

MANNINGTREE TOWN ASSEMBLY

Unapproved

**Minutes of the Town Assembly held in the Community Room, Colchester Road
on Thursday 21st April, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. M. Morsley (Mayor) Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. P. Hughes-Stanton Cllr. J. Charlesworth
Cllr. R. Stocks Cllr. M. Taylor

In attendance: District Cllr. A. Coley Mr. T. Dalby (Harwich & Manningtree Standard)
Mrs L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk)

1). Introduction and Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2). Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. H. Jones and County Cllr. C. Guglielmi.

3). Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 16th April, 2015 to be approved and signed

The minutes of last year's Town Assembly, having been circulated previously, were approved, proposed by Cllr. Lay-Flurrie, seconded by Cllr. Taylor and signed by the Mayor.

4). Report from the County Council

The Mayor delivered Cllr. Guglielmi's report from the County Council, summarised as follows:-

- ECC announced that it would lead on a feasibility study to make the A120 a dual carriageway between Braintree and Colchester by pledging £5 million for this purpose;
- A consultation exercise for the siting of a roundabout at the Hare Green-Pellen's Corner stretch was held at Great Bromley Village Hall;
- ECC has fully backed plans for a Thames Crossing from Highways England which will link Tilbury in Essex with Gravesend in Kent;
- In July ECC's Highways won a prestigious national highways award for the most efficient partnership with Ringway Jacobs;
- ECC introduced a new scheme for public works to tackle unnecessary congestion;
- ECC gave a very robust response to the Comprehensive Spending Review in the Autumn Statement;
- The Community Initiatives Fund (CIF) has been retained and is open to all Community led groups and organisations who can now bid for a share of a £1.5million pot;
- A new Grant to help protect residential properties from surface water flooding was made available for residents;
- A new free webcasting service was made available to parish and town councils;
- Essex Energy Switch reopened again in December for new applications;
- The Council's Trading Standards officers have had another busy year;
- A New Digital Subscription called "Keep me Posted", was launched;
- ECC's Funding and Investment Team secured a one off funding of £900,000 of government money, earmarked to boost recycling amongst households and in schools;
- The new controversial Home to School Policy came into force;
- A-Level, GCSE and SATS results have all improved;
- 3150 new primary and secondary school places were created following a record investment of almost £48million;
- A new campaign "Teach in Essex" was launched in the autumn to attract teachers to our county;
- In June the second stage of the ever popular Ladies Cycle Tour travelled through our area. Negotiations are already under way for this year's tour.

5). Report from the District Council

District Cllr. Coley delivered the District Council report, summarised as follows:

- Clacton Airshow took place again last August. This was a great success.
- Lawford and Manningtree saw minor illegal incursions of travellers on several occasions through the summer of 2015. TDC has established practices in place to apply legal 'Requirement to Leave' orders;
- The former Tesco site in Station Road (Lawford and Manningtree) was eventually sold to Rose Builders;
- TDC have provided a free 'Dog Chipping' service throughout the year in preparation for the new legislation which came into force this month;
- TDC, in common with other Essex Authorities, was forced to increase council tax in order to address some of the shortfall in Government Grant;
- In order to save money after a reduction in grant, TDC reluctantly ended the free supply of plastic refuse sacks to households;
- A separate and specific grant was given to TDC to supply free food waste caddy liners for a year;
- Non-Domestic burglaries and Retail Thefts were unfortunately high in number during the year. It is extremely regrettable that after a continuous period of 162 years there are now no police officers stationed in Manningtree, Mistley or Lawford;
- Town and District Councillors have been working closely with local traders and Careline Managers in order to find inexpensive security solutions. Great progress is being made;
- Tendring Councillors have initiated a review of TDC to be conducted by the Boundary Commission. It is anticipated that ward areas will change and there will be a reduction in the number of councillors;
- The political make up of councillors has changed since the election last year. Two new groups have been formed and there have been two resignations to date, resulting in two by-elections.

6). Report from the Police

There was no annual report from the police.

7). Report from the Mayor

- The Mayor extended his sincere thanks to his fellow councillors for all their continued work and efforts. He also thanked Cllr. Hughes-Stanton for her work on the Emergency Plan and previous Mayor, Mrs Kerry King, for the successful installation of the second town sign;
- He noted that the new steps at Riverside have been installed and thanked Cllr. Lay-Flurrie for arranging for the bench that used to be situated at York Street to be positioned on the riverbank next to the top of the steps;
- He also noted that he has continued to work closely with Tendring District Council's Tree Officer to keep an eye on the condition of the trees in the town;
- In January the council initiated a campaign to persuade ECC to repair the town's deteriorating roads and footpaths. The campaign also involves adding pressure to ensure white restriction lines and double yellow lines are being repainted;
- Many of the town's businesses and organisations have become the victims of burglaries, theft and vandalism. The council is doing all that they can to ensure our town is a safe place to both work and live. The Mayor extended a special thanks to Cllr. Taylor for having taken the lead on this project also gave thanks to District Councillors Alan Coley and Carlo Guglielmi for their input in this.
- The Royal British Legion was awarded the Community Engagement Award for 2015/16. This was in recognition of all their hard work and dedication in re-instating a branch of the Royal British Legion in Manningtree.
- The council's website continues to receive many visits. The council is in the process of

creating a new website which will enable the clerk to make regular updates.

- The council has handed in their notice to terminate the lease on the Community Room at Foundry Court. Unfortunately, it is no longer deemed financially viable to continue with the lease.
- Over the year the council have financially supported the Dedham Vale Bus, the Stour Sailing Club, the Essex Air Ambulance, the Manningtree and Mistley Welcome Home Field and MACCC amongst many other organisations.
- Throughout the year it was the Mayor's duty, privilege and pleasure to attend a number of events. He thanked Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Lay-Flurrie, who also attends many events;
- Very sadly, the council's handyman, Mr Dennis Hitchcock, passed away during the summer of 2015. The council came to rely on Dennis for so many things as he undertook an important role for the community. However, the Council's new handyman, Mr. Philip Mills is an excellent replacement.
- Finally, the Mayor extended his thanks to the council's previous clerk, Mrs Wendy Saint-James, who left at the end of December. Wendy kept finances and the council in excellent shape. Her successor Mrs Line Djuve-Wood has shown a great appetite for the role.

8). Questions from the public

There was nobody present from the public. Cllr. Hughes-Stanton queried the adoption of the new steps at riverside. The Mayor noted that this was on the full council meeting's agenda for discussion.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....