

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in The Coach House, Crown Yard
on Thursday 20th September at 7pm

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

Councillors: A Adshead, R Chapman, R Clark, L Mitchelmore, C Roberts,
M Roessler, D Spencer, A Talboys, F Tomlin

Also in attendance: Borough & County Cllr R Moore, Mr P Norton, Billericay
Street Pastors and the Town Clerk

54. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Clark, M Dear, J Henshaw,
M Moore, G Talbot, M Thomas, J Tutton

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

None.

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

None.

**57. Minutes of the Extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 28th August
2018**

Members received the minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting
held on 28th June 2018.

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

58. Chairman's Report

Members received a written report from Cllr Devlin detailing events he had
attended since the 26th July Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: Information noted.

59. Committee Meetings

(a) Planning Committee

Cllr Mitchelmore, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes of the
meetings held on 14th, 28th August and 11th September. She advised
members that the Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation will be starting late

October/early November and that the local plan sub group is currently collating information to be reported back to full Council.

(b) Environment Committee

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Spencer, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September and informed members that the skatepark demolition is currently taking place. It has also been agreed that there will be a War Memorial cleaning party arranged at the end of each month starting from September. Cllr Tomlin asked if any progress had been made with BBC regarding the cost of the car park spaces for the public toilet, and the Town Clerk was requested to follow this up.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr Adshead, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2018 and informed members that all the Chantry Way Centre consultation forms had been received and evaluated. Most residents were extremely positive and in favour of the replacement building and its proposed uses. The demolition is due to start at the end of September but the utility companies are causing delays with their scheduling for removal of meters.

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

60. Training Courses

(a) Members considered the list of training courses from the EALC for 2018, and it was;

RESOLVED: information noted.

61. Devolution of Highways Services to Town and Parish Councils

Cllr Devlin explained to members how the proposed trial for devolution of some highways services came about. ECC feel that they will be able to get more done by devolving control to Town and Parish councils. The trial will operate for the remainder of the current financial year and will be fully funded by ECC. It will not involve any works on the carriageway such as pothole repairs. Cllr Mitchelmore felt it was a good idea in principle to deal with things locally. She expressed concerns about the hiring of contractors and the amount of funding that will be available. She also wanted to know if something like a hedge blocking sight lines would become a Town Council liability if it did not get cut?

Cllr Tomlin wanted to know if the contractors would be supplied by County. Cllr Devlin replied that the contractors may need to be Highways approved due to the location of the work. He also stressed that the scheme would still be fully funded by ECC after the initial pilot.

The meeting was suspended to receive the following information from County Cllr R Moore:

A £1m budget will be allocated pro-rata according to the population size of the local council. Criteria will need to be provided so that local councils can make a choice as to whom to use; either ECC contractors or appoint their own. This initiative will not replace the Local Highways Panels (LHP). Cllr Moore is the Chairman of the Basildon LHP and he said that Basildon has 9 county members, 7 of which are double-hatted. There is currently one parish/town council representative for all the parishes in the Basildon area. Previously the ABLC appointed this representative, now it will be the EALC's appointment and he suggested that the Town Council make representation to the EALC if they wish to get their representative on the LHP. The current LHP budget for the Basildon area is £500,000. There are ongoing discussions regarding an additional £100,000 from ECC if Basildon match fund.

The meeting was re-opened.

Cllr Devlin proposed that the Town Council participates in the pilot scheme for the devolution of highways services. Seconded by Cllr Adshead.

RESOLVED: that the Town Council puts itself forward to the EALC for participation in the devolution trial.

62. Civic Service

Members considered dates in March for the 2019 Civic Service and it was:

RESOLVED: that Sunday 10th March 2019 be suggested to CTB as the date for the 2019 Civic Service.

63. Consideration of Items for Social Media/Press Release

Nothing at this time.

64. Questions from the Press and Public

Mr Phil Norton, from Billericay Street Pastors spoke to thank the Town Council for their recent grant. He said that 2018 is the 5th year of their operating in Billericay and that all councillors will be invited to attend a forthcoming celebration event. The Street Pastors now have use of an office in the library and each SP project operates with the approval of both the local

council and the local police. Some of the Town Council's grant will go towards the recently donated minibus and this will be used for outreach projects. They are about to launch the Schools Pastors service in Billericay School, which is not just for the pupils but the staff as well. They will be in school from a pastoral point of view to support anyone that needs it.

Cllr Tomlin spoke on behalf of all councillors present in wishing the Street Pastors well in keeping up their good work.

Cllr Devlin closed the meeting at 8.12pm

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