

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2018**

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Bob Calver

**Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Mrs Louise Pudney, Ron Pratt C.C., Neil Pudney,
Nick Skeens, Mrs Wendy Stamp and Mike Wood.**

In Attendance: - Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes.

262 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Helen Elliott and Peter Elliott.
Councillor Vanessa Bell had given written notice that she may arrive late.

263 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

264 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Bob Calver, the Town Mayor, reported that he had no engagements to announce but that he was delighted to see the Foundry Lane light working and that he had been following the progress of the 'Vanguard' returning to Burnham.

265 ROGER HIRST POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX

The Town Mayor welcomed Roger Hirst, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Essex, to the Meeting. The Mayor stated that he would adjourn the Meeting for fifteen minutes after Mr Hirst's presentation to allow members of the public to ask questions.

Mr Hirst began by saying that he is not a Police Officer but an elected representative.
In May 2016 he was elected as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

A significant project in 2016.17 was the work on joint governance of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service (ECFRS) and Essex Police. Since then the PCC Local Business Case for the governance of ECFRS had received Home Office approval, making Essex the first county in the country to combine the governance of both Police and Fire Services under the PCC (now Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner). Mr Hirst took over governance of the Fire and Rescue Service on 1 October 2017.

Mr Hirst stated that both Police and Fire Services are extremely stretched with cuts hitting both services but that the Fire and Rescue Service has a more robust set of reserves. The 2020 programme for reform continues. One of the aerial ladder platforms is being sold to Norfolk. There is a 2% increase in the Precept which equates to a £1.37 per annum per household.

Mr Hirst stated that whilst crime has fallen dramatically since 1995, over the last few years there has been an increase in crime levels; during 2016.17, overall crime rose by 8.7% in Essex. This was compared to an increase of 11% nationally. In 2017, reported crimes in Essex were up by 12.7%. The Police and Crime Plan is intended to reverse that trend.

New sorts of crime and increased complexity of crime has meant that Police resources have been moved to areas such as counter-terrorism and these resources are being taken from local policing.

There has been a continuing shift in the types of crimes being committed, with more serious crimes such as domestic abuse and online crime becoming more apparent. However, the Police have become better at listening to victims of domestic abuse and the Serious Crime Act 2015 created a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour. More Officers are responding to these crimes, but again resources are being taken from local policing.

265 ROGER HIRST POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX (continued)

The global nature of the internet can make detecting sources of crime online difficult. Essex Police has a team of computer specialists that form a hi-tech crime unit, using “technology to beat technology” and help them build a strong evidence base. However this technology “costs money” and resources are again being taken from community policing. Internet crime is up by nearly 250% over the last year with over 5 million crimes a year across the country. Mr Hirst cited an incident where a teenager in his bedroom had committed a fraud amounting to £638,000.

With more resources being taken from community policing, traditional crimes are on the increase.

Last spring Mr Hirst and the Chief Constable looked at the current needs of the Service in order to make a detailed, evidenced based case for more investment in policing. The Home Office and other Police and Crime Commissioners were so impressed with that work; Mr Hirst is now the national lead, negotiating with the Home Office.

For 2018.19, the Government announced a £450 million increase in Police funding, empowering locally elected Police and Crime Commissioners to raise Precept contributions (£225 million would come from Council Tax).

The increase in Precept would result in Essex Police being able to recruit more frontline Officers focused in local policing teams and a district by district plan showing communities where the extra investment would go. There would be investment in the 101 Service to improve response times. Every frontline Officer would have a smart phone, releasing them from their desk and enabling them to spend more time in the community and saving, on average, 20 minutes per eight hour shift.

The Government would continue to match fund for 2020. Civilian expertise is being used, especially in tackling internet crime. Over the next two years the Police would be able to hire the number of Officers that the analysis has shown is needed.

Mr Hirst stated that he would answer the written questions that he had received prior to the Meeting.

Q. Will you be seeking to have money from fines and driver training course fees treated as income for the Force to set against the costs of enforcement action relating to driving offences? During previous discussions there has been mutual agreement that the risk of death and injury is more likely from driving offences (speeding, reckless/careless driving) than general crime. Is that still the case?

A. Bad driving kills more people in Essex than all the other crimes put together. The Police are working closely in partnership with Essex County Council and the Safer Essex Roads Partnership. The money from fines is levied by the courts and goes directly to Westminster. Money is put into driver training courses which reduce reoffending. There are 80,000 of these courses in Essex this year.

Q. We feel out on a limb with Chelmsford and Maldon as the closest bases for the Police. Can we depend on a fast response to urgent 999 calls? What is the estimated response time - or at least the target time?

Residents would welcome a more visible police presence - do you have any plans and proposals?

Will all burglaries and thefts be investigated? Or simply be given a crime number?

We have reports that 101 calls sometimes take a long time to be answered. Is there a target time for an answer? We have many elderly residents who use the phone not the internet.

A. Response times average 10 minutes. Visible police presence – yes we do have plans. A detailed District by district plan was started in early January and these plans will be published.

Burglaries and thefts are either investigated *or* given a crime number. This depends on the assessment of an Officer or person in the crime control room. For example, shed crime would normally be given a crime number and aggravated burglary would get a response. Burglary is a “horrible invasive offence”.

265 ROGER HIRST POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR ESSEX (continued)

We have invested additional resources in the 101 non-emergency service. The response wait time is now around 16 minutes (20 max.) whereas it had been up to four hours. I would urge people to report online wherever possible to free up the 101 telephone system for those who don't or cannot use the internet.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm for a fifteen minute question and answer session.

Q. I was disappointed a year ago to learn that the greatly appreciated automatic number plate recognition system was not connected in Latchingdon and Cold Norton. Has this now been addressed?

A. This is now connected.

Q. ANPR – Also a year ago I was amazed to learn that ANPR analysis had to be carried out manually, are there yet any analytical suites to look for trends and match incidents?

A. Searches can be done “on screen” now. The use of ANPR has proved to be important in the detection of many offences, including locating stolen vehicles, tackling uninsured vehicle use and investigating cases of major crime.

Q. In the detailed implementation plan to allocate extra manpower to particular areas following your Rates increase, will places like Burnham be looked at on a “data rational basis?” The main problems here appear to be burglary, careless driving and vandalism on cars in housing areas, rather than Town centre shoplifting and night time anti-social behaviour in somewhere like Chelmsford or Colchester. To tackle our issues, extra resources could utilise micro Neighbourhood Plan style groups connected by ‘WhatsApp’.

A. Social media is something we need to get better at monitoring.

Q. Essex is a rural county, how do we combat rural crime?

A. We are increasing the focus and priority for rural crime. We have worked with members of our rural communities through the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner’s Rural Crime Forum and members of the Farm and Rural Watch groups to develop the new Rural Crime Strategy. We have reinvigorated “Farm Watch” and they now have a ‘WhatsApp’ group. Fly tipping has been escalated to the serious crime directorate. This is not easy to combat; we have to build a strong evidence base.

Q. We have a River Police, is there any relationship between the two Forces? Can't we use the two together?

A. Yes, there is a good and close relationship with partner Forces. If we can use their specialist equipment and skills, we do.

Q. Could they respond to incidents in Burnham?

A. If they were around, some of them are ‘Specials’.

Q. Is any chance of having the Neighbourhood Police Team back?

A. Do you mean someone permanently in Burnham?

Questioner’s response: One person, i.e. a Special Constable, would be a way forward.

A. Please feed this through the Community Safety Partnership. They welcome input.

The Meeting was reconvened at 8:07 pm.

Councillors were then given the opportunity to ask questions of Mr Hirst.

Q. WS - On what will you base the criteria to get additional policing in Burnham?

A. It is not a points-based assessment; it is based on the Chief Inspectors assessment.

Q. How will we benefit?

A. Make representations to the Community Safety Partnership which will feed through to the Chief Constable.

Q. Do you have the power to say we can use the Marine Unit Station for our Special Constable?

A. I will take that question away with me.

Q. I am asking this on behalf of a resident who cannot attend this Meeting - what level of crime quantifies a response from the Police to come to Burnham? This resident reported hearing gun shots and seeing a gun, they reported it to the Police and there was no response.

A. It sounds like this was an incident that should have triggered a response. Please provide me with the details and I will investigate.

Q. RP - The Fire Station in Burnham is often 'off call' and is struggling to get new recruits. How will you address this?

A. The approach will be similar to recruiting Special Constables. The issue is years of budgetary pressures and feelings of being undervalued. We have no magic wand, this will take a while. We need to think about flexibility in the number of hours retained Fire Officers need to be available for.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Hirst for attending the Meeting and all Members concurred.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm to allow Mr Hirst to leave and was reconvened at 8:17 pm.

266 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 23 January 2018, be confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising: -

Minute 242 – Councillor Neil Pudney stated that he hoped to report to Council in March on the provision of future services at the Burnham Clinic.

267 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 23 January 2018, be duly received.

268 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

This was noted and in particular: -

1. ROTARY CLUB OF BURNHAM AND DENGIE HUNDRED

A request had been received from the Club President for permission to erect a banner across the Railway Bridge to advertise the 10k run on Sunday 27 May 2018.

The Town Clerk stated that she had information for Members regarding the erection of all banners which needed to be discussed during Private Business and it was

RESOLVED: - that this request be considered during Agenda Item 27.

2. POLICE, FIRE & CRIME COMMISSIONER 'OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY SAFETY AWARDS 2018'

Members were requested to consider if the Town Council would like to nominate a member of the community for this award and it was

RESOLVED: - that Members inform the Town Clerk of any suggestions they might have.

269 DIARY DATES

Members noted the following: -

- a) Town Council Surgery – Saturday 10 February
10.30 am – 11.30 am in the Town Council Chamber.
- b) **South Eastern Area Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 12 February
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- c) **Burnham Town Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 13 February
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- d) **Burnham Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 13 February
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- e) Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Monday 19 February
5 pm in the Town Council Chamber.

269 DIARY DATES (continued)

- f) **Burnham Town Council Planning Meeting – Monday 26 February
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber (subject to applications received).**
- g) Railway Bridge Taskforce Meeting – Wednesday 28 February
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- h) District Councillor's Surgery – Saturday 3 March
10.30 am – 12 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- i) Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Monday 5 March
5 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- j) Royal British Legion Meeting – Monday 5 March
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- k) Carnival Committee Meeting - Tuesday 6 March
8 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- l) Dengie D-Caf – Wednesday 7 March
10.30 am – 12.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- m) Town Council Surgery – Saturday 10 March
10.30 am – 11.30 am in the Town Council Chamber.
- n) **South Eastern Area Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 12 March
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- o) **Burnham Town Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 13 March
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- p) **Burnham Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 13 March
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**

270 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- a) General Purposes – Councillor Peter Elliott was not present.
- b) Highways – Councillor Calver had submitted a written Report which had been circulated to all Members. Issues covered were as follows: -
 - Mud on the road – Charles Church construction site.
 - Site traffic access to the Pippins site - there is now better signage.
 - Belisha beacon north of Western Road – Ringway Jacobs had attended.
 - Maldon Road pothole – reported.
 - Foundry Lane light – installed and working.
 - Local Highways Panel – 30mph roundels and repeater signs on Maldon Road are awaiting implementation.
 - NAP road safety concerns – email from the Chair had been forward to Jon Simmons and Councillor Ron Pratt C.C. as the LHP representative.
 - Parking – letter had been sent to NCP re. use of the Station car park.
 - Springfield lights – check whether ongoing issues were being addressed.
 - Railway Bridge matters – broken lamppost, gaps in new railing uprights.

Councillor Mrs Stamp asked if Councillor Calver had contacted the developer regarding the mud on the road and site rubbish.

The Mayor stated that he had been checking the site and that it is an intermittent issue.

Councillor Mrs Stamp reported that some of the construction traffic signs had been stolen. The Town Mayor stated that Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp had requested that Members discuss the Traffic Regulation Order for double yellow lines in Millfields. Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that she was very disappointed at the lack of consultation. She said that neither the Town Council nor sports clubs had been approached as consultees and that the proposal had only been advertised in 'the Enquirer'. She asked if Councillor Pratt had been involved in the process and if so, why he had not informed Members of the proposals.

270 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS (continued)

Councillor Ron Pratt, C.C., responded that he is the Chairman of the Parking Partnership but that this was the first indication that he had been given that the Town Council had not been given due notice.

Councillor Pratt stated that there had been a lot of complaints to MDC about parking and Officers had asked what could be done. The car parks at either end of Millfields were virtually unused at weekends.

Councillor Vanessa Bell entered the Chamber at 8.21 pm.

Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that she did not accept that and asked why the Town Council had not been informed that MDC was getting complaints. Councillor Mrs Stamp asked if there would be consultation as part of the six month review and how the Council could get the Order reversed. She stated that she had contacted Richard Holmes to see if a compromise could be reached.

Councillor Pratt stated that the restrictions hadn't even begun and people were anticipating problems.

Councillor Nick Skeens stated that there were many comments on social media and suggested that one solution would be to widen the road or improve the surface of the car park at the skate park.

Councillor Bell stated that she tries every weekend to find a parking space in the upper car park and that resurfacing of the other car park had not been done in June.

The Town Mayor suggested that a dialogue be opened with the Rugby and other clubs and that pressure should be exerted on MDC to complete resurfacing works. The Mayor stated that he would set up a meeting with club representatives which all Councillors could attend.

Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that Richard Holmes or an appropriate Officer from MDC should attend. She asked what the complaints had been and if it would be an easy process to get the decision overturned.

Councillor Pratt responded that it was not an easy process and that he would ascertain whether due process had been followed.

Councillor Bell asked that the cricket and croquet clubs be invited to any potential meeting.

- c) Environment – Councillor Mike Wood stated that works to the bramble hedge on Maldon Road and the firebreak behind the allotments had been completed and that the Town Clerk could invoice MDC for the hedge works as previously agreed.
- d) Neighbourhood Development Plan - Councillor Peter Elliott was not present.

271 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Mrs Helen Elliott was not present.

Councillor Peter Elliott was not present.

Councillor Ron Pratt had nothing to report.

Councillor Neil Pudney had nothing to report but stated that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting was scheduled for the following day.

272 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Bell stated that there had been an issue with the paint spraying and that the paint she had sourced was not proving to be bio-degradable. Councillor Bell stated that she had sourced new paint and would like the Town Council's permission to continue with the trial.

Councillor Mrs Stamp requested that the Council reassess the situation on the Quay and look at alternatives. It was

RESOLVED: - that Dog Fouling be included as an Item on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Tuesday 13 March 2018.

Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that she had taken part in the litter picking. The Chamber of Commerce had organized two events, the Apprenticeship event and a meeting the following Monday at which Emma Foy, Director of Resources at MDC, would be speaking about business rates.

Councillor Nick Skeens stated that Phil Charnley had not yet put in a quotation for the BMX Park works but communications were open with MDC and once the quotation had been received, he could look at fundraising and setting up a community group to help with labour.

Councillor Pratt reported that the Festive Fayre had made a profit of £1,688.

Sarah Grimes, the Town Clerk, stated that she had received an email from the Chair of the Carnival Committee asking if the Town Council wished them to organize the event this year. It was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Clerk inform the Carnival Committee that the Town Council would like the Carnival Committee to organize the 2018 Festive Fayre and that the Council provide some administrative support.

The Town Clerk stated that she had circulated a report from Rev. Paul Haworth, the Town Council's Transport Representative.

273 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- a) **RESOLVED: - that the payment of Accounts for February 2018 be approved and signed.**
- b) Members noted the comparison of actual to budgeted payments and receipts to February 2018

274 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The remaining Budget for 2017/2018 was £460. No requests had been received for the Meeting.

RESOLVED: - Noted.

The Town Clerk stated that in previous years it had been the Town Council's custom to make a £50 donation to the local Royal British Legion Poppy appeal and it was

RESOLVED: – that a donation of £50 be made accordingly.

275 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Saturday 10 March 2018 – Cllr. Bob Calver.

Saturday 14 April 2018 – Cllr. Nick Skeens.

276 RSPB WALLASEA ISLAND WILD COAST PROJECT (standing item)

Councillor Peter Elliott was not present.

277 NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL

Councillor Bell reported on the NAP meeting held on Thursday 25 January 2018.

Since the last NAP meeting the CPO team had issued 20 on-street and 23 off-street parking tickets.

There had been a period during which the team was unable to issue tickets in Millfields, as a result of somebody removing the signage, but this had now been replaced.

A positive development in the fight against illegal parking is the provision of new powers, which mean Officers can issue tickets by post if the offender they are watching drives off before they have completed their observations.

277 NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL (continued)

Officers had been patrolling the sea wall looking for people who are not picking up after their dogs, and it is they who had been spraying dog mess white in addition to the orange paint, in order to help get an idea of the increase. The CPT would be holding a workshop later in the year to re-launch Dogwatch and the Harbour Master has now been accredited, which means information can be passed between services.

The first deployment of Trucam took place in January on Maldon Road and has been ongoing since then. The two new members of the CPT are being trained on its use and the Police would be coming out to help iron out any teething problems. The first figures resulting from Trucam deployment would be seen in May.

278 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Councillor Nick Skeens, the Town Council's website Editor reported that they had been a delay as the domain name burnham.gov.uk could not be used and burnhamtowncouncil.gov.uk would now be the domain name with burnham.info

There were some difficulties in exporting to 'wordpress'. Councillor Skeens stated that he had done a considerable amount of writing and editing. The launch date would now be in early March and Peter Layzell had expressed his willingness to continue editing the existing website until the new site is live.

Councillor Pratt asked if Councillors could have their own email addresses as Town Councillors. Councillor Skeens responded that these would be set up within the next week but could not be used until the site goes live.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Service Level Agreement had still not been signed and that the Mayor had expressed some concerns at the draft document.

The Mayor stated that his concern had been with the ownership of copyright if the Town Council decided to change supplier. The Mayor stated that he would liaise with Councillor Skeens.

279 BURNHAM ART TRAIL COMMUNITY PROJECT

All Members had received a copy of the email from Glynnis Dye, Art Trail Co-ordinator, requesting the Town Council's support for a pargeting project at the Station House.

The Town Clerk reported that Colin MacConnachie, Enhancement Manager for Greater Anglia had given permission, in principal, but stated that no works were to be undertaken prior to their conditions being met: -

- there should be no commercial aspect to the pargeting.
- GA must approve Work Package Plans/Risk Assessment/Method Statement etc before work commences as there are always railway-specific issues that people are not aware of.
- GA will need to understand if there are any specific maintenance requirements before giving final permission.
- The Station sign is to be lowered to above the window on the same face, affixed to the painted brickwork as high as possible on this section.

The Town Clerk had asked whether the Town Council would have any liability if there were to be an issue with the project and Mr MacConnachie had confirmed that the Town Council would not.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the artist is a professional pargeter. It was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council would give its permission for the project to proceed, subject to written confirmation that Greater Anglia's conditions had been met and that the Town Council has no liability.

280 DENGIE HUNDRED GROUP OF PARISH COUNCILS

Further to Minute 243 of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 23 January 2018, Members considered whether to have a Standing Item on future Agendas to discuss issues arising from Meetings of the above and it was

RESOLVED: - that 'Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils' be included as a Standing Item on future Agendas of the Town Council to allow Members to discuss issues arising from meetings of that group.

281 FINANCE & ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Further to Minute 251 of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 23 January 2018, Members discussed the implementation of a Finance & Asset Management Committee.

Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that she would like to propose a committee of five/six members, who could attend meetings in the evenings. The committee would meet quarterly and it would have its own terms of reference. All Councillors could attend meetings but would not have voting rights.

Councillor Wood responded that all ten Councillors should be members.

Councillor Skeens agreed that all ten Councillors should be members with voting rights.

Councillor Pratt asked if these would be public meetings with Minutes and decisions and if so, the meetings would need Clerk time and would generate more Council meetings.

Councillor Mrs Stamp responded that this would not be an issue with a full complement of staff.

The Town Mayor stated that the Council needed to consider a specimen constitution and terms of reference before making a decision.

The Town Clerk asked if the implementation of a committee would negate the role of General Purposes Co-ordinator and Councillor Mrs Stamp responded that she thought so.

Councillor Mrs Stamp proposed that the Town Council implement a Finance and Asset Management Committee.

This was seconded by Councillor Bell.

Councillor Skeens proposed an amendment "subject to clarification and agreement of terms of reference by full Council" and, that the committee would not meet until a new RFO was in place. It was

RESOLVED: - accordingly.

282 'LITTLE SHIPS VANGUARD'

Councillor Skeens reported that 'Vanguard', the heroic Burnham Dunkirk Little Ship, was now in Burnham, temporarily sited at Mangapps Railway Museum and had received coverage from national and local media.

Councillor Skeens stated that the volunteers are in the process of setting up a Charitable Trust and a website. The idea is to transfer ownership, which is currently in a limbo, to the Charitable Trust.

The Town Mayor stated that he could see no issue with a Councillor being a trustee provided that there is no risk to the Council.

Councillor Wood disagreed and stated that there is a liability in being a trustee.

The Town Clerk stated that the original proposal had been for the Town Council to take ownership of the vessel and she had contacted the Council's insurers on that basis. The underwriters would initially require confirmation of the following in order to consider cover for the boat if it became the Council's responsibility:-

282 'LITTLE SHIPS VANGUARD' (continued)

- 1) Where will the boat be stored?
- 2) What security measures are in place where the boat will be stored?
- 3) Who will carry out the restoration? Will it be council volunteers or not?
- 4) Once restored, where will the boat be kept? What will you do with it?
- 5) If cover is required for the actual boat itself, please provide a replacement value?

Councillor Pratt asked who the current owner is and stated that the Town Council could not make any decision without that information. He stated that this is a community and not a Council project. Councillor Pratt asked Councillor Skeens to clarify if he had taken ownership and if so, would he not have a Pecuniary Interest.

Councillor Skeens confirmed that he was not the owner.

Councillor Mrs Stamp asked if there would be a task and finish working group.

Councillor Skeens responded that there is a 'Little Ships' working group.

Councillor Mrs Stamp asked why a detailed proposal had not been brought to the Council.

Councillor Skeens reported that an information board would be sited at Petticrow Steps telling the story of the Dunkirk Little Ships. The ceremony to unveil the plaque was being planned for late May. The Town Mayor stated that the Chaplain of the 'Little Ships' would be willing to attend a ceremony in Burnham.

283 FORMATION OF A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS

Further to Minute 255 of the of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 23 January 2018, the Town Mayor reported that he was speaking with the Town Council's insurers regarding volunteer insurance and that this was an ongoing issue.

The Town Clerk stated that the insurers would not cover volunteers from groups with their own constitution.

Councillor Mrs Stamp responded that this would not be a problem if the Town Council had an Environment Committee.

284 STAFFING COMMITTEE

Further to Minute 256 of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 23 January 2018, the Town Clerk reported that the EALC had recommended a staffing committee of five Members with a sub committee.

Councillor Mrs Stamp outlined the structure and stated that a sub committee would deal with grievance issues.

Councillor Pratt had previously indicated that he would like to step down from the Appointments Panel and Councillor Wood stated that he could not attend meetings during the day.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Appointments Panel had not been disbanded.

The Town Mayor stated that the Appointments Panel could continue in the short term.

Councillor Bell stated that she would support the implementation of a committee but given the urgency of the current situation she agreed that the Panel should continue.

Councillor Wood stated that the Town Clerk has said that the EALC had "recommended" and that the Town Council was not required to implement a staffing committee. He stated that it was imperative to maintain the Appointments Panel and Members could discuss whether to have a staffing committee at a later date.

Councillor Pratt stated that this should be an Agenda Item for the Statutory Annual Council Meeting in May and that the Appointments Panel should continue until then and that he would remain on the Panel until that time.

284 STAFFING COMMITTEE (continued)

Councillor Pratt proposed that the Council consider appointing a staffing committee to replace the Appointments Panel, at its Statutory Annual Council Meeting in May.

This was seconded by Councillor Wood.

Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that she was not happy with “consider” and made a counter proposal that Members do not support the word “consider”.

This was seconded by Councillor Bell.

The proposal was lost and it was

RESOLVED: - that the Council will consider appointing a staffing committee to replace the Appointments Panel, at its Statutory Annual Council Meeting in May.

285 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

286 QUESTIONS

Q. ‘Members may be aware of Chelmsford City Council’s preferred development plan to expand South Woodham Ferrers by 1000 plus extra houses, plus extra retail and business capacity. This would have a big impact on Burnham and Dengie rail and road commuters. MDC has submitted a preliminary response that doesn’t mention rail. Does the Mayor wish me to prepare a draft consultation response from BTC to CCC highlighting issues and stressing that infrastructure must be put in place in advance

A. WS – The Council needs all the facts first.

The Town Mayor asked if Mr Hitcham could summarize this. Mr Hitcham responded that he would.

Q. How will the Council address the issue of dog fouling on the Quay?

A. This is an Agenda Item for the next Meeting.

Q. Can you ask for an urgent release on details of the Caravan Park?

A. Councillor Neil Pudney will pursue this at District Council.

Q. Can we set a date ASAP for a meeting with the sports clubs to discuss the yellow lines at Millfields please?

A. We can meet and decide on representations but the lines are there. We cannot do anything for six months, due process must be followed, and a Traffic Regulation Order is in place and cannot just be suspended.

Q. Can we ask MDC to open the gate to the Caravan Park and let people in there?

A. Councillor Ron Pratt will ask MDC.

287 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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 following 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.

288 STAFF MATTERS, LAND MATTERS AND TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

i) the Appointments Panel scheduled its next meeting.

ii) the Asset Management Panel reported on issues relating to the Town Council Offices.

289 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 10.20 pm.