



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

Unapproved

**Minutes of the Town Assembly
held in the Community Room
on Thursday 20th May, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie (Mayor) Cllr. M. Dew (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr. E. Edwards Cllr. A. Hoskyns (from 7.30 p.m.)
Cllr. P. Hughes-Stanton Cllr. R. Streames from 7.20 p.m.)

In attendance: District Cllr. C. Guglielmi District Cllr. V. Guglielmi
Ms. R. Fryer PCSO O. Churchill
Ms. C. Tilley (Harwich & Manningtree Standard)
Mrs. R. Day (from 7.30 p.m.) Mrs. W. Saint-James – Clerk

- 1). **Introduction and Welcome.** The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2). **Apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Cllr. King.
- 3). **Minutes of the Town Assembly held on 21st May, 2009 to be approved and signed**
The minutes were approved, subject to the date being amended to read 2009 and the word 'average' inserted between 'for an' and 'Band D house' under item 4. Proposed Cllr. Edwards, seconded by the Mayor and signed by the Mayor.

4). **Report from the County Council.** No report was submitted.

5). **Report from the District Council**

Cllr. Dew stated that TDC continues with a Conservative/Community Representative administration. £52,900 was agreed in the budget for improvements at Manningtree Sports Centre. TDC voted unanimously not to increase its share of council tax this year. Council tax for a Band D property (including the parish precept) is £1,448.67 for 2010/11, £135.49 of which is for TDC services. Councillors agreed a 2.5% reduction in their basic allowances this year and 10% in Special Responsibility Allowances. Three senior TDC officers will retire this year. Cllr. Dew stated that he is a member of The Community Leadership & Partnerships Committee and still chairs the Councillor Development Panel. He and Cllr. Guglielmi have supported their four local parish councils with various matters. Cllr. Dew has particularly helped Manningtree residents with planning applications, housing issues, the Market pond, parking and highways matters. He continues to represent TDC on Manningtree Sports Centre JCC, The Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Countryside Project and the Board of Colchester Institute.

District Cllr. Guglielmi began his report by saying that it had been a busy and turbulent year mainly due to a tight political split that is set to continue this year. The current administration was decided by the chairman's casting vote. For the first time there will be a 0% increase in council tax. However the budget has been amended by over £3M to carry out improvements to Walton swimming pool; a wish list including £52K for Manningtree Sports Hall; and road and lighting improvements in Jaywick. He felt that these amendments put the Council's finances at risk. This year TDC banned all animal performing travelling circuses from council owned land and produced a charter on animal welfare.

TDC had voted unanimously for the new Corporate Plan that would enable the two new Regeneration and Tourism strategies to emerge. Their main aim is the dualling of the A133. The Considerate Parking Initiative was launched in Brightlingsea in December and more recently in Mistley, Manningtree and Harwich with some good results achieved already. Foundry Court is operating at capacity on Tuesdays and Fridays as a day centre with many activities on the other days. A smaller committee has been formed to explore ways to expand the facilities.

The AONB project has been ongoing for some time with successful lobbying of MPs and neighbouring District and Borough Councils. A decision is expected by early 2011.

Cllr. Guglielmi explained that he had been approached by Alan Coley (chairman of the Neighbourhood Action Panel) for some funding towards a CCTV in the Market Square. He was pleased to announce that he had found £1,200 towards it and he asked that the council consider channelling his recent donation of £300 for new seating to the CCTV project instead. Peter Dawson from ECC is presenting his Town Centre Design Brief to Manningtree, Lawford and Mistley councillors on 25th May following which there will be further consultation.

6). Report from the Police

PCSO Churchill began her report by saying that crime figures for the month have increased year on year. There was no pattern to the crime, just a variation of offences but she reminded everyone to be vigilant and mindful of burglaries. Mistley Station recently carried out a traffic operation around Manningtree which was very successful. A large number of vehicles were stopped, warnings given and speeding tickets issued and they will endeavour to repeat the operation at some future date. PCSO Churchill asked for the general public to continue to advise the Station of any useful information or concerns they may have.

7). Report from Rachel Fryer, Town Centre Co-ordinator

Rachel Fryer began by saying that her role as Town Centre Co-ordinator is challenging and covers all towns in Tendring. She was particularly keen to re-open as many shops as possible that were currently shut down and also to support existing businesses. She has been in the role for 2 months and during that time has carried out an audit of shops. She has met with various business chambers and liaised with many proprietors etc. to learn about their particular problems (e.g. parking and footfall). Rachel is keen to organize some events in the towns and mentioned a new business initiative fund from which TDC has been granted £52,000. She is keen to ensure that this money is used in a sustainable way. Rachel then announced an upcoming event in June – Next Steps to Recovery – that will be held in Walton-on-the-Naze in conjunction with INTend. This business summit will specifically support local businesses and entrepreneurs.

8). Report from the Mayor

The Mayor stated that it had been a good year. The Council had gained a new clerk who had already sorted out a number of things needing urgent attention. It had also been good to welcome our new Councillor, Kerry, who has already proved to be a ‘hands on’ member, not afraid to get her hands dirty for the benefit of us all.

The Council achieved many things this year such as resolving lighting difficulties in the Co-op car park and helping with security issues in The Lane by installing a brighter light. Various trees and shrubs received attention. An additional name was inscribed on the War Memorial. A new Heritage lamp standard was installed at the corner of Brook Street/South Street and the beach received attention in time for the Regatta. The Council supported many good causes such as The Big Beach Bash; the Summer Play Scheme and the Rotary Music Competition. Manningtree Museum; Manningtree/Mistley First Responders; the British Legion and Welcome Home Memorial Field also received our help.

The Council failed to get the footpath in Lower Colchester Road widened as the landowner would not enter negotiations and the problems associated with 33 South Street are still with us. ECC Highways refused our request to remove a light in Station Road.

Discussions are ongoing to reduce the width of the road in the narrow part of the High Street known as ‘the gut’ and we are pursuing the possibility of installing a permanent CCTV in the town. The Considerate Parking Initiative was launched which, it is hoped, will ease parking problems in the area.

The Mayor ended by thanking her fellow councillors for all they have done to help her and the town of Manningtree.

9). Questions from the public. There were no questions.

There being no further business the Mayor closed the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Signed.....

Dated.....