

BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at
The Parish Hall, Victoria Place, Brightlingsea,
on: Thursday 17th August 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillors

R Morgan (Mayor)

J Carr (Deputy Mayor)

D Atkinson, M Barry, J Chapman, M Court,
M Judson, J Howard, B Maltby and G Steady

In attendance:

Tracey Pulford – Town Clerk

County Councillor Goggin (8.12 onwards)

14 Members of the public

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Councillors Paveley and Walsh.

55. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20TH JULY 2023 AND TO CONFIRM AS A CORRECT RECORD:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th July 2023 were accepted as a true record.
Agreed.

56. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A copy of the Mayor's Announcements are annexed to the Minutes.

The Mayor said what a great month it has been, and that he has enjoyed all of the functions attended. He mentioned the hard work and dedication given by all the volunteers and helpers to this town during the big occasions i.e. Regatta, Carnival, Music Festival, Pyefleet Week – and the awful weather over some of those weekends. He then mentioned the sad incidents that had recently taken place, where vehicles were set alight, and said that this is a dreadful incident for Brightlingsea. He added that Essex Police had arrested a suspect, through the help of local residents. To all the families and residents caught up in this dreadful incident, we send our best wishes and support.

57. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

The Mayor reminded Members to declare interests when necessary.

58. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THOSE MEMBERS EXAMINING THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD:

The Payments and Accounts for the period ending July 2023 (as shown on the attached appendix) were proposed by Councillor Carr as follows:

General Account – 20 BACS Payments totalling £6,597.53 be authorised for payment.

Bank Balances:-

July 2023

Current Account (7055)	57,355.37
Business Premium Account (8295)	42,758.30
Business Premium Account (9433)	38,838.38
Making a total of	138,952.05
Less four unrepresented payments totalling	1,600.00
Less one payment not authorised at last month's meeting	448.08
Making a total on all accounts of	136,903.97

Income, for July, totals	28,349.91
Expenditure, for July, totals	35,137.80
Income to date, net, totals	188,018.41
Expenditure to date, net, totals	138,018.96
Employee payments paid for the month of July 2023 were:	15,637.66

Councillor Carr mentioned the unauthorised payment for Clear to See, this was for an initiative for Active Travel – Walk, Scoot and Ride. He then reminded all Councillors that the correct procedure for expenditure is to agree it through your committee, it then goes to finance and full council for approval. This payment has now been authorised for payment.

The accounts were then seconded by Councillor Judson. **Agreed.**

59. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON 8th August 2023 AND TO CONFIRM THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:

Councillor Steady mentioned minute no. F.119 – and that a paper is to be circulated to all members, which details the thread of all meetings where this item has been discussed. A discussion took place.

Councillor Carr proposed that the Minutes of the Finance and Property Meeting held on the 8th August 2023 are accepted as a true record, and the recommendations (as written below) be accepted:

- ***Inclusive Play Equipment*** – Confirmation would be received from Tendring District Council, as to whether they will release the money, specifications and full and concise costings would be required, before the Finance Committee debates it further. This also relates to the Seafront Shelter.
- ***Monthly Income and Expenditure Report*** – The next Finance Meeting, budgets for 2023/2024 would be revisited.
- ***Debtors List*** – The debt for the Beach Hut, relating to 2020, the owner would be contacted and asked to pay the outstanding bill within 30 calendar days, otherwise their license will be revoked.
- ***Electrical works at the Parish Hall*** – The quotation from BESS Electrical is accepted for £1,645.00 with the works taking place on Tuesday 29th August, with the office being closed for the day, and staff working at home.
- ***CYC launch for Kerri-Ann*** – The cost is £70.00 per metre, pro-rata to the end of the season.
- ***Special Expenses*** – Special Expenses for 2024/25 would be brought back to the next Finance meeting for discussion.

The Minutes were seconded by Councillor Chapman. **Agreed.**

60. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY AND 8TH AUGUST 2023 AND TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS OF TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Councillor Howard proposed that the recommendations in the Minutes of 25th July and 8th August 2023 be agreed by Council, together with the planning decisions from Tendring District Council. Seconded by Councillor Judson. **Agreed.**

61. TEAMS REPORTS:

Reports from the Facilities, Community and Assets Team, the Environmental and Transport Team and the Communications and Tourism Team had been circulated to all.

Facilities and Community Assets Team – Councillor Morgan briefed members.

Councillor Court mentioned the Volunteers Hub at the Music Festival, which was well received. He said that the weather affected the Saturday when most of the groups were in attendance, however he did sign up a couple of volunteers. He added that Councillor Walsh has arranged for a ‘stand’ at the Town Show, however neither she nor himself can be there, and unless 4-5 Councillors can attend, it may be best if we do not host this. Councillor Steady said that he could help, however he is helping with the Beach Hut Association. Councillor Maltby said that she would be happy to help with Councillor Steady. Councillor Court **agreed** to liaise with Councillor Walsh to pass everything over to Councillor Maltby.

The Facilities and Community Assets Team report was then **accepted**, and the following recommendations were **agreed**:-

- **BHC Management Agreement** – The Management Agreement is discussed further at the August Council Meeting, under Part ‘B’.
- **Beach Hut Scheme** – No further action is taken on the beach hut scheme; however, it will be kept under review.
- **Report on incident on the Western Promenade July 2022** – A copy of the correspondence regarding the Compensation Claim is passed to the Insurance Company, for them to deal with.
- **Batemens Tower Café** – The tenant of Batemens Tower Café is contacted to ask her to instruct her Solicitor to issue the statement.
- **S106** – The S106 Officer is asked to come down and talk to the Planning Committee about the procedure for S106 monies.
- **Possible Rounders event on Hurst Green** – A possible rounders event on Hurst Green is a good idea, provided all the necessary insurances/risk assessments are in place, and the Town Council would try to enter a team.
- **Seafront Shelter by Lido** – Quotations would be obtained for the refurbishment of the Seafront Shelter, and this item would be discussed by the Finance Committee.

Environment and Transport Team – Councillor Atkinson briefed members. A discussion took place on the ‘odour’ and Councillor Steady read out a statement which he asked is put on the website and facebook pages tomorrow. It was agreed that this statement would be sent to the Communications Team in the first instance.

Councillor Chapman informed members that she and Councillor Steady are meeting with the Co-Op on Tuesday 22nd August, and she has now heard back from Tesco Express, and a meeting is being arranged. Councillor Court asked if this meeting could include the location of trollies.

Councillor Court asked if the Brightlingsea Town Council bins could be emptied in the afternoons, as well as in the morning. The Clerk replied that the bins belonging to the Town Council are emptied twice a day during the summer months, and also on a Saturday and Sunday morning. Councillor Steady mentioned that a lot of dog waste is being bagged up and put in the Town Council bins, as well as household rubbish. He added that when one bin is full, another 20 yards away is usually half empty.

The Environment and Transport Team report was **accepted**, and the following recommendations were **agreed**:-

- **E-Scooters** – The information received from the Community Safety Team at Tendring District Council is put on the Town Council website, and reference is made to it in the next Chronicle advert.
- **Un-registered locations in the town** – Councillor Steady to prepare a report listing all the locations which are un-registered in the town, and to liaise with the Grounds Manager.
- **Pinch points and parking on corners** – 1) If any Councillor wished to add to the report, to let Councillor Carr have the details; 2) Suggest that the report is circulated to County Councillor Goggin/Essex County Council, Tendring District Council and the Brightlingsea Neighbourhood Plan for them to consider any suggestions/reponses.
- **Junior and Infant School Parking** – A site visit is undertaken with Andy Nepean of Tendring District Council to see what is achievable.
- **Pedestrian Crossing at Lower Park Road** - Councillor Steady would work with Councillor Walsh and send through the proposal to Councillor Carr, for it to be added to the 'pinch points and parking on corners' report.
- **Brightlingsea Odour Issues** – Councillor Atkinson to look into the private pumping station located on the grounds of the Industrial Estate.
- **Cycling route through Thorrington Mill Vineyard** – Contact Nick Hill of Essex County Council to find out if there is a strategy across Essex.
- **Crabbing Lines** – A press release is put on the Council website stating that the wooden eco-friendly crabbing lines are readily available in the shops in the town.

Welfare & Residents Services Team – The Welfare & Residents Services Team report was **accepted**.

Communication & Tourism Team – No report had been submitted by the Communication and Tourism Team.

62. UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Councillor Barry briefed members that there were still a lot of live issues going on. He then urged everyone to complete the Residents Consultation 2023, which will formulate the next 4-year plan. He added that it can be completed online, or paper copies are available at the Parish Hall. The closing date is the 25th September 2023. He asked if the respective 'Teams' could look at the relevant section of the document and asked that this consultation is put on the next agenda of the FCA and ENT teams. He also added that if anyone wants to speak to a Tendring District Councillor about this consultation, they are looking to hold an open day early September, where this can be discussed, and any further representations can be taken back to Tendring.

Councillor Chapman informed members that she is chairing interviews on Monday for Officers and Staff, and Tendring District Council are down 22% on staff. She added that, like a lot of other Councils, they are looking at sharing facilities.

Councillor Steady briefed members on the Task and Finish Group Scrutiny meeting that took place on the 14th August. He also mentioned that there is an issue with the Garden Waste Collection, and that some roads in the town are unable to subscribe to this service. He added that with the garden waste collection, if the collection is missed, they have to come back another day to collect and this puts an extra cost onto the service. A discussion took place.

Councillor Court mentioned that the street sweeping vehicle is coming around at 6.30am, which is too early, as cars are still parked on the roads. Councillor Barry said that he would mention this to Tendring District Council/Veolia.

Councillor Howard queried the glass recycling that used to be at the Community Centre site and also on the Western Promenade, and asked if they could be reinstated. Councillor Steady replied that unfortunately people do contaminate the waste, however the Government are saying that glass will have to be collected from the doorsteps in the future.

The report from the District Councillors was then accepted.

As County Councillor Goggin had not yet arrived at the meeting, the Mayor moved onto agenda item 10.

63. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Q1) The revised plans for the Leisure Park off Robinson Road – we are not fully against the plan; however, the changes will impact our daily lives far beyond the improved plan. We would like to understand the Council’s position on the new changes viewed, and how you will support us to soften the impact – there is to be an access road with five properties, the glamping area has moved to the front, there is to be a leisure centre with restaurant and service yard. All these changes that have been made in the revised plans, are along the boundary of Robinson Road. What is the general feeling on this?

A1) The Mayor replied that the revised application, he believes, is due sometime in September. He added that the Town Council will discuss the plans at a planning meeting, and members of the public will be able to attend. Please make sure any comments on the revised plans are submitted to both Tendring District Council and also the Town Council. Much discussion took place.

Q2) The Vision for Tendring District Council – the consultants Mackman – are they a big company?

A2) Councillor Barry replied that they put the consultative document together, however they are not going to tell us what to do. The member of the public replied “did they put out to consultation and when I come to the open meeting can you get more information?” Councillor Barry replied yes.

Q3) Can you give us an update on the Platinum Square?

A3) The Mayor replied that no decision has been made yet, and we are in discussions with the Heritage Lottery on possible funding.

Q4) We had a useful meeting on Tuesday with Councillor Steady regarding the ‘smell’. Have Councillors had sight of the all the information we shared? It includes copies of the Environment Agency report, and non-compliance. Regarding the press release, it states “They will be performing reactive monitoring, in response to residents’ complaints, in an effort to witness the odour from within their properties.” This is not what the act says, it must include the garden as a statutory nuisance you cannot use your garden.

A4) Councillor Barry replied that the Officers of Tendring District Council would use their common sense on this. Councillor Steady replied that we have the file, and this will be discussed at the next Environment and Transport meeting.

64. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

01. **Agreed** that the Brightlingsea Carnival can hold its 2024 Carnival on the Bayard Recreation Ground on Saturday 22nd June.
02. **Agreed** that the Forest School can hold one more session, in the Lozenge, before the school re-starts.

County Councillor Goggin joined the meeting at 8.12pm

65. UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOGGIN:

A copy of County Councillor Goggin's report had been circulated to all members.

County Councillor Goggin sent best wishes from St Osyth and Point Clear, and then reported on the following:-

- Have submitted my first set of pot holes for the member led system. Have used up the allowance on Wellington Street and Windsor Court. I only had five to submit, but actually submitted twelve.
- The closure of Robinson Road actually only took two days to complete. There is a lesson to learn here and I have asked Essex County Council to change the wording on the signs from 'road closed for 12 days' to 'during a period of 12 days'.
- Attended the meeting with the Lower Farm developers, which received a mixed reception.
- Apparently for the last 15 years, Essex County Council have imported water. We are surrounded by the stuff, but it is imported from Lincoln.
- Had a very good turnout at my recent surgery. Queries included (1) if you go to the hospital at Colchester, and get a ticket, you are fined £35.00. If you challenge it, and you are proven to be wrong, they refund you £10.00 as they charge £25.00 to analyse the claim; (2) a Public Right of Way is muddy when wet; (3) bus route around the town; (4) re-engage possible use of the Library.

Councillor Carr asked about Back Waterside Lane and Mill Street. County Councillor Goggin replied that the Mill Street position has been on the Local Highways Panel for years, but we have failed to get what the residents want. He added that you could just put up the signs. He added that he could fund £2,500.00 to go to Mill Street towards signs, but the Council will have to match fund to get signs at both ends of the road. He added that this would have to be spent before the end of March. Councillor Carr said that this idea would be taken to the next Environment and Transport Meeting.

Councillor Howard asked about the meeting 'mothballing of County Hall'. County Councillor Goggin replied that County Hall was built before the 1st World War. He added that you cannot have buildings not being used, and they are looking at all options.

Councillor Steady mentioned the pavements in Pyefleet Close and D'arcy Way. He said that the footpaths are on par with the road in Bellfield Avenue, and nothing has been done to them since the estates were built.

Members of the public asked the following questions to County Councillor Goggin:

Q1) At next month's meeting, can you give an update on Thurrock Council? County Councillor Goggin replied yes, many councils are sitting on good reserves, and lend money to other Councils. He added that the Government underwrites that amount.

Q2) Would like to give thanks from several residents of Robinson Road. We contacted the Council about the road closure and the response was quick and effective, we appreciate your help.

Councillor Carr moved, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, in order to discuss items of a sensitive nature and items which are commercially confidential, the press and public be excluded. This was seconded by Councillor Chapman. **Agreed.**

66. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 –To discuss the following: -

- Property Update
- Heritage Lottery Funding – Meeting update

67. PROPERTY UPDATE:

Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners Management Agreement - The Mayor gave an update on the current situation, and after discussion it was **agreed** to ‘give notice’ to terminate the agreement on 31st August 2024. A discussion took place.

Councillor Carr declared an interest in the following item:
Brightlingsea Cricket Club – Councillor Steady briefed members.

Leisure Village – Councillor Chapman informed members that the inspection has been carried out and the report is due out shortly. Apparently, the owners are mis-selling again, regarding needing a permanent address. Also, the Christmas opening hours need clarifying.

68. HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING – MEETING UPDATE:

The Mayor updated members on the meeting held last week with the Heritage Lottery Funders. He said that they are keen to get involved however do not help with building costs, only capital costs. They would however get involved with the history side of things, up to £250k. This will be discussed at the next Facilities and Community Assets Team meeting.

69. CLOSE OF MEETING:

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Chair

Date: 21st September 2023