

MANNINGTREE TOWN ASSEMBLY

UNAPPROVED

**Minutes of the Town Assembly held in the Community Room, Colchester Road
on Thursday 20th April, 2017 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: 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.

3). Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 21st April, 2016 to be approved and signed
RESOLVED that the minutes of last year's Town Assembly, having been circulated previously,
be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4). Report from the County Council

There was no report from the County Council.

5). Report from the District Council

Cllr. Morsley delivered the District Council report, summarised as follows (the full report is available to the public on Manningtree Town Council's website (www.manningtreetowncouncil.org.uk):

- Tendring councillors must continue to work closely together to make a difference for their community and the lives of residents, that is the clear message from Tendring District Council Leader Neil Stock. He has warned that there are still further challenging financial times ahead but that there are also considerable successes achieved over the past 12 months;
- TDC has made savings since 2011/12 which have reduced its annual spend by more than £12 million each and every year. A further £5 million still has to be found over the next three years. Against that backdrop are a number of projects including developing the tourism economy; embarking on a £5 million cliff stabilisation scheme from Clacton to Holland-on-Sea; seeing the start of the regeneration of Jaywick Sands; work on North Essex Garden Communities which is beginning to take shape; the Local Plan which needs to be agreed "swiftly and without delay"; the success achieved with partners at the Tendring Community Safety Hub which has seen significant reductions in anti-social behaviour, theft and burglary; development of skills and education and the Council's own Career Track programme;
- Key priorities for the future are health, education and community safety as well as the delivery of services. However, some of these services may have to stop completely going forward.

6). Report from the Mayor

The Mayor extended his sincere thanks to his fellow councillors. His speech is summarised as follows:

- Last April the council continued to work with local shopkeepers following the spate of crime and break-ins that had happened earlier in the year - at times in conjunction with the Manningtree Business Chamber. Cllr. Taylor worked hard in informing shopkeepers on how to improve the security of their business premises and both Cllr. Taylor and Cllr.

- Jones spent a lot of time researching CCTV cameras for the town;
- In May, the council ended its lease for the community room having steadily lost income throughout the year of 2015/16. This was due to diminishing demand by local groups wishing to rent the room. Ending the lease has resulted in a significant annual saving for the council;
 - The new Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex, Mr Roger Hirst, and Chief Inspector Russell Cole, District Commander for Manningtree and surrounding area, visited the town council meeting in July to take questions from councillors and public alike;
 - The landscaping project on the corner of Mill Lane and Brook Street utilising S106 money was successfully completed in August providing the town with a lovely green space for its residents. Cllr. Lay-Flurrie was instrumental in making this project happen;
 - In October, the council's new website finally went live;
 - ID cards have been introduced for all councillors and the clerk;
 - Last year's community award went to the Manningtree Business Chamber for their previous and on-going commitment to arranging events for local people especially the fantastic annual Christmas Market. The official award ceremony took place at the Red Lion in February;
 - In November, the council decided to embark on a landscape project on Quay Street using a combination of TDC's tree planting scheme and remaining S106 money to fund the project. The project is due for completion shortly;
 - A visit from Essex Police Sergeant Paul Gale took place in January to answer questions from both the public and councillors;
 - An improved version of the emergency plan was distributed following the tidal surge earlier in the year. Cllr. Hughes-Stanton has played a very significant part in ensuring the plan always includes all essential and important information and has attended most if not all quarterly and extraordinary community resilience meetings as arranged by TDC;
 - All the wooden posts on the green on South Street have been replaced with new solid oak posts;
 - Following several months without a handyman, the council was finally successful in recruiting a contractor to do both litter picking and weeding throughout the year, as well as watering the town's flower tubs during the summer months;
 - Early on in Cllr. Morsley's tenure as Mayor the council stepped up the pressure on ECC to improve roads, paths and white lines in the town. Some success was had in the High Street with new white lines painted outside Lucca and Townsends. However, the council continually pushed this campaign to persuade relevant parties to repair deteriorating roads and paths as they have got to a very poor and dangerous state. In February, the Council was finally told that South Street would be resurfaced, however the work was postponed due to ECC's highly controversial suggestion of removing the blue setts;
 - During the past year, nearly £1,500 was donated to various organisations as S137 payments. Some of the recipients included The Family Fun at the Furze organisers, The Stour Sailing Club, The Manningtree & Mistley Welcome Home and Memorial Fund, Essex Air Ambulance, Marie Curie, the organisers of Foundry Court's Christmas Party and Manningtree & District Community Bus;
 - The Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor Lee Lay-Flurrie who he said goes above and beyond the call of duty in supporting him. He also paid tribute to his fellow councillors as a whole and thanked the clerk for showing such vigour and enthusiasm for the job.

7). Questions from the public

There were five members of the public present. The council was thanked for objecting to the planning application for the old NatWest building. Complaints were put forward regarding the state of the boarded up White Hart pub. Residents were also appalled by the state of the pavements in town, particularly in the High Street, some of which are far too narrow. Issues regarding vehicles going up and down South Street in the wrong direction and parking on double yellow lines were also raised. Cllr. Morsley said that the town council had already informed

ECC on several occasions about the state of the pavements, roads and illegal parking but has not had a satisfactory response. The council is to follow up on the issues.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....