

MANNINGTREE TOWN ASSEMBLY

UNAPPROVED

Minutes of the Town Assembly held in the Community Room, Colchester Road on Thursday 19th April, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. R. Stocks (Mayor) Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. M. McClarnon Cllr. S. Richardson
Cllr. M. Taylor

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

1). Introduction and Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2). Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. H. Jones and J. Charlesworth.

3). Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 20th April, 2017 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

County Cllr. Guglielmi was not present. The County Council report has been summarised below (the full report is available to the public on Manningtree Town Council's website (www.manningtreetowncouncil.org.uk):

- The County Council spent about £74m creating 2,535 new permanent mainstream school places across the county for the 2017/18 academic year and have plans to create thousands more in the years to come. A new strategy published by the County Council revealed that more than 22,000 new school places will be needed across Essex over the next decade, and up to 22 new mainstream schools will be needed over the next ten years in Essex, while a number of existing schools will also need to be expanded.
- ECC Highways has responsibility for £20 billion of combined road networks, footpaths, bridges, signage, gullies, traffic light systems, and any other highways furniture in the public realms. During the regular maintenance programme over 400 miles of roads were resurfaced and 5,000 potholes were filled in. It is worth pointing out the dire state of play with regards to the huge discrepancy in monetary terms of Highways finances. The deterioration of our roads has been estimated at £14.5million each year, with only £8million available for capital spend.
- County Cllr. Guglielmi's efforts to tackle the railway underpass continue. He has managed to escalate the issues to ministerial level. A meeting was successfully held at Brantham Village Hall where it was agreed that the Traffic Light Scheme and other minor Highways improvements, such as signage, improved white lining and addressing pedestrian safety, would be delivered as soon as possible.
- With the Revenue Support Grant from Central Government disappearing in 2020 the Council has already delivered £350m of savings in the last four years by driving out inefficiency, innovating, generating income and reducing costs. And will continue to do so.
- ECC together with Tendring DC, Colchester BC and Braintree DC have set up a partnership, North Essex Garden Communities (NEGCG), its aim to deliver three Garden Villages across the three local Authority areas, with a total of 47,000 new homes, over a 50 year period.
- A pioneering £11 million housing scheme for older people in Harwich was officially opened on Thursday 22 June 2017.

- Social Care costs account for 60p of every £1 of the Council's budget, with demand increasing as the population of the County ages. On Tuesday 12th December the Council agreed a motion that when 100% of business rates are retained by councils, expected in 2020/21, the anticipated national surplus of £6.25 billion should be ring-fenced to social care, with Essex County Council receiving its share.

5). Report from the District Council

District Cllr. Coley 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):

- The White Hart Public House has been left to deteriorate and has for many months been boarded up. TDC's Enforcement Team has considered the condition of the building but will not sanction any enforcement at this time in terms of the boarding.
- Earlier in the year, Cllr. Coley called a meeting of representatives of the three parishes to discuss a consideration to amalgamate Lawford, Manningtree and Mistley councils into a warded authority. His motive was to create a more dynamic mutually supporting community going forward. However, the only parish in favour was Lawford.
- Essex Police has invited Parish Councils to contribute towards dedicated Special Constables. Discussions were had between the three parishes and no agreement on collaboration was reached.
- It has been confirmed with the Tendring District Commander that no police officers will be stationed at the fire station. The facility will be available for officers to use if they are called to the area or are in the area for other enquires. There will be no facility for the public to consult the police in the fire station.
- There has been a real spate of mainly commercial burglaries in Manningtree over the last year. It has been accepted that travelling criminals use the rural routes between counties to commit burglary and theft offences and to transport drugs further afield. This is supported by intelligence. Automatic Number plate Recognition Cameras (ANPR) will soon be installed at undisclosed locations on the route between Lawford and Suffolk, at the gateway to our community.

6). Report from the Mayor

The Mayor extended her sincere thanks to her fellow councillors. Her speech is summarised as follows:

- Her first year as Mayor has been very enjoyable, if at times challenging. She has been supported by her fellow councillors and in particular Deputy Mayor Lee Lay-Flurrie who has been a useful sounding board and guidance. The clerk has proved invaluable with her knowledge of what a Council can and can't do.
- Cllrs. Morsley and Hughes-Stanton have retired from the council and the Mayor thanked them for their past contributions to the smooth running of Council business. The Council has welcomed Cllrs. McClarnon and Richardson to the team whose knowledge will prove invaluable to the Council.
- During the year all the Town's flower tubs were replaced with the help of the Business Chamber and these are now being looked after by our contractors Environmental Design. The new tubs are a great improvement and will be planted with bedding plants at an appropriate time.
- Discussions are still in progress with ECC Highways regarding the state of the roads and pavements in Manningtree. Councillors walked round the town to identify any issues which were then reported to ECC. Poorly maintained white lines along with a lack of signage often result in drivers driving up or down one-way streets in the opposite direction. We have been promised by Highways that South Street will be re-surfaced in October after the final Antiques and Collectors Fair and the yellow lines reinstated. The Council will continue to press for a resolution to the state of Manningtree's roads.
- A new Community Engagement Award Shield has been purchased to replace the cup and

this has been presented this year to Manningtree Rotary Club in recognition of their support for local charities and the Town. The Club was instrumental in replacing and planting the boat near the Co-op.

- A survey of all the Towns benches was completed and any damaged slats replaced and the benches repainted, along with the railings. We have now received the two replacement benches for the Green and under the Manningtree Ox and are waiting for our contractors to install them.
- An additional more mature tree has been planted on Quay street to replace the trees that were recently vandalised.
- More sand has been ordered this year to enhance the beach and this should arrive shortly, in time for the Summer. The Council looks forward to the events planned by the Sailing Club and to families bringing their children to play on the beach.
- In October the Council was joined at their meeting by Acting Chief Inspector Darren Deex. This meeting was attended by approximately 50 members of the Community and a lively discussion ensued regarding the policing of the area, closure of local Police Stations and a great deal more. It was a very useful meeting and it was good to see so many members of the public joining in the discussions on many topics.
- The Vintage Markets has proven successful during the summer months and it has been agreed that this will be repeated this year, extending the market up South Street and also using the Masonic Hall. The number of visitors to the Town has been seen to increase on these days and the local cafes and shops have reported an increase in trade.
- The Council has had various planning meetings during the year and has discussed the large number of houses planned for the area. We are concerned that plans were passed despite opposition from all three councils. The Council is concerned that the infrastructure of the area cannot cope with such an increase in houses.
- The Council organised a Spring clean of the Town in March, but were defeated by the amount of snow which fell over that weekend. This was rescheduled.
- A member of the public briefed the Council on a potential project to purchase a memorial for the women accused of being witches and murdered by the Witchfinder General in the 1600's. This is very interesting and currently on-going.
- The Council has made payments to local organisations totalling £1,145. Recipients included The Stour Sailing Club, Essex Air Ambulance, Family Fun at the Furze, RBL poppy appeal and many more.

7). Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 7.29 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....