

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting
held in The Coach House, Crown Yard
on Thursday 8th November 2018 at 7pm

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

Councillors: A Adshead, R Chapman, C Dyer, L Mitchelmore, C Roberts,
M Roessler, D Spencer, G Talbot, A Talboys, M Thomas,
F Tomlin, J Tutton

Also in attendance: Mrs K Herlock and the Town Clerk

65. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Henshaw, M Moore

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

Cllr Dear declared an interest in Item 10 as she is also the Chairman of Great Burstead and South Green Village Council. Cllr Mitchelmore declared an interest if there were any local plan discussions as she is a member of the Billericay Action Group.

67. Co-Option to seat in South West Ward

Members considered an application from Mrs Kathryn Herlock, and it was;

RESOLVED: that Mrs Herlock is elected to South West Ward.

Mrs Herlock signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and took her seat.

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

None.

69. Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 20th September 2018

Members received the minutes of the extraordinary Town Council meeting held on 20th September 2018.

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

70. Chairman's Report

Members received a written report from Cllr Devlin detailing events that he and the Vice-Chairman had attended since the 20th September Town Council meeting.

RESOLVED: Information noted.

71. Committee Meetings

(a) Planning Committee

Cllr Mitchelmore, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meetings held on 25th September, 9th and 23rd October and 6th November. She advised members that as well as the usual planning applications a letter has been sent to Basildon Borough Council expressing concern at the recent non determination of two major planning applications. The Regulation 19 consultation for the Local Plan has now been launched and she urged members to respond online before the closing date of December 17th.

(b) Environment Committee

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Spencer, presented the minutes of the meeting held on 16th October and informed members that Billericay in Bloom 2019 is underway, the work on the War Memorial has been done and there will be the formation of a project group to look at a replacement for the skatepark.

(c) Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr Adshead, Chairman of the Committee, presented the minutes of the meetings held on 1st and 8th November 2018 and members were asked to approve and adopt the revised Child Safeguarding and Protection policy. He thanked Cllr Dear for her work on the latest edition of the Town Crier. There has been a delay in the demolition of the Chantry Way Centre due to the gas infrastructure company but that has now been resolved and the work should be undertaken shortly. The funding applications are being worked on, the Public Works Loan Board application has to have prior approval from the EALC. A letter is also being sent to Basildon Borough Council regarding a campaign promise to reinstate the LCTS grant and ask what their position is with regard to this. At the meeting on 8th November members considered the mood board from Ingleton Wood which is a conceptualised diagram of what the inside of the building will look like. This enabled members to make a series of broad choices which will assist with the formation of the tender specification.

RESOLVED: (i) that the Child Safeguarding and Protection Policy is approved and adopted, and; (ii) that the minutes of all the above Committee meetings be approved and adopted.

72. Training Courses

Members received and considered details of the following:

(a) EALC Police and Fire Conference 20th November 2018.

(b) EALC Courses in 2019

(c) NALC Spring Conference 11th February 2019

RESOLVED: (i) that Cllrs Clark and Talbot attend the Police and Fire conference, and; (ii) that Cllr Roberts attends the EALC Councillor Training Day 2 on 9th February, and; (iii) that all expenses are met by the Town Council (LGA 1972 s112)

73. External Auditor Review of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2018

Members received and considered the External Auditors comments under Section 3.

RESOLVED: that the information is noted.

74. Community Governance Review 2018

Members received and considered the proposals from Basildon Council regarding changes to the local councils within the Basildon Borough. Namely the number of councillors and election dates. Members felt that the rationale for the changes were unclear. There was discussion about Basildon Council's view that changing the numbers of councillors would reduce the need for a Chairman's casting vote. However, this is a part of law and members see no reason why it should not remain to be used by the Chairman if and when necessary.

RESOLVED: that a letter is sent to BBC stating that the Town Council's view is that the arrangements for local councils should remain unchanged and that the views of the other local councils should also be taken into account.

75. Community Special Constables Update

Members considered the information from Essex Police regarding the status of Community Special Constables and Cllr Devlin said it was disappointing that although Billericay has had applicants they had not passed the assessment process.

RESOLVED: information noted.

76. Agents Boards for Christmas Lights

Members were asked to have a board in their front garden to promote the Christmas Lights switch on. Cllrs Devlin, Adshead, Talbot, Thomas, Mitchelmore, Roessler and Talboys will have boards. Cllr Roberts will find out whether Hallmark will allow them at their premises (office and Anisha Grange).

RESOLVED: information noted.

77. Items for Information

The Civic Service will be held on 10th March 2019 and be at the United Reformed Church in Chapel Street.

RESOLVED: information noted.

78. Consideration of Items for Social Media/Press Release

- All forthcoming events - Festival of Remembrance, Beacon Lighting and Christmas Lights.
- Special Constable recruitment drive
- Thanks to Youth Town Councillors for their help with the Round Table fireworks at Lake Meadows

79. Questions from the Press and Public

None.

Cllr Devlin closed the meeting at 8.00pm

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