



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

UNAPPROVED

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting
held in the Community Room on
Thursday 18th February, 2019 at 8:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. R. Stocks (Chair) Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie
Cllr. M. McClarnon Cllr. M. Taylor
Cllr. S. Richardson Cllr. J. Charlesworth

In attendance: District Cllr. A. Coley
Mrs. L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk)
4 members of the public

140/18 Apologies for Absence

There were none.

141/18 Declarations of interest

Cllrs. McClarnon, Richardson and Charlesworth declared a personal interest in item 145/18 (item 6 on the agenda) being members of the independent research group.

142/18 Public Participation Session

Four members of the public were present, including representatives from the Save Manningtree Library Action Group who had spent a lot of time during the last month trying to get the library moved from tier three to tier two. They told the councillors that the overwhelming feeling of members of the public whom they had spoken to was that people really value their library, that they really want to keep the library in the town and for it to be accessible. They also emphasised that the library does not only matter to each individual but also to the community as a whole, whereby people come to use the library but also to do their shopping in Manningtree. The area is growing in terms of new houses and it is not just about borrowing books but also about meeting community needs. There are many isolated people who use the library to socialize as well as regular groups meeting up. One member of the public conveyed that the proposed strategy in the library consultation felt like a foregone conclusion. There were also complaints passed to the councillors about the joint public meeting held between the three parishes of Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford on the 18th January 2019 to discuss the ECC Library Strategy Consultation, as it was felt that there was a lack of preparation prior to the meeting on the councillors behalf in terms of researching usage of the library beyond that of borrowing books.

143/18 The clerk to give an update on responses received from members of the public for the attention of ECC Cllr. S. Barker

The clerk reported that she had received approximately 40 letters and e-mails from members of the public for the attention of County Cllr. S. Barker, which she had collated into one document removing names and addresses for anonymity and to be in line with GDPR regulations. She had also received a bundle of letters from pupils at Lawford Primary School that morning. **RESOLVED** that the clerk is to pass all collated responses to Cllr. S. Barker. The clerk is to check with Lawford Primary School that they are happy to have the pupils' letters passed on to the County Council prior to sending these off. **Action: Clerk**

144/18 To discuss the council's response to the ECC Library Strategy Consultation and consider writing a letter to ECC regarding Manningtree Library tier category

RESOLVED that the clerk is to submit the council's agreed response online and that she is to send a letter on behalf of the council requesting a review of the tier three classification with an aim to have it changed to tier two. **Action: Clerk**

145/18 To consider request to endorse letter to ECC by independent group to persuade ECC to move Manningtree Library from Tier Three to Tier Two

RESOLVED that the council strongly endorse a revaluation of why Manningtree Library was put in tier three rather than tier two.

146/18 To consider any significant planning applications received

The council considered planning application **19/00067/OUT**, Erection of 110 dwellings off Grange Road, Lawford. **RESOLVED** that the District Council be informed that the council strongly objects to the

planning application for the following reasons:

- Overdevelopment - the number of new builds already agreed in the area already far exceeds the requirements of the local plan;
- Infrastructure - traffic in the area has increased a great deal in the last year and this development will increase traffic on Cox's Hill and the surrounding area even further. The railway underpass which sits on the main route (A137) through Lawford and surrounding villages and connects Essex to Suffolk is already creating bottlenecks as hundreds of cars pass through on a daily basis;
- Railway infrastructure - it appears that this has not been given much thought. The commuter trains from Manningtree are already over capacity during the rush hour as it is and we suspect this development will add to that. In addition, commuter parking is already proving a problem for the area with not enough parking provision at the station as it is;
- Health services - the development proposal would further overload the existing GP provision;
- Direct access to the site is limited;
- The local schools are already oversubscribed.

The council considered planning application appeal **APP/P1560/W/19/3220201** submitted to the Secretary of State, Outline application with all matters reserved, other than strategic access points onto the public highway, for the erection of up to 485 dwellings, up to 2 hectares of employment land (A2/A3/B1/B2/B8/D1 uses), with associated public open space and infrastructure, Land to the South of Long Road and to the West of Clacton Road, Mistley. **RESOLVED** that the Secretary of State be informed that the council strongly objects to the planning application for the following reasons:

- Overdevelopment - the number of new builds already agreed in the area already far exceeds the requirements of the local plan;
- Infrastructure – traffic in the area has increased a great deal in the last year and this development will have a big impact on traffic along Long Road, Clacton Road and also Cox's Hill and the surrounding area;
- The railway underpass which sits on the main route (A137) and connects Essex to Suffolk is already creating bottlenecks as hundreds of cars pass through on a daily basis;
- Railway infrastructure – the commuter trains from Manningtree are already over capacity during the rush hour as it is. In addition, commuter parking is already proving a problem for the area with not enough parking provision at the station;
- Health services - the development proposal would further overload the existing GP provision;
- The local schools are already oversubscribed.

The council considered planning application **19/00092/LBC**, Internal alterations on ground, first and second floors. Ground floor (south elevation) bay window reinstated. Second floor accommodation reinstated including dormer windows and existing chimneys extended, Cumberland House, 50 South Street, Manningtree. **RESOLVED** that the council does not have any comments to make on this application.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9.16 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....