

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp.

Councillors: – Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Louise Pudney, 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.

563 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

564 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Ron Pratt C.C. declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 23 as he is a County Councillor.

565 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, reported that she had met with riders from the Elmwood stables. They had expressed concerns at the safety of riders on the road and would like to ask for the Council's support for road signage.

The Mayor reported that she had attended: -

i) the Maldon Council Civic Service at Maldon All Saints Church and thoroughly enjoyed a "fabulous and inclusive service". She received numerous compliments on the recently refurbished Town Mayor's chain. The children of Maldon played a huge part in the service, not only by playing instruments and singing but telling everyone of the part they are playing in visiting a local care home. The children said the residents may not remember their names but their faces light up when the children walk in to participate in the organised activities.

ii) the Ormiston Rivers Academy 'beauty of the river Crouch' video launch. The video can be accessed through the Town Council's website. The whole film was informative and professional.

Finally, the Mayor apologized for not attending the Gardening Club and the Royal Burnham Yacht Club committee dinner, due to a dreadful cold.

566 ROAD SAFETY

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr Ken Harris, Chair of the Community Action Panel.

Mr Harris stated that the purpose of the presentation was to seek a joint agreement to improve community safety, seek support for two related projects and then to focus on road safety. Members had received a handout with a briefing paper. Mr Harris highlighted the need to promote wider and stronger resident involvement in community affairs. He said that it was 'taken as read' that the Council is committed to improving community safety, for example by paying for extra Community Protection Officer time, funding a Special Constable and arranging for RES to provide a zebra crossing. The stark reality is that it is often local people who are dropping litter, not clearing up their dog mess, causing criminal damage, are involved in anti-social behaviour, speeding and irresponsible parking. The likelihood is that someone will see, hear or experience the problem and almost inevitably someone will know the perpetrator. If we/they know, but don't bother to report an incident or offence it is likely the problem will continue or possibly increase. Both the Green Spaces group and CAP (Councillor led) are in liaison with the police and the CPOs and will assist and encourage support in reporting, including suggesting referral through crime stoppers. Analysis suggested that the most effective way of making this a reality is the development of the network based on street identity. The next Meeting of CAP would be addressing Neighbourhood Watch development, in order to take that forward.

Mr Harris said "what we really want to talk about tonight is improving driving and parking standards." On his last visit, Mr Hirst, the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, had emphasised that there is a greater risk of death and serious injury from irresponsible driving than from any other

566 ROAD SAFETY (continued)

criminal offence. Recent automatic traffic counts (ATCs) had been conducted for Eves Corner, on both ends of the Railway Bridge and Maldon Road. It is essential that common ground is found on a way to take forward shared concerns and make every effort to encourage all users to recognise what needs to be done to improve safety on the roads around Burnham. The protocols used are: educate, monitor and enforce. The ATCs showed that 24% of the drivers on Maldon Road, 12% on the railway bridge 19% on Southminster Road were doing over 35 mph. Detailed discussions have been held at CAP Meetings and proposals have been put forward. The principal ones are neighbourhood plans for infrastructure proposals, one of which is the bridge on Marsh Road; progress on requests for signs, entry point roundels and warning signs and a roadshow outside the Co-op. There is also a need to assess the merit of anti-speeding posters to put on waste bins and lampposts. Mr Harris stated that hopefully the joint message is “it’s a limit backed by law, not to observe it is dangerous and antisocial behaviour. Exceed it and you *are* breaking the law.” Mr Harris asked the Council to re-adopt “in Burnham its 30” and to arrange to have copies of the handout leaflet available. He asked that parking issues be referred back through CAP reps. There needed to be agreement on the way to take forward shared concerns and to make every effort to encourage all users to recognise what needs to be done to improve safety on roads in, and around, Burnham.

The Mayor asked if Members had any questions/comments.

Councillor Nick Skeens stated the need for awareness. Social media messaging is “successful and impactful” especially when trying to target younger users. He recommended that CAP come up with a plan for an internet campaign, facebook based, to get the very powerful message - ‘in Burnham its 30’ - across. He had already suggested simply filming a journey down the High Street to highlight the issues. Councillor Skeens asked what CAP wants the Council to do. Mr Harris responded that the focus is on speeding in the short term. Overall, it is the behaviour of drivers.

Councillor Skeens suggested that CAP come up with a proposal to bring to the Council for something to go on the Council’s website.

Councillor Peter Elliott stated that the Council had proposed a 20 mph limit for many years and that there is a need for a 20 mph limit in the vicinity of the schools.

Mr Harris responded that Special Constables could be utilised for speed monitoring.

Members thanked Mr Harris for attending the Meeting.

The Town Mayor then asked that everyone stand for a minute’s silence in memory of former Town Councillor, Jack Sheppard.

567 MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 8 January 2019, be confirmed and signed.

568 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on Tuesday 8 and Monday 28 January 2019, be duly received.

569 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Q. Can we ask the Town Council to support an application to Essex County Council for signage to support riders’ safety?

A. Yes, the Town Council would support this as a safety issue. Councillor Pratt stated that “this is exactly what the Local Highways’ Panel is for.”

570 TOWN CLERKS’ REPORT

This was noted.

571 DIARY DATES

These were noted.

572 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- a) General Purposes – Councillor Peter Elliott updated Members on the building works in the Town Clerk's office. Additional ground works had been necessary.
- b) Highways – Councillor Bob Calver had submitted a detailed written report which had been circulated. He highlighted roadworks.org as a useful website. A response had been received from Councillor Bentley in respect of the lights at the Tesco crossing.

Councillor Bell said that Remembrance Avenue had been resurfaced. Councillor Skeens raised concerns about a potential accident on Remembrance Avenue. He stated that it needs double dotted lines across the Burnham Shores entrance. Councillor Calver responded that this is an un-adopted road. Councillor Skeens asked if the developers could be asked. The Mayor stated that it is down to the residents to put pressure on the developers. Concerns were expressed that scheduled highway works would take place at the same time, resulting in the same chaos as had been experienced recently on the railway bridge. Councillor Pratt responded "I believe it is one gang of people and they have to do a blanket notification."

- c) Environment – Councillor Vanessa Bell had submitted a written report which had been circulated. Members discussed the provision of three self watering planters for either side of the railway bridge at a cost of £100 each. Councillor Pratt asked if the Council had the ability to maintain them.

RESOLVED: - that this be deferred to a future Meeting of the Town Council to allow for further research.

Councillor Bell reported on issues at Hester Place. MDC had cleared the area. Plants that had given residents extra security had been removed. Trees had been removed and bulbs uprooted. The Friends of Hester Place group were no longer willing to continue and had all resigned. Councillor Bell reported that Richard Holmes, Director of Service Delivery at Maldon District Council, had offered a meeting. The Mayor felt that a Council representative should be there and Members concurred.

Councillor Peter Elliott stated that if there is a problem with MDC, the District Councillors are there to help. He suggested that the Town Council give the group a small grant to help with re-planting, to show that the Council is behind them. Councillor Elliott volunteered to set up a meeting between Councillor Bell and MDC.

- d) Neighbourhood Development Plan – Councillor Mrs Stamp asked if the Section 106 Officer had left. Councillor Peter Elliott confirmed that they had, but he did not know who their replacement is. Councillor Pratt suggested that all correspondence be sent to Paul Dodson and that District Councillors be copied in.

573 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Planning and Licensing – Councillor Pratt reported on the setting up of a local heritage assets list. Extraordinary Planning – Councillor Peter Elliott stated that the application for the retirement homes would have the "most significant and far reaching effect". Burnham District Councillors had tried hard but had been outvoted at the meeting.

Councillor Neil Pudney reported that he sits on the elected members briefing for Mid-Essex Hospitals. The meeting at Runwell had been cancelled. There would be an Overview and Scrutiny meeting the following week.

574 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Councillor Pratt asked if the Town Mayor could find out if the Allotment Holders' Association is willing to have the defibrillator unit on the gate at the allotments.

The Carnival AGM minutes had been circulated. The committee has a new chairman. The committee would like to light the procession route with Christmas lights. It was agreed that Councillor Peter Elliott liaise, in his role as General Purposes Co-ordinator.

The Mayor asked Councillor Pratt to liaise with Edwin Buckley and the new Carnival Chairman and committee regarding a new sailing event being organised over Carnival weekend.

Councillor Pratt stated that the Chamber of Commerce meeting was well attended.

Councillor Neil Pudney reported that the next Crouch Harbour Authority Meeting is in April. A report was awaited from Richard Holmes regarding the Lys Helig.

574 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS (continued)

The Town Mayor reported that she had resigned as Chair of the Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils. Councillor John Anderson had taken on the role. The next meeting would be on Wednesday 3 March.

Councillor Peter Elliott reported that the final meeting of the Wallasea Island Local Liaison Group was in January but it had been decided that the group members would have an annual meeting. The project team is now leaving and Wallasea becomes a normal RSPB site.

575 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- a) **RESOLVED: - the payment of Accounts for February 2019 be approved and signed.**
- b) Members noted the comparison of actual to budgeted payments/ receipts to February 2019. The Town Mayor requested that the RFO ensure outstanding quay day money is collected.

576 GRANTS AND DONATIONS (GENERAL)

No requests had been received for this Meeting.

577 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Saturday 9 March – Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp.

578 DOG WASTE BINS AND BAG DISPENSERS

Further to Minute 545 c) of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 8 January 2019, Members were requested to determine the siting of additional dog waste bins and, dog bag dispensers. The Town Mayor asked if it could be agreed to provide four bins along the Quay and to tie that proposal into Agenda Item 31.

Councillor Bell reported on the extensive dog fouling on the Quay over the weekend.

579 ERECTION OF BANNERS ACROSS THE HIGHWAY

All Members had received a copy of the letter drafted by Councillor Calver in response to the correspondence from Essex County Council. The Town Clerk stated that she would contact the CPO team leader for written confirmation that the CPOs are insured to assist with the erection of banners. Subject to this confirmation, it was

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Calver's response letter be sent by the Clerk.

580 VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

The Town Clerk reported that she had contacted PC Michael Lee, Citizens in Policing Officer for Essex Police. He would be willing to have a meeting with Members to discuss the scheme. Councillor Peter Elliott asked to take the lead on this and it was

RESOLVED: - that the Clerk arrange a daytime meeting between PC Mike Lee and Councillor Peter Elliott.

581 ALLOTMENTS IN ARCADIA ROAD

Councillor Peter Elliott reported that he and the Town Mayor had a positive meeting with MOAT and that he is now arranging a facilitation meeting between MDC, BTC and MOAT to "look at a way through the red tape". Moat is controlled by the charity regulator which does not allow them to give assets away.

582 ARCADIA ROAD WILDLIFE AREA

Councillor Pratt was surprised to see this item on the Agenda. Money had been allocated in the budget but the Council did not debate the use of the area. He stated that the Council needs to be cautious – the ground had been fallow for twenty years.

Councillor Pratt had thought Members would talk about what they would like the area to become and he suggested, in the first instance, speaking to Writtle College for advice. He confirmed that there is a lot of wildlife in there. Councillor Bell responded that the Green Spaces Group would like to be involved as much as possible. A community orchard was suggested but may not be suitable. It was

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Pratt approach Writtle College and report back to a future Meeting of the Town Council.

583 WWI MEMORIAL BENCH

Members were requested to consider the provision of a WWI memorial bench outside the Council offices at a cost of £695:00. Councillor Peter Elliott suggested that the Burnham Branch of the Royal British Legion request a donation from the Council to provide a bench. The Town Mayor would speak to them accordingly.

584 LOCAL BUS CONSULTATION

All Members had received a copy of the above. Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing the way it supports local bus services which operate on evenings and Sundays and is carrying out a public consultation. The consultation also includes proposals regarding delivering ECC services differently and devolving ECC funded local bus services to communities.

The Town Clerk reported that she had emailed the consultation documents to Paul Haworth, the Council's transport representative. A draft response would be available for Members' consideration at the next Meeting.

585 CHELMSFORD PARK & RIDE CONSULTATION

Essex County Council is reviewing the ticketing options and fares offered and days of opening for the Chelmsford Park and Ride Services.

The Town Clerk reported that she had emailed the consultation documents to Paul Haworth, the Council's transport representative. A draft response would be available for Members' consideration at the next Meeting.

586 RAILWAY BRIDGE TASKFORCE FUNDS

The Clerk reported that the conditions of the above group's constitution stipulate that on closure of its bank account, any money held should be paid to Burnham-on-Crouch Town Council. Councillor Bell reported that the new Green Spaces Group has a constitution, a bank account and is looking at becoming a limited charity. Its members are already undertaking a lot of work around the green spaces of Burnham. The Railway Bridge Taskforce (RBT) would like the group to have the RBT money. The Town Mayor stated that she would like to see the RBT constitution before agreeing this.

RESOLVED: - that this Item be deferred until the next Meeting of the Town Council.

587 MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE 2017/18

The Town Mayor reported that she had been contacted by Richard Holmes, Director of Service Delivery at Maldon District Council, in respect of the above. The Town Council had previously invoiced Maldon District Council the sum of £85 for hedge cutting on Maldon Road, carried out by the Town Council's contractor. Councillor Mike Wood had been pursuing the collection of the outstanding amount. He reported that Mr Holmes had agreed to pay the invoice. Members debated whether to pursue MDC for the £85. Councillor Peter Elliott suggested that the Town Mayor write back to Mr Holmes stating that in open council, in public, Councillor Wood reported that Mr Holmes had said that the money would be paid to the Town Council. It was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Mayor write back to Mr Holmes, stating that, in open council, in public, Councillor Wood had reported that Mr Holmes had said that the money would be paid to the Town Council.

588 PURDAH

The Clerk read out the EALC guidelines for the Purdah period.

589 FINGERPOSTS

Members were requested to discuss the provision of new pointers for the Town Council's fingerposts. The Clerk had received three quotations. It was

RESOLVED: - that further information on the condition of the existing fingerposts be provided at the next Meeting of the Town Council.

Councillor Calver suggested that St Cuthbert's signage could be added to the fingerpost by the library.

590 BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Clerk reported that she and the Mayor had experienced considerable difficulties with Barclays' customer service when trying to set-up a facility for online banking. The Clerk would be requesting a meeting with a Barclays' business manager.

591 BURNHAM TOURIST OFFICE

All Members had received a copy of the letter from Richard Holmes, Director of Service Delivery at Maldon District Council, in respect of the closure of the Burnham Tourist Information Office. The Mayor reminded Members that finances would be discussed during confidential business.

The Mayor suggested that a committee of Councillors and volunteers could set up a tourist information centre and asked for Members views on the future of a TIC facility. Members debated the merits of a physical TIC as opposed to the provision of online information. Councillor Skeens stated that the Council should "encourage a community effort to see what is viable".

The Mayor expressed concerns that the Council had not received a financial report – number of visitors, spend per head, what it is spent on etc. and without this information, how could a decision be made on what the facility is going to cost. An annual breakdown would have allowed the Town Council to prepare – to put more investment in, or sell something different, or install a coffee machine – to try and keep the facility going, rather than being presented with a fait accompli by Maldon District Council.

Councillor Peter Elliott confirmed that the existing provision is very small and had been purely to provide a presence in the centre of Town. Councillor Pratt stated that he would like to see a presence at Station House; the Council would not have to rent or buy premises. Councillor Bell liked the idea of a combined TIC/café rather than a 'stand alone' facility.

592 PLANNING APPLICATION OUT/MAL/18/00443 - LAND NORTH WEST OF 2 MALDON ROAD, BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH

The Town Mayor reported on the above application, following the Maldon District Council Extraordinary (Planning) Meeting held on Thursday 31 January 2019, when outline permission was granted.

The Mayor asked that the Council debate a motion of "loss of confidence in the ability and willingness of Maldon District Council to deliver on the letter or spirit of the Local Development Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plan in terms of policies".

The Mayor stated that the approval of the application has serious implications for the Burnham Neighbourhood Development Plan and Local Development Plan. She referred to blatant breaches of policy. The Secretary of State had decided not to call it in. The Mayor reported that i) she would be attending a meeting at the Law Society where the Secretary of State would be presenting an exhibition on older peoples' housing and ii) she had been asked to speak on BBC Essex, on behalf of the Town Council, regarding the above development. Other people, including the developers, had also been asked to take part in the debate. The Mayor asked for Members support.

Councillors Skeens stated that: -

- the biggest problem for him is that Burnham has designated zones for development and that is such an important part of the NDP, which was worked on by a group of volunteers, over many years, before being approved by the Secretary of State and was meant to have "the force of law",
- the Town Council had refused applications on the grounds that they would breach the NDP,
- this development is outside the development boundary which means it is a clear breach and the biggest problem is if the Town Council accepts that and doesn't fight it, then the NDP becomes completely worthless and would be the "sham" that so many people predicted it would be,
- his feeling is that the Town Council needs to send a very strong message to Maldon District Council that what they have done is unacceptable. MDC encouraged the creation of the NDP,
- the Town Council is not against development but the whole point is to create planned development and

592 PLANNING APPLICATION OUT/MAL/18/00443 - LAND NORTH WEST OF 2 MALDON ROAD, BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH (continued)

- he was glad that Burnham's District Councillors had, in the main, voted against the development. Councillor Skeens finished by saying that he would support the Mayor's motion.

The Town Mayor said that she was sad to say that Councillor Wood had been proved right. Councillor Wood reiterated his statement of some years previously, that the NDP was a complete waste of time, money, people's hours upon hours of work and dedication. Councillor Wood also stated that he is in favour of this development.

Councillor Calver commented that it was a decision taken by the Members of Maldon District Council based on a recommendation of the planning officers and it is the planning officers and their judgement that he had lost confidence in. Councillor Pratt asked for an amendment to the motion to "officers" as the decision was based on a recommendation from planning officers.

The Mayor stated that the report had been biased. Councillor Pratt responded that Essex County Council and the NHS did not support the application and very little weight was attributed to that lack of support from those two major stakeholders. The Mayor read out policy H3 5.22 "...they must receive unequivocal support from the relevant statutory agencies, in particular those who may be expected to commission such services or provide ancillary services such as care and support for the intended residents. Essex County Council Adult Social Care does not support the application". She stated that this alone should have been grounds for refusal. It was

RESOLVED: - that the motion be amended to "officers" and that Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, draft a letter to Maldon District Council, to be considered at the next Meeting of the Town Council.

Members gave their agreement to the Mayor speaking on the radio.

593 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS

Members noted the approved PSPOs, following the conclusion of Maldon District Council's consultation process.

Burnham on Crouch –

- *Area A Riverside Park sports pitches and Millfields not adopted*
- Area B Quay front adjoining Riverside Park
- Area C Burnham Quay front (West) dogs on leads 1 April – 30 September
- Area C Burnham Quay front (East) dogs on leads 1 April – 30 September.

Councillor Bell expressed her disappointment in the provisions.

594 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Skeens reported that the website working group had met that morning. He asked for the Council's approval of an amount of £20 per month for the website designer to provide ongoing support. Ongoing training would be provided by Councillor Skeens. It was

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

595 PUBLIC FORUM

Statement of clarification from the treasurer of the Railway Bridge Taskforce - any money held by the group at the time of cessation should be handed back to the Town Council. It is to be used for the environs of the station.

Q. Is there any progress on the Council's use of the station car park?

A. It was agreed that the Council would not make provision within its 2019/20 budget to pursue that option.

Q. If I understood the Purdah rules correctly and looking at the calendar and proposed process for the lack of confidence motion, I think that you are liable to trip yourselves up, could you look into this please?

A. Yes.

595 PUBLIC FORUM (continued)

Q. I would be grateful if you could publicise how good the Essex Police webcam reporting service is (dashcam).

Q. In your private business discussions later regarding the TIC, it strikes me as a great opportunity to join the dots. Burnham's library may face a cut in its hours. The volunteers in policing, TIC, CAB could be combined, at least temporarily, into the library and maybe even increase the hours in the library. Please could you consider that?

A. Yes.

Q. It was mentioned in the meeting about 106 agreements. One of them for us was an early year and childcare, contribution towards constructing a £1.1 million facility in Burnham-on-Crouch. Where is it going to go, when is it going to be built? If it isn't built within a certain time period, the money is lost and goes back to the developer.

A. We are, and will be working with the Section 106 Officer.

596 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next Meeting of the Town Council would be held on Tuesday 19 March.

597 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.

598 LAND MATTERS AND BURNHAM TIC

i) Arcadia Road Wildlife Area – the presence of a particular species was noted.

ii) Allotments in Arcadia Road – Councillor Peter Elliott further updated Members on progress.

iii) Council Offices – it was

RESOLVED: - that i) the Council erect a 4ft fence along its boundary with an adjacent property and ii) the Town Clerk be authorised to obtain three quotations accordingly.

The Town Council's gardener would maintain the area on an ongoing basis.

iv) Tourist Information Offices – Members discussed financial options for the future of this facility. The Mayor would report back after meeting with the leaseholder.

599 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 10.15 pm.