



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs. L. Djuve-Wood

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Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 19th November, 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr. R. Stocks (Chair) Cllr. M. Taylor
Cllr. S. Barker Cllr. L. Dunnett
Cllr. B. Brown

In attendance: District Cllr. A. Coley L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk)

94/20 To receive and approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. L. Lay-Flurrie and S. Tattam and accepted by the Council.

95/20 Declarations of interest

There were none.

96/20 Minutes of the town Council meeting held on the 15th October 2020 to be approved and signed

RESOLVED that the minutes of the town council meeting held on the 15th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

97/20 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and matters of mutual interest

There were no members of the public present.

98/20 Reports from the District and County Councils

The Council had received the monthly district and county council reports which had been circulated to all councillors. District Cllr. Coley provided an update on the latest COVID-19 figures noting that Tendring had the lowest rate of infection in the county at the time. He also noted that TDC's climate action plan had been finalised and is due to go to full council.

Cllr. Coley also provided an update on various planning applications and noted that with the town council's support he would be calling in to committee planning application 20/01385/FUL, 2 High Street as Manningtree cannot afford to lose any more commercial premises. He also noted his and County Cllr. Guglielmi's objections to planning application 20/01484/OUT, construction of medical centre and car parking, land south of Long Road in Mistley, also to be called in to committee. The location is considered inappropriate as it would likely reduce visitor numbers to Manningtree High Street and the town's future viability. Cllr. Taylor commented that whereas the area does need a medical centre it should be located more centrally to Manningtree. The town council offered their full support to the objection of this planning application.

Cllr. Brown thanked Cllr. Coley for arranging for the wall at Hilton Close to be repaired.

Full District and County reports are accessible to the public on the town council's website www.manningtreetowncouncil.org.uk.

99/20 Report from Essex Police

The police report had been received and circulated to all councillors in advance. It was noted that there had been several car break-ins over the past month.

100/20 Progress Report from the Clerk

The clerk noted that there had been no further updates to the clerk's report since it was distributed with the agenda.

101/20 Report from other committees and representatives

Cllr. Barker noted that the weeding group had been busy planting bulbs along the Quay Street green. Some crocus bulbs had been kept behind and are to be added to the flower tubs. A volunteer had donated £10 towards the planting. The clerk was asked to write a thank you letter.

102/20 To consider the following planning applications

- a) 20//01385/FUL, Change of use of ground floor unit from commercial premises as permitted under application 17/01479/FUL to a two bedroom residential unit with access from Brook Street, 2 High Street, Manningtree**

RESOLVED that the town council object to this planning application as they did to the previous application 20/00413/FUL. The ground floor space should be kept as non-residential for commercial purposes as was agreed upon approval of planning application (17/01479/FUL). Retaining this commercial unit is crucial in a high street that needs to be preserved. The town council does not believe that the owner has to date properly marketed the unit as a retail space. The town council is also concerned about the impact another residential unit would have on public car parking spaces, which are already limited as well as the moving of the main access point of the building from High Street to Brook Street.

103/20 Highways/Environment

- a) To discuss further details of four new benches to be purchased for the Manningtree beach area**

Following on from a site visit by Cllr. Stocks and the clerk to Manningtree beach it was discovered that the Phoenix Jubilee recycled material bench with armrests not only had different style legs to the Phoenix recycled material benches without armrests but also was too wide to properly fit on the raised concreted platform. Cllr. Stocks suggested replacing the chosen Phoenix Jubilee bench with two standard Phoenix recycled material benches with armrests.

RESOLVED that the Council purchase 2 x dark brown Phoenix Recycled Material Seats with armrests at £506.98 each (excluding VAT) and 2 x dark brown Phoenix Recycled Material Seats without armrests at £459.40 each (excluding VAT). The clerk noted that the Business Chamber had offered to pay for one bench with armrests subject to receiving confirmation of durability and the bench being weather resistant. The clerk is also to write to the Rotary Club and Rose Builders requesting a donation in exchange for a plaque. Size of plaque will depend on lettering but comes in two sizes of 150mm x 50mm at £79.62 or 200mm x 50mm at £91.42.

- b) To consider replacing damaged litter bin by the beach**

RESOLVED that the clerk order a new plastic freestanding bin from TDC at a cost of £368.00 plus £50 installation. To be installed when benches are being replaced.

- c) To discuss plans for the Swift awareness project**

Cllr. Barker noted that the new more diverse planting of the flower tubs will bring more insects which in turn will bring more Swifts. She mentioned the Blue Heart campaign which encourages people to leave a part of their garden to rewild. A blue heart on a stick made from recyclable materials is added indicating the area has been left to rewild intentionally. It was agreed that the clerk would add information about the Blue Heart campaign on the Council's website which will tie in with both the Council's wildflower and Swift projects.

Cllr. Barker requested that the Council encourage local residents, including those in Mistley and Lawford, to consider adding a Swift box to their homes. She also asked the Council to consider whether or not this project should be council led or Council supported by either purchasing and storing the Swift boxes for residents to buy from the Council or letting people know where one can be bought. Cllr. Barker would like to arrange a meeting and walk around town for residents when COVID regulations allow, ideally some time during the Spring, to provide them with more

information about Swift boxes and Swift bricks and to show them places where Swifts like to nest.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Council will act as a facilitator, encouraging people to invest in Swift boxes, providing them with information, including where to go to purchase such boxes.

d) To discuss the replacement of the wildlife sign at Riverside

RESOLVED that the clerk look for photos of the previous wildlife sign and that she contacts Cllr. Lay-Flurrie asking who designed it. The clerk is to pass any information found to the contact at RSBP for comment.

e) Cllrs. Barker and Brown to provide an update on green spaces in town

Cllr. Brown noted that whilst weeding, odd plants could be left with their names written in chalk on the pavement informing and educating people what they are. He added that this has been done successfully in places like Hackney and Cambridge. Whereas the Council was not supportive of the idea it was agreed that Cllr. Brown would try and find some photos illustrating it.

Cllr. Brown proposed considering twinning a small green area in Manningtree with a green area in Frankenberg. It was agreed that he would contact the Manningtree & District Frankenberg Partnership Association to request their view on the proposal.

104/20 To agree meeting dates for 2021

RESOLVED that the proposed meeting dates for 2021 be approved.

105/20 Finance

a) To receive the monthly finance report and approve monthly bank reconciliation figures

The clerk noted that as at the 30th October the current account had £426.77 and the savings account £25,547.03. The bank reconciliation was approved.

b) To consider an S137 donation to Age Concern Colchester and North East Essex

RESOLVED that an S137 donation of £50 be granted to Age Concern Colchester and North East Essex.

c) To approve new payments in accordance with the 2020/21 budget

RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Payee	Net £	VAT £	Gross £
Environmental Design (Oct Maintenance)	74.00	14.80	88.80
Webfactory	159.00	31.80	190.80
EALC	90.00	18.00	108.00
EALC	90.00	18.00	108.00
Age Concern (S137)	50.00	0.00	50.00
Craft Nurseries	960.00	192.00	1,152.00
Line Djuve-Wood (Salary & Expenses)	737.48	0.00	737.48
Webfactory (Web Hosting Fee)	14.99	3.00	17.99
Crown Estate	94.09	0.00	94.09
Total Sum:	2,269.56	277.60	2,547.16

105/20 Items from councillors to be added to the next agenda

There were none.

Councillors are requested to e-mail the clerk with any further agenda items they would like discussed at the next meeting.

106/20 To note date and time of the next meeting

The next full council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7:30 p.m. In addition, a finance committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26th November at 7:30 p.m.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 8.52 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT