

MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2019

Present: - Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Louise Pudney.
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.

The Meeting commenced at 7.45 pm due to the late running of the Planning Meeting.

537 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp. Sarah Grimes, the Town Clerk, stated that Councillor Mrs Stamp had given a reason for her absence and requested her apologies be formally accepted. The Clerk stated that this would require an affirmative Resolution. Several Members expressed concerns at giving reasons for apologies, which they felt could compromise councillors' privacy.

RESOLVED: - that Councillors Mrs Stamp's apologies be accepted.

538 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

539 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor was not present.

540 MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 18 December 2018, be confirmed and signed.

541 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 18 December 2018, be duly received.

542 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There was none.

543 TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

The Town Clerk reported that the website designer had recommended transferring the domain host. The cost would equate to approximately £12 per year. Councillor Nick Skeens confirmed that the website would be 'down' only for a matter of hours during the transfer.

RESOLVED: - that the website designer be authorised to proceed with the domain transfer.

544 DIARY DATES

These were noted. Councillor Peter Elliott's name had been omitted from items g) and o).

545 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- a) General Purposes – Councillor Peter Elliott had nothing to report.
- b) Highways – Councillor Bob Calver had submitted two detailed written reports which had been circulated. The reports included the following:
 - i) Belisha beacons at the Tesco crossing,
 - ii) broken ironwork cover at the junction of Remembrance Avenue and Station Road,
 - iii) lamppost outside 7 Fernlea Road,
 - iv) Green Lane issues,
 - v) 20 mph request for Ferry Road,Councillor Ron Pratt C.C. confirmed that this would need to go through the Local Highways Panel procedure.

545 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS (continued)

- vi) street lights for the new development on Southminster Road,
 - vii) pavement and walkway issues, and
 - viii) streetlights.
- c) Environment – Councillor Vanessa Bell had submitted a detailed written report in December. She further reported that there had been a work party on Saturday 5 January and that a Green Spaces Group meeting was scheduled for the following day. The Mayor had requested that Members discuss the siting of dog waste bag bins and bag dispensers. It was **RESOLVED: - that this be included as an Agenda Item for the next Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Tuesday 19 February 2019.**
- Councillor Mike Wood asked how much the self irrigating planters would cost. Councillor Bell responded that it would “not be hundreds of pounds”.
- Councillor Calver had received a report regarding an issue with standing water on the country park. Councillor Skeens responded that some years previously, MDC had been going to put in a French drain. Councillor Bell responded that there was a returning pair of ducks on the water.
- Councillor Skeens reported that there had been no update from Maldon District Council regarding the Burnham Observatory. Councillor Bell stated that MDC are pursuing this with Crown Estates, the landowners.
- Councillor Skeens stated that no update had been received from MDC regarding the BMX Park. Councillor Bell responded that the Countryside & Coast Manager was still pursuing the matter.
- In response to a question from Councillor Wood, Councillor Bell stated that the green spaces committee numbered eight members and there were around twenty volunteers.
- d) Neighbourhood Development Plan – Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp was not present.

546 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Councillors Mrs Helen Elliott, Peter Elliott, Ron Pratt and Neil Pudney had nothing to report.

547 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Burnham Week Limited - Councillor Calver had submitted a detailed written report which had been circulated. There was another disagreement with the treasurer. Councillor Calver expressed concern that this is causing friction between Burnham Week Ltd and the Town Council. It was

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Calver write to the Burnham Week treasurer.

The Town Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Essex County Council in respect of the erection of banners across the bridge.

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Calver and the Clerk review the paperwork and report back to the next Meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Skeens asked if the Town Council could formalise its support for CAP and generate publicity for a road safety campaign

RESOLVED: - that 'road safety' be included as an Agenda Item for the next Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Tuesday 19 February 2019 and Mr Ken Harris of the Community Action Panel (CAP) be asked to give a presentation to the Council.

Councillor Neil Pudney reported that an Officer from the Border Force had given a presentation to the Crouch Harbour Authority meeting. The Llys Helig issue was being pursued by Maldon District Council.

Councillor Pudney reported that SURE START was now called the Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service and he was a representative as a District Councillor.

Councillor Skeens asked if the Riverside Park Taskforce was still in existence. The Town Clerk responded that Councillors Bell and Mrs Stamp had met with Matt Wilson from Maldon District Council some time previously, but no recent meetings had taken place.

548 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- a) No payment of accounts for January 2019 had been made,
- b) No comparison of actual to budgeted payments and receipts to January was presented as no payments had been made,
- c) All Members had received a copy of the original Budget for 2019/2020.
- d) Members noted that the Precept request had been completed by the Town Clerk.

549 GRANTS AND DONATIONS (GENERAL)

The remaining budget for 2018/2019 was £680.

No requests had been received.

550 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Saturday 26 January 2019 – Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp.

551 BURNHAM CEMETERY CHAPEL

Further to Minute 499 c) of the Meeting held on 20 November 2018, Members were requested to discuss the ‘at risk’ status of the above building. The Town Clerk reported that she had spoken with Tim Howson, the Conservation Officer, who would be compiling a register of buildings of local interest. The Clerk had visited the chapel and photographed the slipped roof tiles and blocked gutters and subsequently sent the photos to Mr Howson. The Clerk would report back on any response, at the next Meeting. Councillors agreed that the Town Council should be looking to Maldon District Council to take more responsibility for the chapel.

552 INCREASE IN CRIME – CRIME FIGURES IN THE DISTRICT

The crime figures were noted.

553 ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL PASSENGER TRANSPORT REPRESENTATIVES MEETINGS

Further to Minute 499 l) of the Meeting held on 20 November 2018, Members were requested to consider whether to ask that Maldon District Council appoint a representative to the above. The Town Clerk reported that she had contacted Essex County Council who had confirmed that whilst Maldon District Council had been represented at the last passenger transport meeting, it has no appointed representative. Councillor Peter Elliott suggested that Rev. Haworth could be appointed. **RESOLVED: - that the Town Council write to Maldon District Council to ask why it has not appointed representatives to the Essex County Council passenger transport meetings.**

554 TRIP HAZARDS ON THE QUAY

Further to Minute 509 of the Meeting held on 20 November 2018, Members were requested to discuss the above. The Town Clerk reported that her assistant had walked the Quay from the marina to the Belvedere and had photographed, plotted and then reported the trip hazards via the Essex County Council website. References had been allocated accordingly. The Clerk had received an email from the Rights of Way Officer, that morning, regarding areas that had been identified as belonging to the Town Council. Members disputed the Town Council’s ownership. The Clerk stated that she would speak to the Rights of Way Officer and report back to the next Meeting.

555 LET’S GET IT RIGHT! 2019 ELECTION TOOLKIT

The Town Clerk had received an election toolkit from the Essex Association of Local Councils. The information would be circulated to all Councillors.

556 VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

Members were reminded that a sum of £1,000 had been provided in the Town Council's 2019/20 budget for the above. The Town Clerk reported that she had requested further details of the Police Support Volunteers scheme from Essex Police. It was

RESOLVED: - that this Item be deferred to the next Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Tuesday 19 February 2019.

557 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

558 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no questions from the public or press.

559 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next Meeting of the Town Council would be held on Tuesday 19 February 2019 at 7.30 pm.

560 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.

561 STAFF MATTERS

Members noted the annual Report from the Town Clerk on national conditions of service, salary scales and allowances.

562 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 8.55 pm.