

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

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp.

Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Bob Calver, Ron Pratt C.C., Nick Skeens and Mike Wood.

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

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Meeting was taking place during the Purdah period.

608 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

609 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

610 DAWN WOOD SOLO ATLANTIC ROWER

The Town Mayor welcomed Dawn Wood to the Meeting and presented her with a trophy, on behalf of the Town Council, in recognition of her outstanding achievement in rowing 3,255 miles, solo and unsupported, from Gran Canaria to Barbados to raise awareness of ocean pollution. Dawn answered a number of questions and spoke about the high and low points of her passage across the Atlantic.

611 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, reported that she and Councillor Bell had met with the local police and Cabin Dairy proprietors to discuss the upcoming bike season. This had been a very positive meeting. Partnership working and communication was agreed as the way forward.

The Mayor had attended the following: -

- i) Downhall Residential Home in Bradwell, for coffee and cake. The Mayor encouraged other people to attend the coffee mornings and events. The staffs work very hard to deliver and make fun. The residents are fascinating with rich life histories to tell with a “wicked” sense of humour.
- ii) the rainbows, brownies and guides for International Women’s Day.
- iii) the Gang Show at Southminster, hosted by the Scouts and Guides. The confidence and courage shown by those performed on stage was exceptional. The Mayor paid tribute to all those ‘behind the scenes’ with a special thank you to Emma Lawrence, team leader from Epic Dance.
- iv) the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club dinner, where the food, hospitality and guests were first class.
- v) Essex County Council Civic Service at Chelmsford Cathedral. Many other civic dignitaries were in attendance. The choir was “fantastic” and the service reflective.
- vi) the High Sheriff’s Essex Community Foundation Awards. This was excellent and the winners deserved recognition for all their hard work.
- vii) Former Councillor, Jack Sheppard’s funeral.
- viii) Town Council surgery where she had presented certificates to younger members of Burnham’s community who litter pick outside their homes, and when they go the park in the holidays.
- ix) the Town Council’s Civic reception, which was very well attended. The award winners were:
 - 1 Stables Memorial Ride - Ciera Battson & Grace Threshold
 - 2 Parents support in schools – Claire McCormick & Angelene Groves
 - 3 Services to the Town- Michael Head.
 - 4 New Group Award – Harmony Choir, Natalie Bettany, Musical Director & Joanne Richardson both co Founders.
 - 5 Young Persons Award – Miss Tyler May
 - 6 Reaching the community in sport – Burnham Rugby Club, Niall Hornett & Dan Hull
 - 7 Lifetime Award – Railway Bridge Task Force and Sheila & Chris Nutt
 - 8 Outstanding Services to the Town Award – Joan Costello.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for her hard work in organising the event. The Clerk thanked Miss Vaughan for her assistance.

612 MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 19 February and the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 26 February 2019, be confirmed and signed.

613 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on Tuesdays 19 February and 5 March 2019, be duly received.

614 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Q. My question is prompted by agenda item 24. I believe Burnham Council will be getting ownership transferred of the Burwest allotments in due course, with an amount of money. Please will the Council bear in mind what has happened in the past – it is expensive paying for allotment maintenance and repairs. Please can the Council make sure it has done all of its sums and the appropriate money is received in full on the Section 106, to do what the Council would want to do?

A. WS - We will look into it. A lot of the Section 106s are controlled by Maldon District Council. My understanding is that the CIL Officer has left and has not been replaced. I have been looking into this. RP – at the last Planning & Licensing Committee meeting the Burnham allotments was mentioned and there is £8,000 coming to Burnham Town Council for maintenance. I raised the question “how is that calculated?” – I have not had a satisfactory answer yet. I am not sure if the £8,000 is for a year, or perpetuity or just a sum that someone has put their finger in the air and said “that’s what we can afford”. I can report that there won’t be any more – that is the 106 agreement. Council needs to discuss what to do with it when we get it.

Q. My question relates to agenda item 16. If there is a report can we have a copy of it as soon as possible please?

A. Yes.

615 TOWN CLERKS’ REPORT

This was noted and in particular: -

3 MOAT FOUNDATION

Moat is offering free sessions to help people ‘get online’. It was agreed that the Town Clerk contact Nicola Syder of MOAT Foundation to explore whether sessions could be held at the Station House in Burnham.

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

Further to Minute 603 of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 26 February 2019, all Members had received a copy of the response letter from Paul Dodson, Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance, at Maldon District Council.

The Mayor responded that the original letter requested that this matter go through the MDC complaints procedure. Councillor Pratt responded that there is a format to follow. The Mayor had not yet fully investigated this and would report back to the next Meeting on Tuesday 16 April 2019.

616 DIARY DATES

These were noted.

617 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- a) General Purposes – Councillor Peter Elliott was not present. The Town Clerk thanked her partner, Mr Matthew Swann, for decorating her office. Mr Swann received a round of applause.
- b) Highways – Councillor Bob Calver had submitted a detailed written report which had been circulated. Councillor Pratt confirmed that the Local Highways Panel had put the St Cuthbert's signage on the approved list the previous Friday. Councillor Calver raised an issue not on his written report, namely that a 20 mph limit is not generally possible around Burnham but he had been to other places where a 20 mph limit flashing sign imposes a speed limit during school hours. Councillor Calver asked Councillor Pratt if that would be looked at more favourably? Councillor Pratt responded that he would prefer to use Church Road and High Street and say that we need a 20 mph zone, with a fallback position that we do it during school hours. Councillor Calver stated that these signs are actually within the vicinity of the schools. Councillor Pratt responded that the Town Council could just apply to get 20 mph limits around the schools anyway. The Mayor stated that this would need to come back to Council as a proposal.
- c) Environment – Councillor Vanessa Bell gave a verbal report. Compliments had been received about Riverside Park. The annual pollarding of trees on Remembrance Avenue had not been undertaken by ECC this year and trees are now interfering with telephone wires. Councillor Pratt would pursue this with ECC. There are issues with a missing and damaged bin in the Station/Hillside Road area. The Mayor had been contacted regarding the lack of bins in the Maldon/Springfield Road area. Councillor Bell would pursue this with MDC. The Town Clerk reported that the outstanding £85 had been received from MDC in respect of ground maintenance on Maldon Road.
- d) Neighbourhood Development Plan – Councillor Mrs Stamp would pursue the section 106s.

618 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Pratt: -

- i) Police and Crime meeting was held with Divisional Commanders. They started talking about cameras at Althorne and Latchingdon. Councillor Pratt was led to believe that no-one can get off the Dengie now without being 'captured'. In a period of time (unspecified) out of 1.2 million vehicles, 46,000 had a problem with the police – tax, insurance, MOT etc. There is a very efficient digital system for capturing car number plates.
- ii) North Heybridge 1,000 homes – there had been a strong lobby from ward members of the District because there has always been a flood problem in North Heybridge and it was hoped that the 1,000 homes would solve that. It was decided at the enquiry, in public, for the LDP, that homes could not contribute to fixing a problem that already exists for other homes. However, any homes that were built must be able to contain their water and it should be proven that whatever water is generated by those homes, doesn't make the system worse. That was the problem of the planning application – it wasn't clear whether this worked and how it would be maintained. Officers did not know if it would work. The application was refused. Councillor Pratt said that the reason for bringing this to the Council's attention was that 1,000 homes out of the five year land supply is quite a concern. However, it could now be proved that the land supply is secure.
- iii) A number of committee meetings had talked about the effect of Brexit and no-deal. MDC needs to take steps to look at health, public order, and fuel and food shortages and for the whole of Essex, ports of entry.
- iv) Councillor Pratt will monitor 106s, through Planning & Licensing, on which he sits. There is a lot of money "slushing around" in 106s - £8,000 allotments, play areas north of the railway bridge of £80,000 and £40,000, £59,000 to improve GP surgeries (Burwest). The Mayor said that was what the CIL Officer had been doing and, he had been getting ready to meet with the Town Council (before he left) as he had been looking at the Section 106 money for BMX. Councillor Skeens stated that he would like to be included.

619 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Allotments – Councillor Pratt was speaking to the British Heart Foundation co-ordinator regarding a defibrillator for the allotment site.

Burnham Week – B/W Ltd. would be making a request for £500 to support the annual fireworks. Councillor Pratt confirmed that he had liaised with Edwin Buckley regarding a new sailing event being organised over Carnival weekend.

Chamber of Commerce – the next event, on social media, would be held on 27 March 2019.

Coastal Communities – a meeting had been held that day. The work is done.

Community Action Panel – the meeting was attended by Adrian Rayner. The monthly Community Protection Officer report had been circulated. There is the possibility of a 'hub' office in Riverside Park. There are plans to rejuvenate the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils – the next meeting would be held the following day.

Friends of Hester Place – it had been reported at the previous Meeting that MDC had carried out extensive clearance. The Mayor had visited the site with Matt Wilson. There had been a lack of communication between MDC and the Friends' Group. There are now plans for a wildlife pond and bat boxes.

Railway Bridge Taskforce – the new green spaces group are becoming Station adopters. The Mayor stated that they should liaise with Paul Haworth.

The Town Clerk reported that Mrs Sheila Nutt and the Railway Bridge Taskforce had received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Civic Reception, in recognition of their efforts over many years.

620 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- a) **RESOLVED: - that approval of the payment of Accounts for March 2019 be deferred until the next Meeting of the Town Council to allow the RFO to investigate why the gas service charges were so high.**
- b) The actual to budgeted payments/ receipts to March 2019 were deferred (see a).
- c) Agreement of the bank reconciliation was deferred.

621 GRANTS AND DONATIONS (GENERAL)

The remaining budget for 2018/2019 was £630.

The following requests had been received: -

- a) Green Spaces Group – the group were seeking a £100 donation to cover insurance costs. The Clerk reported that the group had since provided further information and the request was £94.33.
RESOLVED: - that a donation of £94.33 be approved.
- b) All Members had received a copy of the letter from Epic Dance Academy seeking a donation toward the cost of professional costumes. The cost is £75 per student.
RESOLVED: - that a donation of £75.00 be approved.
- c) All Members had received a copy of the letter from the Burnham Sailing Club Junior Coordinator, seeking financial assistance towards the cost of new boats. Each Poly Opi boat costs £1,075 and a launching trolley, £188.49.
RESOLVED: - that a donation of £188.49 be approved.
- d) All Members had received a copy of the letter from the Chair of Burnham Music Group requesting financial assistance in the amount of £250 to sponsor a soloist to help sustain the group.
RESOLVED: - that a donation of £250.00 be approved.
- e) A request had been received from the Burnham Branch of the Royal British Legion towards the provision of a WWI memorial bench outside the Council offices.
RESOLVED: - that a memorial bench in the sum of £695.00 (plus VAT) be purchased from the town maintenance budget, subject to confirmation that this budget could be used for this purpose.

622 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Saturday 13 April – Councillor Bob Calver.

623 VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

The Town Clerk reported that she and Councillor Peter Elliott had met with PC Michael Lee, Citizens in Policing Officer for Essex Police. Councillor Peter Elliott was not present and it was **RESOLVED: - that this Item be deferred.**

624 FINGERPOSTS

RESOLVED: - that this Item be deferred.

625 RAILWAY RIDGE TASKFORCE

A copy of the group's constitution and final accounts had been received, together with a cheque in the amount of £163.44. Members were reminded that the group's constitution requires that any money held at the time of cessation should be handed back to the Town Council, to be used for the environs of the station. It was

RESOLVED: - that the cessation funds, in the amount of £163.44, be paid to the Green Spaces Group to continue the work of the Railway Bridge Taskforce.

626 ALLOTMENTS IN ARCADIA ROAD

The Town Mayor reported that Maldon District Council had agreed to a meeting with MOAT, herself and Councillor Peter Elliott.

627 BURNHAM TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

The Town Mayor reported that the new users of the previous office are willing to have tourist information leaflets. There is the possibility of a pop-up at the museum. Councillor Pratt wanted to seek Council's support for a facility in the library and he offered to speak to the portfolio holder at ECC, in his role as County Councillor.

628 BURNHAM OBSERVATORY/SCULPTURE TRAIL

Members briefly debated the two options. The Mayor reminded Members that there would be costs involved with the observatory and the Council had not allowed anything in the 2019/20 budget. Councillor Skeens stated that there is £20,000 funding available. He had prepared a detailed handout for the observatory scheme, which he explained to Members. Costings are within the budget. The Mayor reported that Matt Wilson had confirmed that the land ownership issue had been resolved. It was

RESOLVED: - that i) the Town Council supports the provision of a Burnham Observatory and ii) the Clerk informs Maldon District Council accordingly.

Councillor Mike Wood requested that his vote against the motion be recorded.

629 LOCAL BUS CONSULTATION

All Members had received a copy of Paul Haworth's draft response to 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.

RESOLVED: - that Mr Haworth's response be submitted to Essex County Council.

630 CHELMSFORD PARK & RIDE CONSULTATION

All Members had received a copy of Paul Haworth's draft response to the above. Essex County Council is reviewing the ticketing options and fares offered and days of opening for the Chelmsford Park and Ride Services.

RESOLVED: - that i) Mr Haworth's response be submitted to Essex County Council and ii) the Town Council's appreciation for Mr Haworth's efforts be recorded.

631 ALLOTMENTS

All Members had received a copy of the emails from the plot secretary requesting financial assistance with the provision of i) road scalplings in the amount of £189.00 (ex. VAT) ii) chain link fencing in the amount of £422.72 (ex. VAT) and iii) refurbishment of the fencing that leads into Pippins Road, needed because of recent wind damage. Members were reminded that the balance of the allotments budget for 2018/19 was £991.

RESOLVED: - that payments be approved for i) road scalplings in the amount of £189.00 (ex. VAT) ii) chain link fencing in the amount of £422.72 (ex. VAT) and iii) quotations be sought for the refurbishment of the fencing that leads into Pippins Road.

632 MALDON & DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE

All Members had received a copy of the letter from the Bureau Manager requesting a grant to support the Burnham outreach surgery. Members were reminded that the budget provision for 2018/19 was £1,000.00

RESOLVED: - that a donation in the amount of £1000.00 be approved.

633 JUNIOR LITTER PICKERS

Members were requested to consider the provision of junior litter pickers' equipment.

RESOLVED: - that the purchase of five junior litter picker kits, in the sum of £109.15 (plus VAT), be approved.

634 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

635 PUBLIC FORUM

Q. I am concerned at the number of nitrous oxide cylinders at the railway station – please will the Council get the British Transport Police/Police to start enforcement?

A. Not sure as to the illegality. The Transport Police are responsible. We can speak to Railtrack.

Q. Please ascertain when the Riverside caravan park is going to be operational. Will you please arrange to monitor progress so we know what is happening? The worry is the issues around parking.

A. Yes, but the Town Council has no control over this.

636 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next Meeting would be held on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 7.30 pm.

637 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.