

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18 DECEMBER 2018

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp
Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Bob Calver, Mrs Helen Elliott, Peter Elliott, Ron Pratt C.C., Neil Pudney, Nick Skeens and Mike Wood.

In Attendance: - Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes and Assistant Clerk, Diane Carter.

512 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Louise Pudney (apology approved).

513 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

514 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, reported that she had attended:

- i) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils John Mardon Quiz, where she and Cllr Bell had done remarkably well! The winner, for a second year in a row, was Asheldham & Dengie Parish Council.
- ii) an evening hosted by Natalie Bettany, conducting the “fabulous” Harmony Modern Choir. This was very well supported raised £350.00 for a charity called Remap who design and custom make equipment to help disabled people live more independent lives.
- iii) the Women’s Guild at the URC Church, where she had spoken about being the Mayor and then answered questions and addressed concerns from a few residents.
- iv) Burnham Primary School Christmas Fayre. The Mayor thanked Charlotte and Edward R who had decorated two Christmas plates for her.
- v) Town Christmas tree lighting and carols by candlelight. Churches Together conducted a lovely service and everyone looked forward to Santa and Mrs Claus arrival for presents. The Mayor thanked Sarah Grimes, the Town Clerk and her team.
- vi) the funeral of Nancy Crisp, which was very moving.
- vii) Dengie De-Caf’ Christmas party, which had been a “great morning”. Cllr Calver had also attended and everyone sang songs.
- viii) Farleigh Hospice Light up a Life Service at St. Mary’s Church, where she had represented the Town Council.
- ix) Woodfords Garage, at their fundraiser event to support the Alzheimer’s Society.
- x) the Christmas Fayre where she had dressed up as the Ice Queen, and, along with her family, met the kiddies off the special Santa train. Santa had visited on his magnificent sleigh in the afternoon and brought huge smiles to everyone’s faces, no matter what age. The Mayor congratulated the Carnival Committee and all the volunteers.
- xi) Knightswood Christmas Fayre where the children sang beautifully.
- xii) Town Council’s Civic Carol Service at St. Mary’s. The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and the clergy.

The Mayor stated that she would also be attending the Burnham Day Centre Christmas luncheon and the RNLI Carol Service.

She thanked Deputy Mayor Cllr Mrs Louise Pudney for attending St. Mary’s School’s Italian visit.

The Mayor further reported that:

- i) the EALC invited her to speak at the elections course they were holding for clerks and councillors. This focused on community engagement and encouraging councillors, both new and existing, to stand in next May’s election. She had enjoyed it immensely and received positive feedback, and
- ii) she had been interviewed on Ray Clarke’s BBC Essex radio show, in her role as Mayor.

515 MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 20 November 2018, be confirmed and signed.

516 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on Tuesdays 20 November and 4 December 2018, be duly received.

517 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Q. There are concerns about speeding on our roads particularly for those living alongside. As Councillors you have access to the recent ATC's as evidence of the extent in both numbers and speeds. There are also parking offences and related issues that need addressing. I ask that time is provided at a meeting early in the New Year to discuss the Council's role and the action needed to reduce these risks. In the meantime, Councillors and other residents are asked to visit the ROSPA website to read their road safety facts sheet which includes the 'top 10 tips to stay within the limit'.

Q. Could I ask District Councillors to get an update on CIL and when funding will be available?

A. CIL is still being progressed by Maldon District Council but is not finalised.

518 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI's)

Members were reminded of the following resolution that was agreed at the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 9 May 2018: -

“6 LOCALISM ACT 2011 – DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI's)

Members were reminded that at the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday 16 January 2013, the Town Council adopted the recommendations of the Monitoring Officer for the Maldon District in respect of land owned, or property rented, by Members/spouses and the setting of the Annual Precept, by Members who are MDC Council Tax payers, constituting DPI's. As a precautionary measure, until such time as there is a definitive determination of the above DPI issue by Government Regulation,

THE TOWN COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED TO RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS: -

“that the Town Council grant a General Dispensation to all Members, in accordance with the pro-forma report set out in the MDC Monitoring Officer's recommendation dated 7 January 2013, as an integral part of the Town Council's Statutory Annual Meeting in May each year and a similar General Dispensation to all Members as an integral part of the Annual Budget Meeting each year” and it was **RESOLVED: - accordingly.**”

Members were recommended to agree a similar General Dispensation to all Members in respect of the setting of the Annual Precept.

RESOLVED: - accordingly.

519 PROJECTED OUTTURN 2018/2019

Councillor Peter Elliott stated that the proposal to reduce the previous year's Precept had been “near the mark” as there was now a £20,000 surplus to go into Reserves.

The Mayor responded that she did not share his view. She had spoken to the Director of Finance at MDC and it was a recommendation, for a Council of Burnham's size, that Reserves be 50% of the Precept and with a Precept of £188,000 that would be £94,000. The Mayor stated that there had been a lack of action by the Council. She cited the state of the Quay and other maintenance issues.

RESOLVED: - that the Project Outturn for 2018/2019 be approved with a contribution of £23,754 to General Reserves to balance the Budget.

520 ORIGINAL BUDGET 2019/2020

Three pre-budget informal meetings had taken place and items arising from those meetings had been incorporated into the draft budget. Councillor Mike Wood stated that it was vital to go through the budget on a line by line basis. After a brief debate it was

RESOLVED: - that the Council would not consider items on a line by line basis.

The Town Clerk reported that the expected Station House income for 2019/20 is £4,600.

RESOLVED: - Station House expenditure reduce from £10,000 to £5,000.

520 ORIGINAL BUDGET 2019/2020 (continued)

NCP had indicated that £10,000 would be a minimum figure for car parking provision.

RESOLVED: - delete line item for Station Car Park £10,000 from the 2019/20 budget.

Councillor Wood asked for an explanation of the new line item for the Arcadia Road Wildlife Area. Councillor Ron Pratt C.C. responded that there is a fallow five acre site which presents an opportunity to create a wildlife area.

RESOLVED: - retain new budget line item for Arcadia Road Wildlife Area £1,000.

Councillor Mike Wood requested that his vote against the wildlife area be recorded in the Minutes.

Councillor Wood stated that he would like to remove the provision for a Special Constable. Members were reminded that the Council had already committed to it and is a 'live' scheme.

The Town Mayor asked if the Council could ring-fence Reserves; for example for Providence Car Park. Other Members argued that funds could be provided from General Reserves.

Councillor Vanessa Bell stated that she did not agree with the new line item for Volunteers in Policing. Councillors Mrs Helen Elliott and Peter Elliott outlined the Volunteers in Policing concept. Councillor Bob Calver expressed concerns that the Council could promise to provide it but may not be able to deliver and so, must commit to making it happen. Members discussed whether a Councillor would need to take the lead and it was

RESOLVED: - that this be included for discussion on the Agenda for the next Town Council Meeting.

The line item for Neighbourhood Development Plan was no longer needed as the Plan was completed and it was

RESOLVED: - remove budget line for Neighbourhood Development Plan £1,000.

Councillor Peter Elliott suggested reducing legal fees down to £4,000 and it was

RESOLVED: - reduce legal fees by £1,000 to £4,000.

It was agreed that lines 29, 45 and 51 (CPOs, Special Constable and VIP) would appear under one another as they relate to a similar category.

Councillor Peter Elliott suggested that the Council ring-fence the Election Fund which was £3,000 in 2018/19 and it was

RESOLVED: - accordingly.

Members discussed the provision of Christmas Lights. The Town Mayor stated that she would speak to the Chamber of Commerce regarding sponsorship and would be making a grant application. The Council's budget provision of £5,000 could be its match funding.

It was

RESOLVED: - that the Budget for 2019/2020 be approved with a contribution of £50 from General Reserves to balance the Budget.

521 TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT FOR 2019/2020

Notification had been received from Maldon District Council that the expected Council "Tax Base" for 2019/2020 for Band D properties is 3149.5.

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council's Precept for 2018/2019 be set at £188,000 and that Maldon District Council be notified accordingly.

522 NOTIFICATION TO MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members noted that Maldon District Council would set the overall "Tax Base" at its Council Meeting to be held on Thursday 20 December 2018. The District Council had asked that Town and Parish Councils submit their Precept requirements for 2019/2020, by Friday 11 January 2019.

523 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

The Town Clerk stated that an elections pack had been received from the EALC and she would report this at the next Meeting.

- 524 DIARY DATES**
RESOLVED: - Noted, with the amendment that Councillor Peter Elliott would be holding a District Councillor’s Surgery on Saturday 5 January 2019.
- 525 CO-ORDINATORS’ REPORTS**
Highways – Councillor Calver had submitted a detailed written report.
Environment – Councillor Bell had submitted a detailed written report.
RESOLVED: - that this item be deferred to the next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 8 January.
- 526 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS**
Nothing to report.
- 527 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES’ REPORTS**
Members were requested to defer this item to the next Meeting to be held on Tuesday 8 January.
RESOLVED: - accordingly.
- 528 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS**
a) **RESOLVED: - the payment of Accounts for December 2018 be approved and signed.**
b) Members noted the comparison of actual to budgeted payments/ receipts to December.
- 529 GRANTS AND DONATIONS (GENERAL)**
The remaining budget for 2018/2019 was £680. No requests had been received for this Meeting.
- 530 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES**
Saturday 26 January 2019 – Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp.
- 531 ALLOTMENTS IN ARCADIA ROAD**
The Town Mayor had received an email from MOAT housing in respect of the above, reaffirming their support of the transfer of the allotment land back to the Town Council. MOAT were working to understand how assurance could be given through legal covenants bound to the land that it is protected for continued use as Allotments. MOAT currently has full public liability insurance in place to provide comfort to the allotment holders and any visitors to the site.
- 532 RELOCATION OF WW1 ‘TOMMY’ FROM RIVERSIDE PARK**
Members debated possible relocation sites and it was
RESOLVED: - that the Tommy figure be relocated to the Council’s garden outside the Council Offices in close proximity to the Wilf Trussell memorial bench.
- 533 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
There was none.
- 534 PUBLIC FORUM**
Q. I am concerned about the dilapidations building up at the Station House. Would the Council look at doing an annual survey and accumulate specific ring-fenced money for this building?
A. Comments Noted.
Q. At the next Meeting would you please share the information from Paul Dodson regarding CIL?
A. Mayor – I will bring it to Council at the next Meeting. We have the Section 106 information and the Town Clerk has circulated it to Members. I can let you have a copy of that information.
Q. Would the Council reconsider the siting of the Tommy figure to where the beacon is?
A. There is a process to follow to bring this back to Council.
Q. Are we going to paint Tommy?
A. No, it is a metal structure – the painted ones are made of plywood.
- 535 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Statutory Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 8 January 2019 at 7.30 pm.
- 536 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**
Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 9.05 pm.