

# MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 6.30 pm IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBER

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

**Councillors: – Vanessa Bell, Fiona Clegg, Jennie Donnelly, Jane English, Ron Pratt C.C. and Nick Skeens.**

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

## **184 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bob Calver, Neil Pudney and the Town Clerk, Sarah Grimes.

## **185 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were none.

## **186 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**

Councillor Wendy Stamp, the Town Mayor, stated that under Standing Order 7a), a resolution shall not be reversed within six months, except either by a special motion in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the recommendation of a committee or a sub-committee. However, under Standing Order 26a), all or part of a standing order, except one that incorporates mandatory statutory or legal requirements, may be suspended by resolution in relation to the consideration of an item on the Agenda for a meeting. Under Standing Order 10, subsection xv), no written notice is required to suspend a particular standing order (unless it reflects mandatory statutory or legal requirements) and under Standing Order 26 d), the decision of the Chairman of a meeting as to the application of standing orders at the meeting shall be final. Councillor Stamp therefore proposed a suspension to Standing Order 9 to allow consideration of the above Agenda Item. It was

**RESOLVED: - accordingly.**

The Mayor informed Members that there were issues with arrangements for the Santa Train (which would be a part of the Festive Fayre on Saturday 7 December) despite the arrangements for this having been agreed at a meeting between herself, Councillors Ron Pratt CC and Fiona Clegg, the Town Clerk and the President and Chairman of the Carnival Committee. The Mayor stressed the importance of not letting the children down.

Councillor Clegg outlined her proposal for the Santa train as follows: -

The Mayor and Councillor Jane English would get on the train to Wickford and meet Jayne Sumner on the train. They would then get off the train to wave and welcome all onboard, directing the crowd to the two decorated carriages.

Activities for the train:-

- Jayne Sumner would issue all with an activity pack, containing a pro-forma letter for Santa and an envelope.
- Encourage the children to write their letters and remind them that their name and address need to be on them to get a reply from Santa.
- Issue song sheets – the singing could start after train leaves Fambridge or, after they have finished their letters.
- Highlight the fact that they can talk to Santa at the station at any time or, on the return train at 5.40 pm. This would save an overlap with the Carnival committee's Santa.

Santa and Mr Clegg would drive to end of station platform and await the arrival of the Santa train. Olaf and Elf would welcome everyone and direct them to correct area to drop off letters.

**186 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING (continued)**

After the children had given in their letters, the Mayor and Councillor English would take them down to the Christmas Tree Festival and the Art Trail shop, opposite.

They would be given an 'I've met Santa badge' at the station, or, on the return train.

Santa and maybe Councillor Clegg, depending on the crowd, would get on the 5.40 pm train going to Wickford and returning to Burnham.

It was

**RESOLVED: - that Councillor Clegg's schedule be approved.**

The Town Mayor reported that Churches Together would prefer the Christmas tree lighting ceremony to be on Sunday 8 December 2019, separate to the Festive Fayre. The Mayor therefore proposed that the Town Council hold its Christmas tree lighting and Carols on Sunday 8 December and that the Carnival Committee be permitted to have the clock tower festive lighting switched on for the Festive Fayre, but not the Christmas tree lights. After a brief debate it was

**RESOLVED: - accordingly.**

The Mayor reported that the illuminated Christmas tree outside the Council Offices had been vandalised and this incident would be reported to the Police.

**187 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

Having considered and determined all items of business, the Meeting was closed at 6.59 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....