

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN  
COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20 November 2018**

**Present:** - Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp

**Councillors:** – Vanessa Bell, Bob Calver, Peter Elliott, Neil Pudney and Ron Pratt.

**In Attendance:** - Asst. Clerk, Diane Carter.

**Sound Recording of Meeting**

This Meeting was recorded.

**489. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Louise Pudney, Helen Elliot and Nick Skeens.

**490. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**None Reported.**

**491. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Sad loss of Nancy Crisp. One minute's silence.

I attended a coffee fundraising event for Dementia & SEAN nurses at a well-respected resident's house, it was very busy and £707 was raised.

Burnham County Primary School PTA invited me to judge their "Bake off Competition". The standard of cake decoration, thought and care was exceptional. The school was introducing and highlighting mental awareness and wellbeing for the children. Never to young start in a carefully managed way.

I then popped along to an exhibition held at Hyde Hall hosted by Marian Sidebottom, a local resident. It was informative and inspirational highlighting environmental and forestry management issues. The woodland area she was commissioned for her project was Epping Forest.

Margaret Smith of Wick Farm invited me and The British Legion to unveil a granite commemorative plaque donated by the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust where a WW1 RNAS/RFC landing ground was sited. We all then attended an excellent exhibition at the museum which had been comprehensively researched by Jennifer Donnelly and Walter Jenkins provided an interesting history of the War Memorial.

I wish to thank Sarah, Diane, Julie, Barry, the CPOs, Cllr Skeens, The Baptist Church, all the Vicars, The Royal British Legion, Cllr Henry Bass, all Councillors who attended and all community groups, but most of all every member of the community of all ages who stood alongside us on 11<sup>th</sup> Day of the 11 month at 11 am. Thank you to everyone and I apologise if I have missed anyone off.

Also for the excellent service of the lighting of the Beacon, Battles Over that took place from 6.30pm that evening.

**492. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**RESOLVED:** - that the Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 16 October 2018, be confirmed and signed.

**493. PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on Tuesday 16 October, Tuesday 30 October and Tuesday 13 November 2018, be duly received.

**494. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

a) Is the Paul Dodson meeting open to the public? - Dealt with under Item 9(d).

b) What is happening with broadband? Dealt with under Item 9(d).

c) What is the current status regarding 'Titanic' (Llys Helig)? Dealt with under Item 11(i).

d) Are people trained to use the defibrillators? Cllr Ron Pratt explained that clear instructions for use are on the boxes, and user is 'talked through' the process by trained personnel. 7(3).

e) Will the Town Council seriously look at the installation of CCTV in the town? – Dealt with under Item 11(h) and Item 21.

f) Will the Town Council join BOLD in representations to ECC for the application to build swimming pool within the grounds of ORA? – Dealt with under Item 15.

#### 495. TOWN CLERKS' REPORT

This was noted and in particular: -

**Essex & Herts Air ambulance defibrillator**- Suggested location- outside the gate at the Allotments- **Approved.**  
**Cllr R Pratt will liaise with the Allotment and Garden Holders' Association regarding the possible siting and availability of electricity.**

#### 496. DIARY DATES

These were noted.

#### 497. CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

a) **General Purposes** – Councillor Peter Elliott reported that the windows had still not been done.

b) **Highways**- Councillor Bob Calver reported the following-

Lights on Southminster Rd- The lamppost that is not working – 2A - does not show up on the interactive map for reporting Highways issues. However, the column is included in those to be **replaced as part of the new development**, on approximately **5 November - 18 November 2018**.

Tesco Zebra Crossing- This seems to be an intermittent fault, which has been reported and repaired several times. The lights soon fail, so if the fault is not fixed within a few days **Cllr. B Calver will make a formal complaint.**

Use of the ECC website- Residents seem to be using the site to report broken/faulty lights now and Julie is using the site when informed by residents.

Footpath Marsh Rd to Romans Farm- The footpath was not actually closed, as the fence was around machinery items only. A further complaint that the footpath was open but rutted and rough has been directly reported by the resident.

Footpath issues- Footpath issues remain difficult to deal with as by their very nature, rural footpaths can be rough and uneven. However, as previously reported ECC's view on what needs repairing differs from that of residents.

Providence Car Park signage- The new signage is now in place. However, the car park itself is not in the best condition and **at some time resurfacing and redefining the parking places with new paint will be needed.**

Parking in Providence and other parking issues- Complaint received about resident parking in Providence and request for yellow lines. Resident advised about the SEPP process by which residents can request new yellow lines. Regarding the general shortage of parking in Burnham Councillor Bob Calver has reminded Richard Holmes that **increased parking provision was promised as part of the capital review at MDC for next year.**  
**Council also needs to debate options going forward for the NCP Station Car Park.**

c) **Environment** – Councillor V Bell reported the following-

New committee formed to take over from Railway Bridge Task Force. Agreed to change name and widen remit to 'Burnham Green Spaces Group'. Currently looking into most appropriate structure to adopt. Railway area maintenance will always take place on the first Saturday of every month between 10 and 1pm.

Regular liaison with Mick and Richard Garwood and Peter Clarke from MDC re: ongoing works in various areas.

Compliments received from residents regarding works to clear vegetation blocking paths/steps in Riverside Park.

More town litter picks have taken place, including railway station, Hester Place and Riverside Park.

CPT is undertaking regular patrols around town and have issued several fines for dog mess! Also, active re: parking

New MDC park signage in place at top of Millfields. Looks good.

Matt Wilson or Sue Finch at MDC still waiting for a response to meeting request. There are some **issues regarding work undertaken at Hester Place by Sue's team requiring discussion.**

Trees adjacent to the railway bridge- Network Rail denied the butchering of these trees. **Cllr. V Bell will**

**continue to pursue.**

Disposal of green waste arrangements now made with MDC.

Survey of Sea wall- Cllr R Pratt met with the Environment Agency. As a result of their survey they have deemed the seating area near the Crouch Harbour Authority Office a risk. They intend to put a guard rail up and want BTC to remove the raised brickwork. **Resolved- Town clerk to reply to the EA. Obtain 3 quotations and ask MDC to share the cost 50/50.**

**d) Neighbourhood Development Plan**- Mayor Wendy Stamp said that the meeting with Paul Dodson, Ian Butt and Matt Leigh would have to go ahead at MDC on the 27<sup>th</sup> November with available Councillors present, but that Ian Butt would give a presentation at a BTC meeting in the New Year. Queries regarding the NDP Section 106 money for improvements would also be raised.

#### **498. DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Cllr N Pudney reported on the Overview and Scrutiny meeting (21/11/2018)

Local GP surgeries to work together to address the shortage of GPs throughout Essex. Hospital amalgamation has 'hit a buffer'.

#### **499. TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS**

**a) Allotment & Garden Holders' Association PE/RP**- Meetings are held on the last Monday of the month. Cllr. R Pratt said that the money donated by BTC for the Bee Keeper Garden has been well used.

**b) Bradwell Local Community Liaison Council PE**- Meeting next Wednesday.

**c) Burnham Cemetery Chapel (Friends of) RP**- Minutes of the AGM- to hold money. Mayor W Stamp felt that it was worth speaking to Tim Howson under the remit of 'buildings under risk'. **Agenda item next month.**

**d) Burnham United Charity RP**- nothing to report.

**e) Burnham Week Ltd BC**- Invoices for Burnham Week are genuine costs. Need cost control in place next time. **Resolve- Pay invoices.**

**f) Carnival Committee RP**- Festive Fayre 8/12/2018. Charities- 21/11/2018.

**g) Chamber of Commerce PE/WS**- Small Business Saturday 2/12/2018

**h) Community Action Panel (CAP) VB/NS**- Next meeting 29/11/2018. Mayor W Stamp reported that crime figures have risen by 12% in the ... area, especially anti-social behaviour and violent crime; which is of great concern. There is an online consultation re: this and Council Tax increase.

CCTV- Cllr Bob Calver asked what the effect had been in Maldon. **Action: CPOs to be asked.**

Mayor W Stamp suggested that although this had been voted against previously it could be an item on next month's agenda. **Resolve- Agreed.**

**i) Crouch Harbour Authority (Advisory) NP**- Advised that the capsized boat has been referred back to MDC. Mayor W Stamp asked when it will be righted. **Action: speak to Richard Holmes.**

**j) Dengie Hundred Bus Users' Group**- Cllr. R Pratt- nothing to report.

**k) Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils PE/WS**- Quiz night 21/11/2018.

**l) ECC Parish Transport Meetings**- Cllr. P Elliot representative needed on District Branch Line. MDC to get more involved. **Resolve: Agenda Item next meeting.**

**m) Friends of Hester Place VB**- Cllr. V. Bell requested that this item now come under Environment. **Resolve- Agreed.**

**n) Local Liaison Committee RSPB Wallasea Island PE**- January will be last meeting.

**o) Railway Bridge Task Force VB**- as m). **Resolve- Agreed.**

**p) Riverside Park Task Force VB/BC/NS**- 'Tommy' has been located to the Town flag pole temporarily. A decision needs to be made whereabouts our soldier should be sited permanently. **Resolve: Agenda Item next meeting.**

Cllr. R Pratt informed the meeting that the hearing for the double yellow lines at Millfield will be on 6/12/2018.

**q) Parent Child Health and Wellbeing NP**- Cllr N Pudney reported that the Chairperson is Penny Channer and Virgin and Barnardo's are undertaking a joint initiative in the District.

**r) Tourist and Community Information Liaison Committee HE/WS**- Jack Ellum BTC to liaise with TCILC.

## **500. ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

a) Payment of Accounts for October and November 2018 be approved and signed. **Resolve- Agreed.**

b) Members noted the comparison of actual to budgeted payments and receipts to November 2018. **Resolve- Agreed.**

Budget Meetings- Cllr R Pratt suggested that an initial draft of actuals / fixed costs be prepared before the next meeting on 1/12/2018. Cllr P Elliot said that he thought BTC were going to build the budget from 0.

**Resolve- Agreed. Action- TC/RFO**

## **501. GRANTS AND DONATIONS (GENERAL)**

The remaining budget for 2018/2019 of £680 was queried. **Action- TC / RFO to clarify.**

The Royal British Legion donation. **Resolve- Agreed.**

## **502. TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES**

Surgeries are temporarily suspended. **Noted.** Mayor W Stamp intends to hold a Surgery on 26/1/2019.

## **503. 'BOLD' (Burnham's Own Leisure Development)**

BTC supports BOLD, (Burnham's Own Leisure Development) in their approach to ECC. **Resolve- Agreed.**

## **504. ALLOTMENTS IN ARCADIA ROAD**

Mayor W Stamp received a letter from Moat Housing saying that they need to work out how to meet guidelines, as they can only dispose of land below market value to a charity. A meeting needs to take place with BTC, MDC and Moat present. Cllr R Pratt asked if BTC could lay claim to the land through the Land Registry, as they have paid for and maintained the land. Cllr P Elliot stated that although it was an option, it should be the last resort. Legal costs will have to be provided for in next year's budget. **Resolve- Agreed to continue.**

## **505. BURNHAM OBSERVATORY**

The difficulty of obtaining planning permission on Crown Land was highlighted. **Action- Write again to Matt Wilson, MDC and District Councillors to seek movement on this.**

Mayor W Stamp said that BTC should seriously consider the woodland sculpture idea, as she felt that it had not been explained properly previously.

## **506. MEDIA POLICY**

Mayor W Stamp said that she had received a complaint from a member of the public regarding an article written in the Review about the Observatory by Cllr N Skeens. She read out BTC Media policy and stressed that articles in the media such as these need to be via the Town Council or the Mayor. **Action- Agreed to hold this over to the next meeting.**

## **507. REINSTATEMENT OF BURNHAM BEACH**

Letter from Richard Holmes, Director of Service Delivery at Maldon District Council. General consensus that any attempts to recreate the beach would be short-lived. **Action: TC to write to resident to appraise them of the situation.**

## **508. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **509. Questions**

Q. What is being done about the trip hazards on the Quay?

A. Cllr B Calver explained that it is a very complex procedure now. Cllr R Pratt highlighted the difficulties in finding out who was responsible. **Action- Agenda item at the next meeting.**

Q. Criticism of the Council- 'no institutional memory'

A. Mayor W Stamp- this is being addressed and an action plan is in the pipeline.

Q. The Quay is a hazard from the BSC to West Beach, did the EA consider this in their survey?

A. **Noted.**

Q. Was the sea wall inspected?

A. Cllr R Pratt- several areas will be repaired within 6-8months. Our Quay was mentioned, and progress up to Creeksea. **Action- TC to seek clarification from the EA.**

Q. Can we have an update on the Caravan Park at Riverside please?

A. **Noted.**

Q. (Commended Cllr V Bell and Cllr B Calver on the respective work they were doing). Can we have a report on the Health Service (Performance, issues, plans please?)

A. Mayor W Stamp and Cllr N Pudney agreed to look into this area.

Q. Could you express the Town's appreciation to the CPOs / endorse their good work?

A. Yes.

Q. Is the Town Council aware of the crime problem that exists in the Town?

A. Discussion took place. **Action: Individual matter could be taken to the Area Police Commander at Crime and Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that there should be an Item on next month's Agenda.**

Q. Street light no. 1 Devonshire Road has been a problem since September 2017. What can be done about it?

A. Cllr B Calver explained it is a LED light. Make formal complaint to ECC via website.

Q. What is happening about access to the Marshes?

A. Await Cllr Nick Skeen to update.

#### **510. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

i) Budget Meeting Tuesday 11 December 7.30 pm.

ii) Town Council Meeting Tuesday 18 December 7.30 pm.

#### **511. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 9:30pm.