

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE 2019

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Wendy Stamp.

Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Bob Calver, Jennifer Donnelly, Ron Pratt C.C., Neil Pudney and Nick Skeens.

In Attendance: - Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes.

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Helen Elliott.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Nick Skeens declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 4 as he knew all the candidates. Members agreed that this would apply to all Town Councillors.

The Town Clerk reported that she had received a reminder email from Simon Quelch for Members to complete their Statutory Declaration of Interests.

20 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Mrs Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, reported that she had attended: Burnham Primary School Diversity Bronze Award, Rotary 10K Run, Crouch Ridge Vineyard wine tasting, with Councillor Skeens and Brightlingsea Cinque Port 'Blessing of the Water'.

21 CO-OPTION

The Town Clerk reminded Members of the co-option process. The Town Mayor welcomed Tim Aves, Fiona Cameron-Clegg, Jane English and Rosemary Rogers to the Meeting. Each candidate was invited to speak for up to five minutes. Following candidates' submissions it was **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.**

CO-OPTION

Members discussed the candidates' submissions. The public and press were re-admitted at 8.12 pm and it was

RESOLVED: - that Fiona Cameron-Clegg and Jane English be co-opted to the Town Council to fill the two vacant seats in the north ward of the town.

Councillor Fiona Clegg and Councillor Jane English each signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office. These were countersigned by the Town Clerk.

The unsuccessful candidates were thanked and encouraged to keep active within the community.

22 MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 30 April and the Statutory Annual Meeting of the Town Council held on Wednesday 15 May 2019, be confirmed and signed.

23 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meetings held on Tuesday 16 April and Monday 20 May 2019, be duly received.

- 24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
Q. In respect of Agenda Item 18 – the last meeting talked about the problem of the lack of education provision in the town, with hardly any of the strategic sites anywhere near completion, which is completely contrary to what was said at the examination in public, about capacity, we now hear stories about secondary school children having to be sent to Basildon and primary school children being bussed to Southminster. The whole basis of the LDP is on sustainability. I believe it is unsustainable for any further development in Burnham which contributes to the education shortfall to be approved until MDC can assure the Council that this issue has been completely solved. I ask that in the letter to MDC you include the codicil that the Council will not support any development which further strains the shortfall in education.
A. Mayor – I will put this to Members at the appropriate Agenda Item. It would delay matters.

25 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

1 ESSEX HIGHWAYS

1. Essex Highways are planning to install a zebra crossing on Station Road. The crossing is planned to be delivered as part of the planning permission for the Pippins Road development. It will replace the current pedestrian refuge, the location of which was queried during a Road Safety Audit (RSA) due to its close proximity with Alexandra Road. The Highways Authority is seeking the Town Council's comments on the proposal.

Members agreed that this would be a good addition to road safety and it was

RESOLVED: - that i) the Town Council supports the installation of a zebra crossing in Station Road and Essex Highways be informed accordingly and ii) the Town Council requests that the signage is permanent, not temporary.

Councillor Pratt stated that the Town Council could apply for and fund its own signage if necessary.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Pratt for pursuing works to resolve the subsidence in the High Street.

2 MOAT FOUNDATION

Nicola Syder, MOAT Foundation Officer, had confirmed MOAT would like to set up an IT drop in at the Station House. She had asked if the Town Council would be favourable to a pilot, free of charge, to enable them to build up evidence of need to apply for funding to sustain the project going forward.

RESOLVED: that a six week, free of charge trial be approved.

26 DIARY DATES

These were noted.

27 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- a) General Purposes – Councillor Mrs Stamp had nothing to report.
- b) Highways – Councillor Bob Calver had submitted a detailed written report which had been circulated. The Mayor had spoken with the developer regarding the Southminster Road lights.
Members discussed 'no through' road signage for Coronation Road and Remembrance Avenue and provision of a dotted line at Burnham Shores to establish a right of way priority.
Councillor Pratt believed that the un-adopted road belongs to Maldon District Council.
RESOLVED: - that Councillor Calver and the Town Clerk write to Richard Holmes at Maldon District Council regarding the state of the road and to establish a right of way and request a 'no through' road sign.

The cost for St Cuthbert's signage is £4,500. Councillor Pratt would pursue this at Essex County Council.

27 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS (continued)

The Town Clerk reported that Adrian Rayner had received confirmation that the CPOs are accredited to stop the traffic at the railway bridge to allow for the erection of banners. The council's new insurers would provide insurance cover for the erection of community banners across the railway bridge provided that the Town Council resolves to take responsibility for the banners. It was

RESOLVED: - accordingly.

The Mayor produced a list/photos of footpaths and other areas needing repair which Councillor Pratt would pursue at Essex County Council.

c) Environment –

Councillor Vanessa Bell reported as follows:-

- Concern at conservation cutting in the Burnham cemetery, The Mayor reported that MDC are trialling this. Complaints have been received from residents.
- Cost for the supply, installation and emptying of two new dog/waste bins i) corner of York Road/High Street and ii) opposite Silver Road caravan site - £220. The Mayor requested a bin survey and it was agreed that Councillor Bell would report back to the July Meeting,
- The station planting session went well. Councillor Pratt asked about the re-location of the Southminster Road planter. It was agreed that this would be an Agenda Item for the next Meeting.
- She extended huge thanks to the Limes for their kind donation of plants,
- No pollarding of trees in Remembrance Avenue, concern about lack of hedge cutting (it is now the nesting season).

The Town Mayor reported that she had been dealing with a resident who has a memorial bench in the park which is in a state of disrepair. Matt Wilson had agreed to send a carpenter out to do a survey. If it is repairable, Maldon District Council will repair the bench at no charge. MDC have changed their policy on benches – they now have a five year 'guarantee'. After this time, benches can be removed and memorial plaques will be kept for installation at a relevant cemetery.

It was agreed that memorial benches would be an Agenda Item for the July Meeting.

The Mayor reported that she had obtained a £158 refund in respect of recycling bins located in Providence car park.

The Town Clerk reported that the Environment Agency were due to carry out works to outfall flaps along the seawall.

28 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

District Council appointments:

Councillor Bell – Appointments Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Stamp – Finance and Corporate Services Committee, Planning and Licensing Committee.

Councillor Hull – Community Services Committee.

Councillor Skeens – Audit Committee, Community Services Committee.

Community Services report:

- Maldon mud race was a success,
- possibility of paying car parking charges by mobile phone,
- rise in vandalism on prom park,
- drug dealing across the district,
- memorial bench policy,
- roundabout sponsorship scheme,
- appointment to liaison committees (no independent appointments),
- Burnham Observatory was not discussed.

No independent councillors had been appointed to any working groups. The Mayor is pursuing this.

29 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Allotments – all the plots are filled with one on the waiting list.

The annual show is on 10th August.

Burnham Week – the costs for the cocktail party would be brought to the July Meeting for Members' discussion.

Carnival Committee – Councillor Pratt suggested a meeting with the chairman of the carnival committee to discuss the festive Fayre. The event may be held in November this year.

Chamber of Commerce – the next meeting was scheduled for the following Monday.

CAP –

- Sharon Burtle has left the CPO team.
- The CPOs are being rebranded as Community Engagement Officers.

The Mayor had expressed concern that Burnham may suffer a loss of service if the engagement aspect of their role exceeds enforcement. She had been assured otherwise. The Mayor reported that the crime statistics are up - she would be meeting with Chief Inspector Gerry Parker. She was also pursuing the Special Constable scheme. No-one had been informed that the community bus would be in the Town the previous Saturday.

Councillor Skeens would be working with Mr Harris to combat the complacency around speeding in the Town.

DHBUG – The Clerk reported that Paul Haworth would be standing down from DHBUG and ECC Transport Meetings. Councillors Calver and Donnelly would be attending meetings.

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Committee – Councillor Pudney would be staying on the committee.

30 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- a) **RESOLVED: - the payment of Accounts for May/June 2019 be approved and signed.**
- b) Consideration of the comparison of actual to budgeted payments and receipts to June was deferred for further information,
- c) The bank reconciliation was presented.

31 GRANTS AND DONATIONS (GENERAL)

The remaining budget for 2019/2020 was £4,200.

- a) Burnham Art Trail – a request had been received from the co-ordinators for financial assistance in the amount of £890 for design and printing costs. It was **RESOLVED: - that the treasurers' report supplied is insufficient information for a decision to be made and this Item be deferred.**
- b) A request had been received from the Burnham Day Centre for financial assistance. Members were reminded that there is a £500 provision within the Town Council's 2019/20 budget. It was **RESOLVED: - that a donation of £500 be approved.**

32 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

Saturday 8 June – Councillor Bob Calver.

Saturday 13 July – Councillor Wendy Stamp.

33 TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Staffing Committee	Town Mayor and Cllrs. Bell, English, Pudney and Skeens.
Neighbourhood Development Plan Strategy Group	Town Mayor and Cllrs. Calver and Skeens.
Dengie Hundred Group of Parish Councils	Councillors Stamp and Clegg.
Tourism	Working Group – Town Mayor and Cllrs. Clegg, Donnelly and the Town Clerk.
Community Action Panel	Councillors English and Skeens.
Burnham Green Spaces Group	Councillor Bell.

33 TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS (continued)

Footpaths & Rights of Way	To come under the Environment Co-ordinator.
Tree Warden	To come under the Environment Co-ordinator. Cllr. Skeens has a volunteer for the tree warden post.
Conservation Area Inspection	Councillor Clegg. Councillor Skeens to assist.

At 9.30 pm it was

RESOLVED: - *that the Meeting continue beyond the two hour limit (per Standing Orders) to conclude the remaining items of business.*

34 MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF SERVICE DELIVERY FOR MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Town Mayor reported on her recent meeting with Richard Holmes.

- She had asked for Quay cleaning and an increase in bin emptying frequency.
- MDC would be speaking to the Anchor pub regarding smashed glass.
- The Doctors Lane car park was to be repaired.
- Hester Place tree and hedge planting is still scheduled for 2019.
- The dog control order signs were going up that week.

RESOLVED: - **that a Burnham Observatory working group be set up consisting of Councillors Fiona Clegg, Jane English and Nick Skeens.**

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

RESOLVED: - **that the Planning Clerk pursue the Town Council’s complaint via Maldon District Council’s formal complaints procedure.**

The suggestion from Mr Hitcham would not be included as part of the complaint as this would delay the complaint process.

36 COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S SURGERY

RESOLVED: - **that County Councillor Ron Pratt be permitted to use the Old Station House for a monthly County Councillor’s Surgery.**

37 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

38 PUBLIC FORUM

Q. Would the Council please arrange for the parking problems in Foundry Lane to be looked at?
A. This will be included as a future Agenda Item.

39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Statutory Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 23 July 2019 at 7.30 pm.

40 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 9.40 pm.

Chairman

Date