

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in The Coach House, Crown Yard
on Thursday 14th June 2018 at 7pm

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

Councillors: A Adshead, R Chapman, R Clark, D Hayden, M Moore,
C Roberts, D Spencer, G Talbot, A Talboys, F Tomlin,
J Tutton

Also in attendance: the Town Clerk

24. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Clark, M Dear,
L Mitchelmore, M Roessler, M Thomas and Borough Councillors D Lawrence
and Dr R Moore

25. Declaration of interest with regard to item(s) on the Agenda

None.

26. Public participation session with respect to items on the Agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest

None.

27. Minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on 10th May 2018

Members received the minutes of the Annual Town Council meeting held on
10th May 2018.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting be approved and adopted.

28. Chairman's Report

Members received a written report from Cllr Devlin detailing events he had
attended since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: Information noted.

29. Committee Meetings

(a) Planning Committee

Cllr Tutton, Vice-Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the
meetings held on 22nd May and 5th June and advised that along with the
planning applications members had also considered an amendment to parking

restrictions in Mayflower Road which involved changing resident's bays to disabled parking.

(b) Environment Committee

The Chairman Cllr Moore presented the minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2018 and informed members that from next year one letter regarding sponsorship of all Town Council activities will be sent to local businesses and organisations so they can choose what they want to sponsor rather than receiving several requests for money.

The skatepark repair work has been started by Radian Ramps.

The recommendation under Minute 13 regarding removal of the public toilet following a resident's poll was discussed. Cllr Devlin informed members that the removal of the public toilet would not be able to take place until after a public consultation had been held, therefore the future of the toilet cannot be decided at this Council meeting. The decision for members is to decide whether to undertake a consultation or not. If a consultation is agreed then the toilet's future would be determined at a future Council meeting and be dependent upon the consultation results. Cllr Moore said this has come about from one resident's request, despite there being many other people that are in favour and who do use the toilet. Cllr Chapman said that there are other facilities in Billericay that people can use such as Waitrose and the Blue Boar, although the usage graph prepared by Cllr Devlin showed that there is regular out of hours usage when those other facilities in the town are unavailable. Cllr Talbot agreed that the usage figures indicate it is needed. Cllr Tomlin said that if a consultation takes place the Council will find out what the public thinks and can then be guided by the result. If sufficient people are in favour then that would prove a strong case for keeping it. Cllr Devlin informed members that there would be a financial cost to a survey - possibly in the region of £2,000-£3,000. Cllr Clark asked whether people are even aware there is a public toilet in Billericay, and if the decision is to continue then perhaps the Council could look at whether the signage is adequate. Members also considered that it would not be good public relations to remove it whilst the Chantry redevelopment was ongoing. Cllr Adshead had reviewed the minutes from the Public Convenience Working party which was set up in 2005 and said that the original poll showed 83% were in favour of a public toilet, 94% were against the installation of an APC, and that 44% wanted to see a manned facility. He said he welcomed this opportunity to discuss it as a newer member of the Council who had not been around when the original decision was made. The annual cost of providing the toilet works out at around 8.5% of the precept which he feels is high, but agrees there is a social aspect to providing a public lavatory and although understanding of the

reason for keeping it feels that the cost is not justifiable. He said that provision of an integral public toilet had been considered in the new building but that the Council had been advised against it due to vandalism and being too close to a residential area.

Members moved to the vote on the amended proposal that the Council goes out to public consultation with a view to removal of the APC. The vote was FOR: 4, AGAINST: 7, ABSTENTION; 1

RESOLVED: that the Council does not go out to public consultation therefore the APC remains.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr Adshead, Chairman of the Committee presented the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2018 and informed members that the demolition application for the Chantry Centre is still with Basildon Council and that the contract for demolition services is still out to tender. A site meeting has also taken place with the car park owner. A weekly F&GP meeting regarding the building will be scheduled going forward, and a new set of plans will be considered at the first one on 20th June.

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

30. Training Courses

(a) Members considered the list of training courses from the EALC for 2018, and **(b)** were asked to approve Cllr Henshaw's attendance at Councillor Training Days 1 and 2 on 4th and 11th July, and Cllr Roberts attendance at Councillor Training Days 1 and 2 on 10th and 24th November.

RESOLVED: **(i)** that both Cllr Henshaw and Cllr Roberts attend the EALC Training Days 1& 2 in July and November respectively (LGA 1972 s112) and that all expenses be met by the Town Council, and; **(ii)** all other information regarding EALC courses noted.

31. Approval of Annual Governance Statement

Members received and considered the Annual Governance Statement.

Resolved: that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed.

32. Approval of Annual Return 2017-18

Members received and considered the Accounting Statements for 2017-18.

Resolved: that the Accounting Statements be approved and are duly signed by the Chairman.

33. Items for Information

Members were advised that BBC are currently undertaking a Community Governance Review to consider the electoral arrangements of local Councils in the Basildon borough and whether these arrangements remain appropriate and fit for purpose. Cllr Devlin said that a response should be submitted on behalf of the Council and members agreed.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Devlin, Adshead and the Town Clerk will draft a response for presentation to full Council on 29th July.

34. Consideration of Items for Social Media/Press Release

The location of the public toilet is to be publicised via social media.

35. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr Devlin closed the meeting at 7.42pm

Cllr Devlin.....Date.....
Chairman