

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 pm IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER

Present: - Town Mayor, Councillor Wendy Stamp.
Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Bob Calver, Fiona Clegg, Jennifer Donnelly, Jane English, Ron Pratt C.C. and Nick Skeens.

In Attendance: - Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes and RFO, Kevin Money.
District Councillor Anne Hull.

Members were reminded that this Meeting was taking place during the Purdah period prior to the General Election on Thursday 12 December 2019.

188 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Helen Elliott and Neil Pudney. Councillor Pudney had requested that his reason for absence, convalescence following a recent back operation, be recorded.

189 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were none.

190 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, deferred her report until the next Meeting. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The Mayor informed Members that she had attended a Patient Participation Group meeting and free flu vaccinations are still available for vulnerable people. Councillor Jennie Donnelly stated that these are also available via pharmacists.

191 MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that i) the Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 19 November 2019, be confirmed and signed and ii) confirmation of the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2019, be deferred to the next Meeting.

192 PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED: - that the confirmed Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2019 be duly received.

193 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Q. Can we have an update on the status of the Llys Helig and representation on the Southend Airport Local Liaison Committee?

A. the Council is awaiting responses from Maldon District Council.

194 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

This was noted and in particular:

1 POWER FOR PEOPLE

It was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council supports the Local Electricity Bill.

4 RIVER CROUCH COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM

The Town Council had been invited to be part of the Steering Group (formerly the Management Team). Councillors Wendy Stamp and Nick Skeens are the current representatives to the Coastal Community Team. It was

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Nick Skeens be appointed as the Town Council's representative to the River Crouch Coastal Community Team Steering Group.

195 DIARY DATES

These were noted.

196 CO-ORDINATORS' REPORTS

- General Purposes – Councillor Stamp had nothing to report.
- Highways – Councillor Bob Calver had submitted a written report. It was agreed that there be an Agenda Item in January for 'Town-wide Parking Review'. No response had been received from Councillor Bentley regarding the lights on Southminster Road. However, planning at MDC had confirmed that five lights are due to be installed. No date had been given for the works.
- Website – Councillor Skeens had nothing to report.

197 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Vanessa Bell reported that the Town Clerk had circulated the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2019.

198 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Anne Hull reported that she was looking to have a meeting with the Town Council regarding parking.

She had attended a meeting regarding mental health. It had been proposed to have a youth club in Burnham and funding was available via Maldon District Council.

The Town Mayor responded that there is already a youth club at the URC Church. She asked Councillor Hull to provide the Town Clerk with further information.

Councillor Ron Pratt C.C. reported that he is on the Maldon Youth Strategy Group which meets quarterly and he knew nothing of this initiative.

Councillor Skeens had attended the Strategy and Resources Committee Meeting on 5 December. He reported on items discussed:

- i) Funding to the Maldon Citizens Advice – an increase of £11,000, to its previous level, was approved. This would now go forward to Full Council.
- ii) About £25,000 was saved by buying 2nd hand vehicles.
- iii) Proposal to spend £60,000 on a new Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB), as a patrol boat. Councillor Skeens had raised concerns as to the cost.
- iv) Data Drives – it would cost £130,000 to replace these.
- v) The Interim Section 151 Officer had reported how income relating to car parking was now included as part of the Government formula for future funding for Local Government.

Councillor Pratt suggested that Councillor Skeens ask what had happened to the RIB that Officers had reported was surplus to requirements and about six years previously almost gave away a £60,000 RIB.

Councillor Bell reported that a Watching Brief Group is being set-up with a link to Overview and Scrutiny.

Councillor Stamp reported that the Accounts had been put forward at the last meeting and these were late. Concerns had been raised as to financial risk assessments.

199 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

BC - The Crouch Harbour Authority had been unaware that a Marine Licence had been granted for the Llys Helig. The only hold-up is for the erection of the barrier between the works and the walkway.

The Burnham Week treasurer had reported that he knew a replacement cheque was waiting for him in respect of the Town Council's grant. The Town Clerk reported that this cheque had still not been cashed.

The Town Cup Race – there had been a suggestion at the Burnham Week Committee meeting that this become part of the Eastern Offshore Racing Association series of races. There had been resistance to that suggestion.

It was agreed that this would need to be discussed by the Town Council as an Agenda Item.

199 TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS (continued)

The RYA Eastern Region Junior Championships was administered by the Officers of Burnham Week. This was held on the same day as the Carnival and there had been an unfortunate incident. A complaint had been made to the Chief Executive of the RYA. This issue had now been resolved.

FC – Councillor Fiona Clegg reported on the success of the Santa Train. Two hundred people came into the Town on the train, which had been in place of the rail replacement service.

JE – Councillor Jane English had submitted a written BCAP report. Mr Ken Harris had announced his intention to step down as Chairman of the group. The Parkwatch scheme is to be re-launched. The next meeting would be in January. All Members expressed their appreciation for Mr Harris' efforts.

RP – the Festive Fayre was a great success. Councillor Pratt provided further information on the issue that Councillor Calver had raised during his Burnham Week report. The RYA had apologised profusely.

NS – Councillor Skeens is pursuing the reinstatement of the beach at MDC. The Town Mayor reiterated that nothing has been discussed by the Town Council.

200 ACCOUNTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

- a) **RESOLVED: - that the payment of Accounts for December 2019 be approved and signed.**
- b) Members noted the comparison of actual to budgeted payments and receipts to December.
- c) The bank reconciliation was approved.

It was

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council's two business saver accounts, in the amounts of £1,698.53 and £5.10, be closed, and the balances transferred to the Council's current account, prior to closing the Barclays account and transferring funds to Unity Trust Bank.

201 GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The remaining budget for 2019/2020 was £1,950. No requests had been received for this Meeting.

202 TOWN COUNCIL SURGERIES

RESOLVED: - that Councillor Clegg attend the surgery to be held on Saturday 14 December 2019 and Councillor Calver attend the surgery to be held on Saturday 11 January 2020.

203 PROJECTED OUTTURN 2019/20

It was

RESOLVED: - that the Project Outturn for 2019/2020 be approved.

204 ORIGINAL BUDGET 2020/21

It was agreed to remove line item 50 - Town Entrance Signs, £2,000 and reduce line item 53 - Works on Trees, by £4,000. The Precept required to balance the Budget was £203,441. The Band 'D' equivalent per household was £61.87 compared to £59.69 in 2019/20.

It was

RESOLVED: - that the Budget for 2020/2021 be approved.

205 TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT FOR 2020/21

Notification had been received from Maldon District Council that the Council "Tax Base" for 2020/2021 for Band 'D' properties is 3288.30.

RESOLVED: - that the Town Council's Precept for 2020/2021 be set at £203,441 and Maldon District Council be notified accordingly.

206 BURNHAM OBSERVATORY PROPOSAL

Councillor Skeens reported that Maldon District Council had agreed to hold over the £9,000 funding. Councillor Skeens had written to Crown Estates regarding the ownership of the black railings. He was also creating a new fundraising report.

207 THE HAUL ROAD

Councillor Skeens stated that he would be meeting with Charlie Fillingham from Strutt & Parker at Dammerwick Farm the following day regarding the Haul Road, cycle routes and the Vanguard. Councillor Donnelly would also be attending. A report would be given at the January Meeting.

208 ALLOTMENTS IN ARCADIA ROAD

The Town Mayor had nothing further to report.

209 QUAY DAY

i) Councillor Clegg reported that she had spoken with Maldon District Council regarding next year's event. MDC want to look at having a bigger risk assessment report, given the size of the 2019 event. The Town Mayor stated that this must come to the Town Council first.

It was

RESOLVED: - that i) a donation of £100 be made to the Dengie Project Trust for the use of its mini-bus and ii) the EALC funding be used to purchase pop-up tents.

ii) The final Quay Day accounts had been circulated. Councillor Clegg raised a query regarding the income from MDC. It was agreed that she speak to the RFO after the Meeting to clarify this.

210 PUBLIC FORUM

Q. Can you expand on the Vanguard project?

A. A trust has been formed and a bank account opened. The Vanguard has been temporarily painted. It will need to be removed from its current site and alternative options are being explored.

211 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Statutory Town Council Meeting – Tuesday 14 January 2020 at 7.30 pm.

This was noted.

212 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.

213 ALLOTMENTS IN ARCADIA ROAD

The Town Mayor reported on the draft lease. Not all Members had received the email attaching a copy and it was

RESOLVED: - that further discussion of the lease be deferred, and a meeting be scheduled with the Allotment Association committee.

214 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 8.46 pm.

Chairman

Date