

MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL
Unapproved
**Minutes of the Town Assembly held in The Community Room
on Thursday 17th April 2008.**

Present: Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie - Mayor
Cllr. M. Dew - Deputy Mayor
Cllr. V. Bettle
Cllr. E. Edwards
Cllr. A. Hoskyns
Cllr. P. Hughes-Stanton
Cllr. R. Streames

In attendance: Ms A. Collitt - Manningtree and Harwich Standard
Mrs. L. Pallett - Acting Clerk

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence.

County Cllr. C. Guglielmi; Ms. R. Kenneison (Clerk).

2. Minutes of the previous Town Assembly held 12th April 2007 to be approved and signed. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Report from the District Council.

Cllr. Dew reported that TDC is setting up a regeneration company to focus on economic, environmental and social improvement; it is to be locality led to bring resources into the district. Besides this various improvements are in hand across the district and TDC wants to know what improvements Manningtree would like to see. Each Councillor has been allocated £2,000 to spent on projects in their ward so local organisations are asked to write in with their requests. David Lines, the leader of TDC, is visiting all the parishes. He added that he had now been a member of TDC's Cabinet for a year and was particularly involved in constitutional changes, IT provision and enhancing services to customers. TDC's share of the Council Tax levy is 10% - £144.12 for a Band D house for 2008-09; the Audit Commission gave TDC the highest rating for value for money. Particular help given to local parishes by him and his fellow district councillor (Cllr. Guglielmi) has been to improve Manningtree pond, see trees pruned, and council houses improved, and to help on housing, recycling and highway matters. He also continues to represent TDC on the Dedham Vale and Stour Valley Countryside Project and on the Board of Colchester Institute.

4. Mayor's Report

Cllr. Lay-Flurrie observed that the Council's activities had been many and varied and, on the whole, successful and have included planning matters, re-siting a bench on the river bank at the request of local residents, installing a new 'Windsor' style streetlight on the corner of Regent St and South St and placing a memorial plaque to the late Cllr. Scott on the pond. Dr. Vernon Bettle was co-opted onto the Council during the course of the year. Welcome cards for new residents have been produced, a new disabled parking bay is in place on Brook Street, a salt bin has been installed on the Market, new name plates put up for York St and Stour St and a new end panel fixed to the Skinners' Arms bus shelter to help protect people from the weather.

She added that Councillors attend many meetings to represent the Town and its interests, including those held by the Essex Association of Local Councils, the Tendring Association of Local Councils, the Cemetery Committee, Manningtree Business Chamber, Planning, Essex and Suffolk Community Rail Partnership, the Frakenberg Association, Stour and Orwell Estuaries, Tendring Hundred Water Company, Stour Community First. PCSO and Police committees, Suffolk Coasts and Heaths, East Essex Area Forum, Hutchison Ports and the Welcome Home and Memorial Fund. Various engagements have also been undertaken over the year, including attendance at the TDC Civic Service, the Harwich Mayor's charity event, the Co-op Good Friday Service and the Mayoral chain presentation. In addition, the Mayor has represented the Town at a concert at Lawford Church, attended TDC's cabinet meeting in the Town, judged Easter bonnets and laid a wreath at Manningtree war memorial.

On-going matters including Conservation Area issues, the weight restriction that applies to the Town, efforts to provide local young people with a youth shelter, a production of a new area guide book, traffic problems on Lushington Road and supporting Mistley Parish Council with their problems along the Walls and with access issues at Mistley Quay.

She closed by saying that being Mayor is a delight to her and is a job she takes very seriously, as she believes the public has a right to good representation. She extended her sincere thanks to her deputy Michael Dew, to the Clerk and her to her fellow Councillors for their never-failing support.

5. Questions from the Public.

There were no questions.