

MANNINGTREE TOWN ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Town Assembly held via Zoom on Thursday 22nd April, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. Taylor (Deputy Mayor) Cllr. S. Barker
Cllr. B. Brown Cllr. L. Dunnett
Not Present: Cllr. S. Tattam
In attendance: Mrs L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk)

1. Introduction and Welcome

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs. R. Stocks and L. Lay-Flurrie.

3. Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 14th March, 2019 to be approved and signed

It was not possible to approve the minutes from the previous Town Assembly as Cllr. Taylor was the only councillor present at both the previous and current meeting.

4. Report from the County Council

County Cllr. Guglielmi sent his apologies. No annual report had been received from the County Council. Monthly County Council reports are available to the public on Manningtree Town Council's website (www.manningtreetowncouncil.org.uk)

5. Report from the District Council

District Cllr. Coley sent his apologies. No annual report had been received from the County Council. Monthly District Council reports are available to the public on Manningtree Town Council's website (www.manningtreetowncouncil.org.uk)

6. Report from the Mayor

The Deputy Mayor read out the Mayor's speech in her absence. Please see Appendix 1.

7. Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present.

There being no further business the Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 7.07 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Appendix 1: Mayor's Annual Speech

Good evening everyone

This has been my fourth year as Mayor and it has been a very enjoyable one.

The Covid 19 pandemic with its resultant lockdowns has been very challenging for the whole of the Council and our meetings have been held using Zoom.

I have been supported by my fellow Councillors and by the Deputy Mayor Michelle Taylor.

Our Clerk Line has been a great support as usual and is invaluable with her knowledge of procedures.

We have welcomed new Councillors Sharon Barker, Liz Dunnet and Ben Brown to the Council and they are proving to be great additions to the team.

During the year, the flower tubs have been replanted with summer and then winter plants, using insect friendly plants and latterly peat free compost. Many residents have commented on how lovely they are. We were fortunate to have been awarded a grant from Manningtree Business Chamber and the planting was done by Craft Nurseries.

Sadly the planned VE celebrations were cancelled as were most other events in the town. Hopefully it will be business as usual this year with the Beer Festival and annual Regatta amongst others. The beach did not receive its proposed extra sand this year, but this will be rectified this summer/

The pavements and the High Street have been relaid during the year and the Town is looking good.

A weeding team comprising of Councillors and members of the public is now operating on a Monday Morning. This is as a result of the Council now taking responsibility for weeding in the Town after agreeing with TDC that this would be done on a six month trial basis and that glyphosate spraying would cease.

The green on Quay Street has been planted with bulbs and discussions are progressing with the Manningtree Frankenberg Society regarding the forming of a flower bed to mark the Partnership. Planning permission has been requested for the addition of wooden post round the green to prevent motorists parking on the grass.

The Council has requested planning permission to remove three benches and the bin by the beach to be replaced by four new ones.

Discussions are ongoing with Councillor Guglealmi and the North Essex Parking Partnership regarding the problems with parking on South Street and the number of large vehicles using it.

A presentation was made to the Council by Age Concern North Essex on the services offered by their Organisation. The Council has been asked to promote a Dementia free community.

An extraordinary Community Engagement Award has been given to De'Aths Bakery for

going beyond their duty during the lockdown period and the Annual award was given jointly to Ms Rosemary Raddon and Mr Michael Checketts for their assistance in making Manningtree a glyphosate free town.

A large number of swift boxes have now been installed around the town and we wait in anticipation to see which boxes the swifts will choose to utilise.

The Council has made payments to various local organisations including Age Concern, Dedham Vale AONB, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, Royal British Legion and many more.

The Council was awarded a tree from the Queen's estate, but as we do not have any space to plant it, we passed the tree to Mistley Parish Council and had a joint tree planting session on the Welcome Home Field. Details of this were sent to the Queen and we received a kind reply from her.

Ruth Stocks