

**Minutes of the Town Council meeting
held in the Council Chamber, Chantry Centre, Chantry Way, CM11 2AP
on Thursday 18th April 2024 at 7pm**

Present: Chairman: Absent
Vice-Chairman: Cllr J Devlin

Councillors: A Adshead, J Clark, L Clark, R Clark, M Dear, J Leung, C May, M Moore, K Mordecai, M Roessler, E Sainsbury, D Spencer, G Talbot, A Talboys, J Tutton

Also present: the Town Clerk, Committee Clerk and Borough and County Cllr Dr R Moore

128. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs K Herlock, M Mordecai, M Thomas

129. Members Declarations of Interest with regard to items on the Agenda

None.

130. Public Participation Session with respect to items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest

None.

131. Town Council Minutes

Members **(a)** received and considered the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th March 2024, and **(b)** approved the signing of the minutes as a true record.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2024 be approved and adopted.

132. Chairman's Report

Members were advised that Cllr Thomas had attended the Town Council's Community Open Day on 22nd March and the Youth Town Council's Safety Leaflet launch on 23rd March – both events were held at the Chantry Centre.

RESOLVED: information noted.

133. Committee Meetings

(a) Planning Committee

Cllr Tutton presented the minutes of the meetings held on 12th March, 26th March and 9th April 2024. In total 22 applications were considered with 9 of those objected to. He also advised that over the course of the past year a total of 89 members of the public had been in attendance at meetings.

(b) Health, Well-being and Environment Committee

Cllr K Mordecai presented the minutes of the Health Well-Being and Environment Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2024. She informed members that the

Committee is currently looking at litter issues and has arranged a walkabout with a Basildon Council officer to identify bins that need replacing. The Committee is also talking to Basildon Council about the teen equipment in Lake Meadows and whether to repair or replace in partnership. The Christmas Lighting scheme is being enhanced for 2024 and 2025 – the additional cost is covered by the remaining earmarked reserve, however that will leave no budget for the Chantry tree so sponsorship from local service organisations is being explored.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

As the Chair was absent and the Vice-Chair had not been at the meeting, Cllr Adshead presented the minutes of the meeting held on 11th April 2024. A grant to the Street Pastors, which had been requested prior to the Community Hub fire, has been deferred pending receipt of further information. However, an emergency fund of up to £500 has been agreed for Street Pastors and Baby Basics to cover anything they might need urgently following the fire.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of all the above Committee meetings are approved and adopted.

134. Climate and Nature Bill – Zero Hour

Members considered a request from a representative of the Zero Hours campaign that the Town Council signs an open letter to prospective parliamentary candidates asking that they support action on the climate and nature crisis if elected:

RESOLVED: that the Town Council does not sign at this time.

135. Billericay Fire Station

Cllr Thomas had submitted a proposal that the Council writes to the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner to find out what the fire service's intentions are with regard to the Billericay fire station. Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent to Roger Hirst expressing concerns about the lack of retained firefighters in Billericay and asking whether there are plans to address levels of volunteer staffing.

136. Email Filtering

Members considered whether to add this service to Councillor's email addresses at an additional cost of £50 per month.

RESOLVED: that email filtering is not added to Town Councillor email addresses.

137. Items for Information

(a) EALC AGM - Members were advised that the 80th AGM of the EALC is being held on Thursday 26th September 2024.

(b) Business Improvement District – Cllr Devlin gave members an update on the project and requested that this is a regular item on future Town Council Agendas.

RESOLVED: information noted.

138. Consideration of Items for Press Release/Social Media

Nothing at this time.

139. Questions from the Press and Public

None

The Vice-Chairman closed the meeting at 7.39pm

Cllr ThomasDate
Chairman

DRAFT