

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp.

Councillors: –Vanessa Bell, Ron Pratt C.C., Neil Pudney, Nick Skeens and Mike Wood.

In Attendance: - Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes.

600 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from the Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Louise Pudney and Councillors Bob Calver, Mrs Helen Elliott and Peter Elliott.

601 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

602 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Q. How did this situation come about where this Town Council objects to the application and it ends up in the hands of the Secretary of State and he supports it?

A. It's a matter of course that, because it was a departure from the Local Development Plan, Maldon District Council notified the Secretary of State, as did a member of the public. The Secretary of State decided not to call it in.

Q. You state in the motion, a loss of confidence in MDC planning officers, why does this not include Councillors?

A. That is what the Town Council agreed.

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

Further to Minute 592 of 19 February 2019, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, had drafted a letter to Maldon District Council, in respect of the above application. Councillor Ron Pratt CC, asked for clarification of the terminology. He was concerned as to whether there had been a formal Resolution at the previous Meeting. The Town Clerk read out her notes from the Meeting held on 19 February. It had been Resolved that Councillor Mrs Stamp draft a letter and bring it back to the next Town Council Meeting for Members' consideration.

The Mayor read the letter aloud (she was assisted in the reading by Councillor Skeens) and Members considered and discussed it in detail.

Page 1. Councillor Pratt asked for confirmation that this is against the law. Councillor Pratt said that he understood that it is against the LDP and the NDP, but the Secretary of State had reviewed it and said it is a local issue. Had it been against the law, the Secretary of State would have said more. The Town Mayor responded that she had spoken to the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, at the Law Society the previous day and he had not seen any of the correspondence sent to him. The Mayor had explained the Council's concerns that the policies had not been adhered to and he was "quite shocked". The Mayor was advised, by a lawyer, to contact him and ask that it be reviewed, based on the policies.

Members agreed to leave "and the law" in.

Page 2 – point 5. **RESOLVED: - Remove "For example, it made no reference to the MDC sponsored Birch Millfield's 'caravan' park a couple of miles away, which is planning 58 twin lodges also targeted at the retired (18/00381/FUL)."**

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

The Mayor asked the District Councillors present if financial viability documents had been disclosed. Councillor Pratt responded that they had been, to officers not the Members.

Page 2 – point 11. Councillor Pratt said that the NHS did not support the application. He declared a non-pecuniary Interest as an Essex County Councillor.

Members agreed to include “and the NHS” after “Essex County Council Adult Social Care”.

Councillor Neil Pudney informed Members that he had been at a meeting at Broomfield Hospital that morning and concerns had been expressed that this development would put a strain on the NHS.

Page 4 – point 5. Change “not to listen to” to “not to adhere to”.

Councillor Skeens proposed that the letter be accepted with the agreed amendments. This was seconded by Councillor Bell.

A recorded vote was requested.

FOR: Councillors Vanessa Bell, Neil Pudney, Nick Skeens and Mrs Wendy Stamp.

AGAINST: Councillor Mike Wood.

ABSTENTION: Councillor Ron Pratt.

RESOLVED: - that subject to the agreed amendments, the letter be approved and sent to Maldon District Council accordingly.

604 MEETING WITH DEVELOPERS

A request had been received from Think Green Land to meet with the Town Council. Members debated this. Councillor Wood stated that “the developer is willing to do things for Burnham and on that basis alone it is vital to meet with them.”

The Town Mayor stated that she would like it to be an open meeting. It was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council would meet with the developers in an open meeting.

Councillor Skeens had asked if he could make an announcement at the end of the Meeting and the Mayor had agreed. Councillor Skeens reported that Burnham resident, Dawn Wood, had just completed her solo row across the Atlantic. Everyone present gave a rousing round of applause in recognition of this outstanding achievement.

605 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.

606 BURNHAM TOURIST OFFICE

The Town Mayor reported that an option to extend the lease was no longer available. There may be an option to have information leaflets in the existing facility and there would be a financial implication. Further options would be discussed at the next Meeting of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: - that a letter be sent to Maldon District Council requesting that the funds be held until after the Town Council had discussed other options at its next Meeting.

607 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.