

MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

<u>Unapproved</u>

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Community Room on Thursday 16th July, 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

36/15 Present: Cllr. M. Morsley (Mayor) Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie (Deputy Mayor)

Cllr. J. Charlesworth Cllr. P. Hughes-Stanton

Cllr. H. Jones Cllr. R. Stocks

In attendance: Mr. C. Nugent (Harwich & Manningtree Standard)

Chief Inspector Cole (Until item 42/15) Mrs. W. Saint-James (Clerk)

The Mayor welcomed the two new council members – Cllrs. Jones and Stocks – to their first meeting.

37/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr. A. Coley.

38/15 Mayor's announcements

The Mayor made two announcements:-

a). It was his sad duty to report the passing away of our Handyman, Dennis Hitchcock, after a short illness. His funeral would be held on 14th August. It was agreed unanimously to send a bouquet of flowers to his wife, Eileen, with a message of condolence from the council. Cllr. Jones offered to do this.

Action: Cllr. Jones

b). He was also sorry to report the resignation of Cllr. Guglielmi a few days ago. It was agreed unanimously that the council should write to thank him for all the work he has done for Manningtree.

Action: Clerk

39/15 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June, having been circulated previously, were approved. Proposed by Cllr. Hughes-Stanton, seconded by Cllr. Lay-Flurrie and signed by the Mayor.

40/15 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41/15 Chief Inspector Russ Cole to give the council an update on recent changes to the police service

Chief Inspector Cole explained to the council how policing has changed over the last few years. It is acknowledged that no police force has the staff and resources to do everything and therefore they have to prioritise. Over the last year there have been significant changes locally in those priorities and, whilst significant savings have been made in the last 5 years, more savings still had to come. For instance about 80 buildings have been identified that are not being used, many of which are old, red brick buildings that are no longer fit for purpose as modern policing requires open plan offices with more technology to cope with internet crime, child sexual exploitation etc. For example, Tendring police now have body cameras. No decision has yet been made regarding Mistley Police Station. The key to effective policing these days is to equip staff with the right tools and the right training and to liaise with the local community. He stated that, whilst there are no longer regular PCSO liaison meetings with local councils, there are still 2 PCSOs based here and P.C. Miles; and Jude Currie is the local community officer. They keep in touch with the general public through Street Meets; announcements in the local press and on websites, twitter and other social media. There are also local community meetings and they deliver presentations in schools which is a very effective way of engaging with local young people and their families. He would ask Jude Currie to contact MTC about the Community Messaging service. They also engage with the local community through the community safety partnership.

A '3-pronged approach' is taken to policing these days which is to reduce crime; bring offenders to justice; and deliver satisfaction. Key priorities are currently domestic issues, gang crime, immigration, anti-social behavior and cyber crime.

In conclusion Chief Inspector Cole said that, whilst they do not have the luxury of sending out PCSOs as much now and MTC has lost a level of communication with the police he would ask Jude Currie to touch base more often and keep MTC in touch with local key issues. It is possible to get extra resources but the public need to inform Jude Currie of the local issues and problems. He said we need to be smarter in working with partnerships, young people and voluntary groups etc. He would send the clerk their Control Strategy, anti-social behaviour policy etc. for circulation.

The Mayor thanked Chief Inspector Cole for coming to the meeting and addressing the council. His talk had been very interesting and informative.

42/15 Open Session

There were no members of the general public present.

43/15 Reports from the District and County Councils

Cllr. Guglielmi's reports were not available in time for the meeting and would be circulated with the minutes.

44/15 Matters arising from the minutes

29/14 (a) **Draft Emergency Plan** The plan has been updated with new councillor details for Lawford PC and Manningtree TC but Mistley PC have not co-opted their new member yet. It was agreed that the Plan would be considered for circulation at the September meeting.

48/14 To request the North Essex Parking Partnership to extend the double yellow lines in the High Street from The Crown Hotel to the Manningtree War Memorial The Mayor reported that he has started a personal crusade regarding the inconsiderate parking issues and he wrote to Terry Knights at ECC Highways two weeks ago and sent pictures of the problem. He will keep writing until he gets a response. He is also pushing to get the white line on the Lucca side of the road repainted.

69/14 The Council's website The clerk summarised the report. A copy was in the correspondence wallet.

112/14 Project at Mill Lane/Brook Street to utilise S106 funds It was agreed unanimously that, whilst a couple of unfavourable comments had been received during the consultation process, it was a project that would make good use of that piece of land and the council should proceed. Costings for the landscaping part of the project were still awaited.

128/14 To discuss and consider solutions to the problem of deteriorating footpaths in Manningtree The Mayor reported that it appears that the South Street kerbs are being replaced but no work is being carried out on the road or paths. However, it was agreed that the council would wait and see what work actually gets done and, if necessary, decide on further action at the next meeting.

157/14 To consider re-siting the bench that used to be situated at York Street Cllr. Lay-Flurrie reported that the bench has now been taken to Rose Builders' premises and is awaiting installation.

174/14 (a)(iii) Report on Recycling

Item Discharged

188/14 (a)(i) Letter to the M.P. re. E.on's price increase

Item Discharged

15/15 To consider the continuing use of the Market Place for parking now that Tesco are not building a store in Mannintree The clerk was asked to chase this up.

Action: Clerk

18/15 to consider participating in the Marine Conservation Society Beach Clean-up Cllr. Hughes-Stanton reported that she has submitted the form and just needs to complete a risk assessment. She has 6 volunteers to help on the day. The clean-up will take place on 18th September commencing at 10:00 a.m.

31/15 S137 grant in the sum of £70 for the Rotary Club's Young Musician of the Year Competition The council had been notified by the Rotary Club that, unfortunately, the competition had to be cancelled this year due to insufficient entrants. The clerk was asked to request that the cheque be returned.

Action: Clerk

32/15 To consider requesting ECC Highways to widen the pavements along 'The Gut' in the High Street Cllr. Guglielmi has submitted the form to the Highway Panel for consideration.

45/15 Report from the Planning Committee

No Planning Committee Meeting was held this month but the Mayor reported the following planning matters:-

- a). Application **Ref. 15/00628/FUL** for a new town sign at Riverside Avenue East was approved on 25.06.15; delegated decision.
- b). 2 Delegated decisions were taken in consultation with the Chairman:-
- i). Amended plans for Application **Ref. 15/00480/FUL** for erection of rooflight, canopy to front of garage and rear conservatory at Old Slaughter House, Stour Street. The council's objection was re-iterated as in the amended plans the rooflight still overlooks the neighbour's property.
- ii). Application **Ref. 15/00941/TCA** to fell 1 no. Prunus Ayium and 1 no. Cedrus Atlantica at 65 Malthouse Road: following a discussion with Clive Dawson a comment of 'no objection' was lodged with TDC Planning.
- c). The Mayor informed Cllrs. Jones and Stocks that they were automatically members of the Planning Committee and they agreed to attend future meetings.

46/15 Reports from Representatives on other committees

- a). Cllrs. Hughes-Stanton and Lay-Flurrie attended the Stour & Orwell Management Forum 2015 at the Suffolk Food Hall which was very informative. Cllr. Hughes-Stanton added a selection of hand-outs to the correspondence wallet.
- b). Cllr. Hughes-Stanton attended a public meeting at Ogilvie Hall to discuss the planning application for the Bromley Road development which was attended by about 150 people. It appeared that Lawford PC was in favour of the development although members of the public had objected. However, it was proposed by Cllr. Lay-Flurrie, seconded by Cllr. Jones and agreed unanimously that the council should object to the proposals on the grounds that there were concerns about the impact on Cox's Hill, the railway station and road infrastructure.

 Action: Clerk
- c). Cllr. Charlesworth attended a meeting at Mistley Village Hall to discuss the proposals for Mistley Place Park. He reported that the project was in the early stages and that the developers were going to work on the number of houses to be built; the current estimate was around 100. They had an agreement to purchase with the current owners and would present their final plans to Mistley PC. The income stream from the housing development would pay for the upkeep of the community asset part of the site.

47/15 Election of Officers

a). Representative to the Essex Association of Local Councils:

It was agreed unanimously that Cllr. Stocks be elected to represent the council.

b). Two representatives to the Cemetery Committee

It was agreed unanimously that Cllrs. Jones and Stocks be elected to this committee. Action: Clerk

c). Representative to the Foundry Court Steering Committee

It was agreed unanimously that the Mayor be elected to this committee for the time being.

48/15 To consider the Mayor's proposal to offer a share of a £2,500 pot in S137 payments to local good causes, as a means to re-distribute some of the council's reserves.

Following a discussion it was agreed unanimously that these funds should be kept in reserve for the time being.

Item Discharged

49/15 The clerk to report on the Community Room

The clerk explained that the council had lost another regular user and that, although the user may return at a later date, until such time the room would no longer be running at a surplus. She had spoken to Mr. Heron at Colne Housing who did not seem keen to determine the lease early; the earliest the lease could be determined was next May. However, Mr. Heron intended to hold a meeting in September to discuss ways to increase the financial viability of Foundry Court and it was agreed unanimously that the Mayor should attend this meeting.

Action: Mayor

50/15 To consider asking The Three Parishes Trust Limited to install a set of steps along the Riverside Walk at their expense

Cllr. Lay-Flurrie reported that a set of steps had been installed at Shotley and she thought a similar project would benefit the Riverside Walk (at the area adjacent to the bridge at the Fiveways car park) and The Three Parishes Trust Limited were willing to finance it. She had spoken to TDC Planning and they had advised that, if the council were to pass a resolution in support of the project and ask the Three Parishes Trust to carry out the work on their behalf, then planning permission would not be required. Therefore the following resolution was proposed by Cllr. Lay-Flurrie, seconded by Cllr. Stocks and agreed unanimously:- "The council supports the proposal to install a set of steps along the Riverside Walk and request that the work be carried out by the Three Parishes Trust Limited at their expense. MTC will adopt the steps once installed."

Action: Clerk

51/15 To elect a member to become a cheque signatory for the council

Cllr. Stocks was elected proposed by Cllr. Hughes-Stanton, seconded by Cllr. Lay-Flurrie and agreed unanimously. The clerk and Cllr. Stocks completed the forms for submission to the bank and Cllr. Stocks would take her personal ID to the bank for checking.

Action: Cllr. Stocks/Clerk

52/15 To discuss the situation regarding the Handyman

a). It was agreed unanimously that a final month's pay be sent to Dennis' wife, Eileen at the end of July.

Action: Clerk

b). It was proposed by Cllr. Lay-Flurrie, seconded by Cllr. Stocks and agreed unanimously that the clerk should advertise the vacancy for a handy person on the website and on the noticeboards. The position would be for 4 hours a week and the duties would include litter picking and weeding around the town; hours to be arranged. Closing date for applications would be 4th September.

Action: Clerk

53/15 To elect a member for the 'All the Fun at the Furze 2016' committee

It was decided to defer a decision on this until the September meeting.

54/15 To consider a resident's request to install a memorial bench along the Riverside Walk

The clerk reported that a Lawford resident had asked if she could install a memorial bench along the Riverside Walk in memory of her husband who had spent so much recreational time in the area. She asked if the council could purchase the bench and arrange its installation etc. and send her the bill. Following a discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Charlesworth, seconded by Cllr. Stocks and agreed unanimously that the council agreed to her request in principle. The clerk was asked to contact TDC Public Experience Department regarding the cost and procedure.

Action: Clerk

55/15 To approve the following for payment:

E.on (Street Lighting) : £212.49 Premier Signs & Displays Ltd. (new town sign) : £84.00

Plus a standing order payment to Colne Housing for £200 for Community Room hire and late payments to H Signs in the sum of £250 for the wooden post for the new town sign and £119.98 to Mrs. W. Saint-James who had purchased a set of printer cartridges. Proposed by Cllr. Charlesworth and seconded by Cllr. Jones.

56/15 Correspondence

- a). The following matters were brought to the Councillors' attention:-
- i). The clerk reported that she had spoken to Election Services regarding the councillor vacancy and it will be necessary to begin the co-option process from scratch. They are sending a draft notice for the noticeboards to ascertain if an election will be necessary; if not then the council can advertise the vacancy.

 Action: Clerk
- ii). Lawford PC had asked for forms to be completed by councillors who were interested in councillor training. Cllrs. Jones and Stocks completed the forms accordingly for submission to Lawford PC.

Action: Clerk

- iii). Letter from TDC Planning regarding planning training. The Mayor agreed to liaise with the councillors.
- iv). Email from a local resident regarding the bus route through Manningtree. It was agreed unanimously that this should go on the agenda for the next meeting.

 Action: Clerk
- b). Some mail had been received post-agenda and included in the correspondence wallet:-Handouts from the Stour & Orwell Management Forum; Website report.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

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Signed	Dated