

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

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Bob Calver

Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Mrs Helen Elliott, Peter Elliott, Mrs Louise Pudney, Neil Pudney, Nick Skeens and Mrs Wendy Stamp.

In Attendance: - Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes.

290 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ron Pratt C.C. and Mike Wood.

291 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

292 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Bob Calver, the Town Mayor, reported that he had attended: -

i) the Royal Burnham Committee Dinner and

ii) the Royal Corinthian Committee Dinner. It had been an eye opener to hear how many national and international sailing champions Burnham has, especially amongst the younger sailors.

The Chaplain of the Little Ships had agreed, in principle, to attend the unveiling ceremony for the commemoration to the Dunkirk Evacuation and the Commodore also wanted to attend.

293 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 13 February 2018, be confirmed and signed.

294 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on Tuesday 13 and Monday 26 February 2018, be duly received.

295 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

This was noted and in particular: -

2. NALC NEW DATA PROTECTION LAWS GDPR TOOLKIT

Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp reported that the GDPR would be the subject for the next Chamber of Commerce event at the Royal Corinthian on 21 March.

6. MID ESSEX HOSPITAL SERVICES NHS TRUST

All Members had received a copy of the summary of proposals for the reconfiguration of some clinical services between Broomfield, Basildon and Southend. Members were requested to nominate two representatives to attend an exploratory meeting on 26 March at Broomfield Hospital and it was

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Neil Pudney would represent the Town Council as he would be attending the meeting anyway.

The Town Clerk reported on a late item received. The CEO of the Essex Association of Local Councils had written to confirm that the EALC supports the parish sector in the Maldon District in respect of the retention of the Parish Trigger.

Members discussed the calling-in of applications and Councillor Skeens proposed that the Town Council write to express its support for the EALC. This was seconded by Councillor Bell and it was

RESOLVED: - that the proposal is lost and the Town Council does not write to express its support for the EALC.

296 DIARY DATES

Members noted the following: -

- a) Town Council Surgery – Saturday 10 March
10.30 am – 11.30 am in the Town Council Chamber.
- b) **South Eastern Area Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 12 March
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- c) **Burnham Town Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 13 March
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- d) **Burnham Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 13 March
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- e) DHGPC Meeting – Wednesday 21 March
7.30 pm at Asheldham & Dengie Village Hall.
- f) Friends of Hester Place Annual General Meeting – Friday 23 March
6.45 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- g) Railway Bridge Taskforce Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 28 March
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- h) **Good Friday Bank Holiday – Friday 30 March
OFFICE CLOSED**
- i) **Bank Holiday Monday – Monday 2 April
OFFICE CLOSED**
- j) Royal British Legion Meeting – Monday 2 April
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- k) Carnival Committee Meeting – Tuesday 3 April
8 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- l) Dengie D-Café – Wednesday 4 April
10.30 am – 12.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- m) Friends of Hester Place Meeting – Friday 6 April
6.45 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- n) District Councillor's Surgery – Saturday 7 April
10.30 am – 12 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- o) Chamber of Commerce Meeting – Monday 9 April
5 pm in the Town Council Chamber.
- p) **South Eastern Area Planning Committee Meeting – Monday 9 April
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- q) **Burnham Town Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 10 April
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- r) **Burnham Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 10 April
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- s) Town Council Surgery – Saturday 14 April
10.30 am – 11.30 am in the Town Council Chamber.
- t) **Burnham Town Council Planning Meeting – Tuesday 24 April
7 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**
- u) **Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday 24 April
7.30 pm in the Town Council Chamber.**

Councillor Skeens stated that the diary dates would be posted on the new website.

The Town Clerk responded that this is an internal document and intended as an aid to Members who are representatives on outside bodies.

Councillor Bell stated that the NAP meeting on 29 March had been omitted.

Councillor Neil Pudney reported that there would be a 'messy day' at St Mary's Church on Good Friday.

297 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- a) General Purposes – Councillor Peter Elliott had nothing to report.
- b) Highways – Councillor Calver had submitted a written Report which had been circulated to all Members. Members discussed various issues arising from that Report. Councillor Mrs Stamp reported that she had spoken to Richard Holmes at MDC who was keen to arrange a meeting quickly. It was
RESOLVED: - that the Town Mayor write to Mr Richard Holmes accordingly.
Councillor Bell stated that the car park at Millfields was due to be resurfaced by the end of March.
Councillor Mrs Stamp asked Members to agree to invite the President of the Rugby Club to attend the next Meeting of the Town Council to update Members on the future of the Club. The Town Clerk stated that it would have to be the May Meeting as there was already a presentation scheduled for April. It was
RESOLVED: - accordingly.
- c) Environment – Councillor Mike Wood was not present. Councillor Wood had advised the Clerk that the Town Council's grass cutting contractor would be carrying out works in the High Street and on the Quay in the next day or so.
The Town Clerk reported that Mrs Carol Milton was no longer the volunteer garden project co-ordinator at Ormiston and the Academy could not participate in the 2018 hanging basket project. The Clerk was awaiting a response from the Principal regarding the Academy's future involvement in the project.
It was
RESOLVED: - that the Town Clerk write to Sue Finch at Maldon District Council to thank her and the Community Payback Team for their efforts at the Burnham Cemetery.
Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that an application for funding for trees in Remembrance Avenue which had been agreed by the old Environment Committee had not been progressed by the Environment Co-ordinator and it was
RESOLVED: - that the Town Mayor progress possible funding applications.
- d) Neighbourhood Development Plan - Councillor Peter Elliott had nothing to report. The Town Mayor thanked Mr Hitcham for preparing a draft response to the "Chelmsford Pre-submission Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment" and it was
RESOLVED: - that the draft response to the "Chelmsford Pre-submission Local Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment" prepared by Mr Hitcham, be adopted and submitted as the Town Council's formal response.

298 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Mrs Helen Elliott had nothing to report.

Councillor Peter Elliott reported that full Council had approved the increase in Council Tax. The finances of MDC are balanced for this year and the next. The Finance Committee are looking at proposals for the year after that.

Councillor Ron Pratt C.C. was not present.

Councillor Neil Pudney reported that the Burnham Clinic would not be closing. The new health hub at South Woodham Ferrers would not have a detrimental effect on Burnham and it may be beneficial by providing another large clinic so that people do not have to travel to Braintree.

299 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Mrs Stamp had reported details of the next Chamber of Commerce event earlier in the Meeting and asked that people register to attend at 'eventbrite'.

Councillor Nick Skeens stated that a quotation in the sum of £26,000 had been submitted for a BMX track similar to the standard of the Great Baddow pump track. The BMX group would be setting up a meeting. Members agreed that this meeting could be held in the Council Chamber.

Councillor Skeens reported that the information board and plaque for the Little Ships commemoration were both being progressed.

The Town Mayor stated that there would need to be another meeting of the Working Group to discuss details of the commemoration ceremony.

300 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

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

301 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The remaining Budget for 2017/2018 was £410.

- i) All Members had received a copy of the letter from Nick Daws, Day Centre Organizer for Action for Family Carers, requesting financial assistance toward the cost of day trips and activities for members of their Burnham Outreach Group.

RESOLVED: - that a donation to Action for Family Carers in the sum of £200 be approved.

- ii) A request had been received from the Vanguard Trust seeking the Town Council's financial assistance in the amount of £129.60 for six tarpaulins to cover the Vanguard and supporting structure.

Councillor Nick Skeens declared a Personal Interest in that he is a Trustee.

RESOLVED: - that a donation to The Vanguard Trust in the sum of £129.60 be approved.

302 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Neil Pudney attend the Surgery on Saturday 12 May 2018.

303 RSPB WALLASEA ISLAND WILD COAST PROJECT (standing item)

Councillor Peter Elliott reported that the Island is flourishing with new breed of birds. Revised plans to flood cell 5 had been accepted. The RSPB is no longer responsible for the landing stage.

Chris Tyas and the Project Manager had now retired and there is no-one running the project full time. The next Meeting would take place in July.

An application was going to the Coastal Communities Fund for the lower Crouch crossing.

Councillor Mrs Stamp said that the next meeting was coming up and she would be attending.

304 NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PANEL (standing item)

Councillor Mrs Stamp reported that Mr Harris was preparing a briefing pack 'Developing Streetwatch to Encourage Community Engagement in Burnham'. Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that the Town Council needed to 'get behind this'. It was

RESOLVED: - that 'Developing Streetwatch to Encourage Community Engagement in Burnham' be included on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Tuesday 10 April 2018.

305 DENGIE HUNDRED GROUP OF PARISH COUNCILS (standing item)

Councillor Mrs Stamp reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 21 March and she would report to the next Council Meeting accordingly.

306 TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE

Councillors Skeens and Mrs Stamp reported that a recording device was being trialled and that audio recordings of Council Meetings would be accessible on the new website.

Members of the public present were asked if they had any objection to the recording of the Meeting being available. It was

RESOLVED: - that future Agendas would note that the Town Council would be recording any part of the Meeting held in open session for subsequent publication on the Council's website.

307 DOG FOULING

Further to Minute 272 of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 13 February 2018, Members discussed the above issue.

Councillor Vanessa Bell stated that there was no easy solution to this problem. The paint spraying trial had been suspended following complaints and there had been issues with the paint which had not been bio-degradable. The CPO team had stated that more intelligence is needed. They would be re-launching the Dog Watch scheme. It was

RESOLVED: - that dog fouling be discussed at the next NAP meeting, in consultation with the CPO team and that Councillor Bell would report back to the next Meeting of the Town Council.

308 ESSEX HIGHWAYS BRIEFING

An Essex highways Briefing was scheduled for Monday 19 March at 7 pm in Maldon District Council offices. The Town Council had been invited to send one representative.

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Ron Pratt be asked to attend and that Councillor Mrs Stamp would attend if he could not.

309 PIPPINS ESTATE SECTION 106 PAVILLION

At the request of Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, Members discussed the above. Councillor Mrs Stamp stated that the pavilion was not wanted by residents and that it would be a magnet for anti-social behaviour. Councillor Mrs Stamp asked if the Town Council would support asking for the money to be invested in something else. It was

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Peter Elliott arrange a meeting with the Section 106 Officer.

310 NEW ROAD INTO BURNHAM

At the request of Councillor Nick Skeens, Members were requested to consider the above.

Councillor Skeens outlined the possibility of not destroying the new road into Burnham, created between Marsh Road and The Pippins for the new Matthew Homes estate, proposing instead to keep it for emergency access only. Councillor Skeens had spoken to the landowners and the Technical Co-ordinator for Matthew Homes.

Councillor Peter Elliott stated that this would require a new Planning Application and that a condition of the current application was that the Haul road be taken out at the conclusion of the development.

Councillor Skeens stated that legal documents could be overturned and that this would be a solution to the longstanding issue of emergency access into the Town.

Some Members raised concerns that this would lead to future planning applications.

Councillor Mrs Stamp read out Condition 6 of planning permission OUT/MAL/14/00108 and Paragraph 60 of the Appeal Decision Appeal Ref: APP/X1545/W/153003529, Land to the east of Pippins Road, Burnham on Crouch (decision date 7th December 2015).

Councillor Mrs Stamp proposed that the possibility of not destroying the new road into Burnham and keeping it for emergency access should not be pursued.

This was seconded by Councillor Neil Pudney and it was

RESOLVED: - that the Proposal is lost and that Councillor Peter Elliott arrange a meeting with the Section 106 Officer.

311 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

312 QUESTIONS

Q. If BTC are having advertising on the new website would they consider a token donation from restaurants etc?

A. It could be considered.

Q. Will BTC convene a meeting with the District Council and Crouch Harbour Authority to discuss the Llys Helig?

A. They are already liaising. This is a genuinely difficult situation. Legal and practical issues are being addressed. Councillor Neil Pudney is the Town Council's representative to the CHA.

Q. Is it at all possible that revenue from the Riverside Caravan Park will ease the financial situation in the year after next? When can we expect to see details of the site layout and operations?

We have four District Councillors, it is time someone gave us some information

A. The expected income will contribute but will not fill the £400,000 hole for 2019/20. We will refer the second part of the question to Members who serve on the Community Services Committee.

Q. Most residents would support the second access road. Can I ask that this is approached with pro-activity and enthusiasm?

A. It needs cool heads and a good argument. We would need to persuade a Planning Authority to overturn a decision by an Inspector. It gives the landowner a go ahead for a future planning application. Permission for the Haul road was given on a temporary basis.

Q. Could we ask Strutt & Parker to landscape either side?

A. This would be part of a planning application.

Q. Would you consider dog waste burners?

A. Please provide the details to Councillor Bell.

Q. Could the caravan park people be asked to pay for the skate park?

A. All the Section 106s for Burnham have been agreed. The Marsh Road development has not gone to MDC yet.

Q. What about the developers leaving mud on the road?

A. Please take a hard copy of the Highways Report. MDC are actively pursuing this.

313 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.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9.30 pm and reconvened at 9.34 pm.

The recording equipment was switched off for the following item of business.

314 STAFF MATTERS, LAND MATTERS AND TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

i) the Appointments Panel and the Town Clerk reported on progress with staffing issues.

ii) the Asset Management Panel reported on issues relating to the Allotments in Arcadia Road and proposed works to the Town Council Offices.

315 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 10.05 pm.