

BRIGHTLINGSEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at
The Parish Hall, Victoria Place, Brightlingsea,
on: Thursday 19th September 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillors

J Carr (Mayor)

M Court (Deputy Mayor)

D Atkinson, M Barry, J Chapman,

J Howard, M Judson, R Morgan,

C Paveley, K Pentney and G Steady

In attendance:

Tracey Pulford – Town Clerk

15 Members of the public

County Councillor Goggin

71. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Mitchell.

72. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 15TH AUGUST 2024 AND TO CONFIRM AS A CORRECT RECORD:

Councillor Barry proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 15th August 2024 were accepted as a true record. Seconded by Councillor Howard. **Agreed.**

73. MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A copy of the Mayor's Announcements are annexed to the Minutes (see attached Appendix 1).

The Mayor briefed members on the Health and Wellbeing Day, held on the 14th September and thanked the Council staff and Councillors for all their help on the day. He added that a similar event could be held in the Winter – watch this space!

74. DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS:

The Mayor reminded Members to declare interests when necessary.

75. UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR GOGGIN:

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

County Councillor Goggin reported on the following:-

- The Health & Wellbeing Day was first class, and a very good initiative. Congratulations to the team and Councillor Carr.
- Works have been completed outside the Colne Community School, Manor House Way, Folkards Lane, Hall Cut, the bollards and drains near to Gatehouse Farm, two footbridges on PROW5.
- Had a meeting with Councillor Howard's Committee and will leave the Council to decide on the way forward. Regarding the matter of insurance, if the Town Council

want to get involved, provided the criteria is followed, insurance is covered by Essex County Council.

- Helped a few residents with Blue Badge queries.
- Attended Merchant Navy Day service at the Hard, which was excellent.
- The B1027 project has at last started. If everything goes to plan the project will be finished by February 2025.
- A resident has complained about a road accident in Brightlingsea. This occurred on a private road.
- There was an article in the Colchester Gazette about potholes in Brightlingsea. The statement said that Essex County Council were contacted for a statement but did not respond before going to press. Tomorrow they will be printing an apology, as a response was given.

Councillors asked the following questions:-

- Councillor Judson asked when Bellfield Avenue is due to be resurfaced? County Councillor Goggin replied that he has recently been in touch with three residents about this, and work is scheduled for this financial year. He added that this work would take up the whole of one year's budget for Brightlingsea.
- Councillor Paveley stated that the Government have put out a paper on increasing housing allocations, but the number in Tendring is yet to be satisfied. Are Essex County Council seeing any extra allocations for transport and roads to cover this extra housing? County Councillor Goggin replied that it will affect Brightlingsea, and your colleagues at Tendring District Council, and Essex County Council as Essex County Council are responsible for education etc. He added that in theory, with an influx of houses, two things happen – the developers will pay monies to Essex County Council, Tendring District Council and the Town Council under S106, to get things carried out in preparation, however this puts extra pressure on the doctors, dentists etc. Much discussion took place on infrastructure etc., Councillor Chapman added that the allocation to Brightlingsea is likely to be 300 extra homes.

Members of the public then asked the following questions:-

- With Devolution possibly back on the agenda, is this going on? County Councillor Goggin replied that Essex County Council said no, as there is not enough money on offer to take on the extra risk. Central Government have stopped Suffolk and Norfolk going ahead as their plans are not ambitious enough, and have come back to Essex County Council, whose plans were ambitious, so they are re-negotiating.
- With regards to the article in the Gazette on potholes, can we have your comments please? County Councillor Goggin replied that Freedom of Information Act is a good thing, and he welcomes initiatives from individuals. A councillor is saying that they are going to 'plan' the town and show a survey of the town detailing all potholes etc. A statement has been made on social media 1300 outstanding road and pavement faults in the town, the bollards outside Gatehouse Farm had 9 reports on this fault. He said that it is his understanding that every fault picks up 2 or 3 reports on the one issue. Councillor Court then explained the reasoning behind his Freedom of Information request to Essex County Council, and the article in the paper.
- The keep left signs outside the Museum – this was mentioned some 8 months ago. Cars are constantly driving over the island, causing damage to their vehicles. County Councillor Goggin replied that the light pole was knocked down over 2 years ago. He added that the Town Council are carrying out a survey of pinch point areas in the Town, and one of the items in discussion is a possible Zebra Crossing. The Mayor replied that we will check with the Office to see if there is any update and to escalate the issue with Essex County Council.

County Councillor Goggin advised members that his next Clinic at the Brightlingsea Library is to be held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 between 3.30-5.30pm.

76. UPDATE FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Councillor Barry reported that the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday was a lively affair, and he would encourage people to view the meeting on YouTube, and the debate initiated by Reform.

Councillor Steady mentioned that he had included in his report a copy of the motion that came up at the Tendring District Council meeting and added that these are enlightening times. He also informed members that the meeting due to be held with Tendring District Council and Veolia Officers has been postponed until the 30th September.

County Councillor Goggin left the meeting at 7.43pm.

77. TEAMS REPORTS:

Reports from the Facilities & Community Assets Team, Environment & Transport Team and Welfare & Residents' Services Team had been circulated to all members.

Facilities & Community Assets Team – Councillor Morgan briefed members on the meeting held on the 10th September 2024. The Facilities & Community Assets Team report was then accepted, and the following recommendations agreed:-

- Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners – Delegated authority is given to the Council to sign the lease, when it is available.
- Brightlingsea Leisure Village – Put together a simple brief on the lease and obtain a quotation from two or three solicitors to advise on the issue.
- Batemans Tower Café – The tenant is contacted again, asking for a response within 7 days, otherwise the Council will seek legal advice.
- Boating Lake and Hut – Town Clerk was asked to liaise with the Grounds Manager about purchasing paint, and also about the water quality of the lake and depth for boats.
- Beach Hut 312 – Wait for the quotation from a local 'handyman' on the cost of doing up the hut.
- Brightlingsea Bowling Club – The next finance meeting would discuss this issue further.

Environment & Transport Team – Councillor Howard briefed members on the meeting held on the 12th September 2024. The Environment & Transport Assets Team report was then accepted, and the following recommendations were agreed:-

- The Road Pinch Points document would be used as a discussion document and added to where necessary.
- Mill Street – Quiet Lane – Members agreed to support Mill Street, becoming a Quiet Lane, by whatever route possible.
- Western Road and Marsh Way – to be added to the report, with suggestions.
- Western Promenade – Due to campervans, lorries etc., parking overnight on Western Promenade, ask Tendring District Council for 'no overnight parking' signs. Councillor Barry to liaise with the relevant officer over this.
- Church Hill – The chevrons at the top of the hill are being covered by weeds and need to be cut back. Town Clerk to speak with Grounds Manager about this.

- Parking issues outside the Bakery – Councillor Howard to go and talk to the Bakers about this.
- Town Clerk to contact the Essex County Council Liaison Officer to ask if they would attend a site meeting to look at possible locations for mirrors/zebra crossing on Lower Park Road.
- Litter Bins – Ask the Grounds Manager for a quotation for replacement bins.
- PROW meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th September 2024 at 3pm at the Parish Hall, and on TEAMS.
- Parking at Strangers Corner – An email would be sent to the Colne Community School asking how they plan to elevate this issue. Councillor Court to draft response.
- Hedgehog Signs – The Town Council approves the Hedgehog Signs in the suggested locations.
- Walk, Bike, Scoot, Park & Stride – Councillor Mitchell agreed to contact the Brightlingsea Primary School and Councillor Howard would contact the Colne Community School.
- The Considerate Parking Initiative should be re-introduced, as parking on dropped kerbs is constantly taking place, blocking access for pedestrians, wheelchair users, pushchairs etc.

Welfare & Residents' Services Team – Councillor Chapman informed members that at the meeting with the Partnership Coordinator of St Helena Hospice, Brightlingsea could become a Community Champion Council. The Welfare & Residents' Service Team report was then **accepted**.

Communications & Tourism Team – Councillor Paveley briefed members on the meeting held on the 12th September 2024. The Communications and Tourism Team report was then **accepted**, and the following recommendations were **agreed**:-

- Town Jetty Statement – Councillors Carr and Paveley to discuss with James Thomas, Harbour Master and Andrew Scott, Chairman of Harbour Commissioners.

78. **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AND TO CONFIRM THE RECOMMENDATIONS THEREIN:**

Councillor Atkinson proposed that the Minutes of the Finance and Property Meeting held on the 17th September 2024 are accepted as a true record, and the recommendations (as written below) be accepted:

- Examining of Accounts – 21 payments totalling £9,186.70 are approved for payment, with Councillors Paveley and Morgan signing off the invoices.
- Special Expenses 2025-2026 – No changes were needed to be made to the Special Expenses for 2025-2026.
- Discretionary Grant Application – As the Town Council are not in a financial position to support the application, it is refused at this moment in time.
- Heritage Pier Sign – A notice detailing 'The Second Schedule' would be purchased and installed on the Heritage Pier. An Information/Interpretation Board would be looked at, for the Hard area, and other areas in the Town, by the TAP (Tourist Advisory Panel) Committee.
- FA Grant – The sum of £500.00 is allocated to the borehole to ensure the FA Grant Scheme is successful.
- Bowling Club – As a gesture of goodwill, the outstanding debt of legal fees will be written off.

- Fenn Wright – The ‘agreement’ should be terminated with immediate effect and the Town Council writes to all its tenants with new bank details for the payments to be made into.
- Heritage Pier Piling – Wait until the quotation for the piling has been received, before this can be discussed further.

Seconded by Councillor Chapman. The minutes were then **agreed** by all present.

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

The Payments and Accounts for the period August 2024 (as attached – see Appendix 2) were proposed by Councillor Paveley as follows:-

General Current T2 Account - 21 payments totalling £9,186.70 (as attached - see Appendix 3) be authorised for payment and statement of balances on the following accounts be accepted:-

August 2024

Barclays Current Account (XXXX7055)	£6,254.19
Barclays Premium Account (XXXX8295)	£20,911.82
Barclays Premium Account (XXXX9433)	£394.72
Instant Access Account (XXXX0373)	£82,559.64
Current T2 Account (XXXX0360)	£3,640.00
Making a total of	£113,760.37

Income for August 2024	£3,239.19
Expenditure for August 2024	£35,428.77

Employee payments paid for the month of August 2024 were:	£16,659.75
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Income to date 1 st April – 31 st August 2024	£192,452.38
Expenditure to date, 1 st April – 31 st August 2024	£161,081.11

Seconded by Councillor Morgan. **Agreed.**

80. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 20TH AUGUST AND 17TH SEPTEMBER 2024 AND TO NOTE PLANNING DECISIONS OF TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL:

Councillor Paveley proposed that the recommendations in the Minutes of 20th August and 17th September 2024 be agreed by Council, together with the planning decisions from Tendring District Council. The Minutes were then seconded by Councillor Morgan. **Agreed.**

Councillor Paveley briefed on the Tendring Local Plan and the number allocated by the Government, which is available on the website. Much discussion took place.

81. YOUTH COUNCIL:

Councillor Howard briefed members that she and Jordan Knight are holding a Youth Council at the Colne Community School on Monday 23rd September, and she will keep members updated on its progress.

82. VOLUNTEERS WEEK FEASIBILITY – W/C 2ND JUNE 2025:

Councillor Court briefed members that Volunteers Week takes place w/c 2nd June 2025 and asked if a working group could be formed to look at the feasibility of an event being held, at cost neutral to the Council. Councillors Steady, Morgan, Chapman, Pentney and Carr all offered to be involved. He added that Councillor Mitchell would also like to be involved.

83. SPRINGMEAD TRUST:

Councillor Steady briefed members that at an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Springmead Trust held on the 27th August 2024, the Councillor Trustees agreed that the recommendation to Full Council would be that the Town Council is formally adopted as the Custodian Trustee of the Springmead Trust. He added that after a review of the Trust, a revised constitution will be presented at the Trust AGM. The new constitution will include the opportunity for a more community represented trust.

After discussion it was agreed that all information is distributed to Councillors and this item is ratified at the next meeting.

The Mayor said that before we invite questions from members of the public, firstly he failed to thank the representatives from the Community Centre for their help with the Health and Wellbeing Day. He then mentioned that following the recent Code of Conduct Training with Tendring District Council it has been suggested that all public questions should be received in writing in advance of the Council meeting. Therefore, from the October meeting we are asking that all public questions are to be received by the office by close of play on the Wednesday before the meeting, so they can be included in the meeting.

84. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Q1) I recently spoke to Councillor Court about the Police and Fire Commissioner. From the information given we pay £640.00 to the Essex Association of Local Government. He then asked Councillor Court to brief on the democratic position. When the elections took place, hardly anyone voted. Are you meeting with the Police tomorrow? Can you ask them about the PCSO's, we do not see any police presence at all?

A1) Councillor Chapman replied that when a PCSO retires, they are not being replaced. She added that we have another meeting with the Police coming up, for Councillors, and are just trying to finalise a date. Councillor Court replied that people had no idea on who we were voting for and who was standing and the turnout was only 13-14%.

Q2) It was nice to see another successful Food and Drink Festival, can you suggest that the Music Festival moves back to that position?

A2) Councillor Morgan said that he would bring this up at a future Facilities and Community Assets Team meeting.

Q3) At the Hard on Saturday night, the Police drove past at 8.25pm. The youths were being youths, but they did not stop and talk to them.

Q4) Ask the Facilities and Community Assets Team do members declare interests on that team?

A4) Councillor Morgan replied if a Councillor has an interest, yes, they do declare it.

Q5) When the dinghy park comes up, will there be an increase in parking charges?

A5) The Mayor replied that this will be discussed at a future meeting.

85. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:

Councillors Atkinson, Carr and Paveley all declared an interest in the following item, and left the room whilst discussion took place. Councillor Court took the Chair for this item only.

- 1) **Agreed** that the Colne Yacht Club can hold the Annual Firework Display on the Town Hard on Sunday 3rd November 2024.

Councillor Carr then moved, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions 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.

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

- Property Update, including Harbour Commissioners Lease and Brightlingsea Leisure Village

87. PROPERTY UPDATE:

Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners Lease - Councillor Atkinson briefed members on the update with the lease for the Brightlingsea Harbour Commissioners.

Brightlingsea Leisure Village – No further update received.

Harbour – Councillor Carr informed members that a Facebook post had stated that a barge is coming to the Town Jetty and will be berthing for trips. Lady Grace is not a barge, but a 28ft launch - the post is incorrect.

Fenn Wright – Councillor Atkinson informed members that the contract with Fenn Wright is in the process of being terminated.

88. CLOSE OF MEETING:

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.47 pm.

Chair

Date: 17th October 2024