory reported on the Clingoe Hill junction which needed to go ahead for safety reasons, despite fears about the increase in traffic hold-ups; he was working with the CBC and the University to increase re-cycling figures and also talking to the Wivenhoe Youth Council obtaining their advice on youth facilities in Wivenhoe.

Cllr. Ford reported on extensive highway work being carried out on the corner of Valley Road and Bobbits Way; the improvement in the railway station, making it more user friendly and that the Borough Council Planning Committee had given the go ahead for the increased number of units at the Cook's site based on the highway recommendation that the

roads in Wivenhoe could take the increase in traffic movements.

**c) Public Transport Representative:** Peter Kay reported also on the track improvements at Wivenhoe Rail Station and that the Access Group were now turning their attention to the 'steps' leading from Clifton Terrace down to the railway.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

### **6.1 Planning**

**a)** Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8 January were received and noted. Cllr. Liddy attended the Borough Council Planning Committee and put forward the Town Council's concerns on the increased number of units for Phase 3 of Cook's Site but based on a highways recommendation that the roads in Wivenhoe could cope with the extra traffic permission was granted. Cllr. Purdey thanked all members of the Town Council planning committee who had worked diligently on this over the festive season.

Concerning the Town Council's response to the LDP Site Allocations, it was Agreed that some publicity on this was needed so that residents fully understood the document. Ward Cllrs would be asked to look into this and a copy of the Town Council's spreadsheet on the site allocations would be put on Town Council noticeboards.

**b) Section 106 Working Party (Cook's):** Taken at 10.5.

**c) Health Centre:** Cllr. Hill had sent a report stating that he had not received any minutes to the first meeting of the Wivenhoe LIFT Project Group Meeting held on Friday 11th January but they did agree to his proposal that Cllr Neil Lodge also become a member of this Group. The next meeting is scheduled for Fri 8th February 2008.

### **6.2 Personnel, Finance and Administration Committee.**

Nothing to report.

### **6.3 Best Value Committee**

**a)** Draft notes of meeting held on Monday 14 January were received and noted.

**b)** The Town Council's Health and Safety Policy was approved and signed by the Mayor, Cllr. Purdey. A programme of implementation would begin with Cllr. Richards being the lead Councillor.

**c) CBC High Street car park:** Members noted that the new car parking arrangements would take effect from 11 February and that Public Notices had been posted on the site and placed in the local press. Application forms for business permits were available from the Town Council offices.

## **7. WORKING PARTY REPORTS.**

### **7.1 William Loveless Hall Working Party:**

**a)** Cllr. Lodge reported that the surfacing of the Hall car park had been completed, no problems had arisen. There had been an issue with the fire alarm system which was currently under investigation. Members congratulated Cllrs. Lodge and Kraft for the work they had put in on the William Loveless Hall car park.

### **7.2 General Amenities & Landscaping Working Party.**

**a)** Notes of the meeting held on 7 January 2008 were circulated.

**b) Xmas Lights:** Cllr. Lodge reported that the volunteers had been given a formal thank you at the Park Hotel.

- c) **Old Cemetery Wall:** The contractor had yet to start work on the repair of the wall.
- d) **Wivenhoe Youth Football Club:** Cllr. Sinclair informed members that the Wivenhoe Youth Football Club had used the King George V Field for their match on Sunday because their pitch at Elmstead Road was waterlogged. This was noted by members.

**7.3 Wivenhoe Wood Working Party:** Cllr. Sinclair reported that a good sycamore-clearing day had been carried out on 19 January and indigenous species were going to be planted with the help of local schools.

Members noted that major works on the main sewer through the woods was to be carried out soon by Anglian Water and it was vital that the public were made aware of this.

**7.4. Minibus Working Group.** Nothing to report.

**7.5 Youth Facilities Working Party.** Cllr. Purdey reported on a very successful visit of the Youth Bus on Saturday 19 January at 10.00am in the Council Yard. Cllr. Richards said that the Youth Council was going from strength to strength and she hoped that they would soon feel able to attend a Town Council meeting at some future date to give a short presentation.

**7. 6 Wivenhoe Engine Shed Trust.** The Engine Shed project team, consisting of Andrew Claiborne Architect, Peter Cook and Ian Hunter gave a nice presentation at the last Town Council Best Value meeting. The Project Team gave an update on their situation, which was that because the Project had been turned down by the Arts Council for Lottery funding the scheme had to be redesigned for a Heritage Lottery Bid. The Project was looking for volunteers and needed professional help to take the project forward.

Members sympathized with the Project Team, which had been going now for at least 15 years, but were aware that the Town Council could only offer support and could not drive the project forward. It was Agreed that a letter be sent to Engine Shed highlighting these points and thanking them for their very helpful presentation.

**7.7 WRUG.** Nothing to report.

#### **7.8 Members' Individual Proposals or Reports:**

a) **Mayoral Activities:** Cllr. Purdey reported on very few attendances apart from the New Year's Eve Dance, which was a great success and was to be repeated this year.

b) **Community Safety and Police Matters:** Members noted the report of Cllr. Rogers on a few minor issues. Cllr. Sinclair said that it had been reported to him that the younger users of the skateboard park were being driven away by older youths, this would be conveyed to NAP and the Police Community Support Officers.

c) **Flooding:** Cllr. Sinclair asked if the Town Clerk could report to ECC Highways on the amount of water appearing in Ernest Road by the Co-op during periods of heavy rain and enquire as to where the Town Council should direct its concerns regarding the maintenance of highway drains.

#### **8. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.**

**8.1 Burial Grants and approval of memorials.**

No Burial Grants had been issued and no memorials had been approved since the last meeting. No interments had been carried out either.

**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: Town Clerk reported that the Christmas Lights had been taken down and holly removed from the Churchyard. Work had commenced on the resurfacing of the car park at the William Loveless Hall and so far all was going to plan. The noticeboard for Dene Park had been refurbished and put back following vandalism and the number of visitors to the Council Offices for the month of December totalled 110.

## **9. FINANCE.**

### **9.1 Current Financial Report**

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

b) **Budget 2008/2009:** Following the pre-budget meeting held on 13 December 2007 members received the final precept figures, of which the Parish Grant of £32,454 and the divisor figure 2784.6 produced a final precept figure of £50.07 per band D property, against £47.48 last year, reflecting an increase of 5.45%.

Members AGREED that the budget figures be adopted.

RESOLVED therefore that the Town Council precept on the Colchester Borough Council for the sum of £139,425 to meet its estimated expenditure for the financial year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009.

Calculation of indicative Council Tax on the above divided by the equivalent number of Band D properties in Wivenhoe, now 2784.6 equalled a levy of £50.07 per Council Tax payer, representing an increase of 5.45% on last year's figures and £2.59 per household.

**9.2** List of cheques numbered 502760-502774 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. Members approved the following:

Playquip Leisure - resurfacing of KGV Play area and one new swing (covered by CIF Grant)	£7625
Millrace Garden Centre - trees for KGV (covered by grant)	£1867
Jennings and Stollery Electrical work on Christmas lights	£2718

**9.5** Appeals for Financial Support.

a) AGREED - Sponsorship of Ferry Booklet £50 for full page  
Cllr. Purdey declared an interest in the above.

## **10. NEW BUSINESS.**

### **10.1 Correspondence.**

a) **Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local**

**Authority members in England:** Members received and noted the consultation papers – deadline for comments being 15 February 2008. Cllr. Purdey would review the document.

- b) **Annual review of the Essex Community Foundation:** Members noted receipt of a copy of the Annual Review.
- c) **NHS 2008-2013 Health Plan:** Members noted receipt. Cllr. Iacavou took the document to look through.

**10.2 Conferences/Seminars.** Members noted the following:

CBC – Launch of Town to Sea Trail – 27 January starting at 11am, unveiling ceremony at 2pm.

**10.3 Notices.** Members noted the following:

Mayor's Charity Ball Saturday 1 March 2008 tickets were now available from Town Council Offices.

**10.4 Licences.**

a) **May Fair:** Members noted that a meeting was being held on Monday 28 January at 7.00pm at Wivenhoe Police Station. Cllr. Richards would be attending.

**PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960**

RESOLVED that by virtue of the provisions of Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded during discussion of the next business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

**CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.