



Wivenhoe Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 21 November 2022 at 7.30pm **Chair Approved**

Present: Cllr Kane (Chair), Cllr Burke, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Aldis, Cllr Multon, Cllr Read , Cllr Evans, Cllr Boughton, Cllr Maltby, Jo Beighton-Emms (Town Clerk), Emma Buckley (RFO), ECC Cllr Cory, CBC Cllr Burrows and Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative).

Public Questions: None

PART A

FC/11.22/01 Apologies for absence: Cllr Luxford-Vaughan and Cllr Wenaden

FC/11.22/02 Declarations of interest: None.

FC/11.22/03 Minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the Full Town Council meeting held on 17 October 2022 were proposed by Cllr Multon, seconded by Cllr Burke and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC/11.22/04 Reports from Members of County and Borough Councillors & Public Transport Representative;

The councillors considered a previously circulated report from Cllr Burrows which is attached as **Appendix B**.

Cllr Kane asked if the disruption caused by Lila Connect had really been necessary. Cllr Burrows said that this was their second roll out and explained that any profits would be used by CBC for services- the holding company is Amphora. Cllr Evans said that he had looked at Amphora's accounts and they did not appear to be very profitable.

There was not a report from Cllr Luxford-Vaughan.

The council considered a previously circulated report from Peter Kay which is attached as **Appendix C**.

Mr Kay reported that he had nothing further to add regarding the buses.

(ECC Cllr Cory arrived)

Mr Kay's report noted that the rail replacement buses used on Saturdays, when there are engineering works taking place, do not go to Colchester Town station. Cllr Read noted that this will impact on Colchester businesses. He asked if contact could be made with Greater Anglia to suggest this. Mr Kay agreed that it would cost GA nothing to make an additional stop.

The councillors considered a previously circulated report from Cllr Cory which is attached as **Appendix A**.

Cllr Cory reported that further work is being done on Asset Based Community Development by the Community 360 Team and the training and networking could link with Wivenhoe Town Council.

He also reported that there is a managed decline in roadworks and there is a surprising acceptance that the funds available are half of what is necessary. Decisions will need to be made on the budget deficit- CBC have a £4-5m deficit.

Cllr Evans asked if the procurement contracts could be reviewed. Cllr Cory responded that there was a review following which the current contract with Ringway Jacobs was extended, although he considered that the service is not good enough. Cllr Cory said that he would be happy to sign a letter or an email from WTC so that there is a co-ordinated response.

Cllr Kane explained that prior to this meeting, the council had received a presentation from Lightspeed Broadband who had informed WTC that there was no need for Lila Connect to dig up the roads as existing BT infrastructure could have been used.

Cllr Cory explained that he had been part of the government pilot project and had worked on this bid- fibre broadband was much needed in this area. Previously, BT's infrastructure was not available to be used by other providers so he couldn't understand how it could be now. Government money has been used by Lila and any income will be given to CBC for services and to supplement the budget. Cllr Aldis said that Lightspeed were claiming that they were cheaper than Amphora.

Cllr Kane said that if the disruption wasn't necessary then lessons should be learnt. Cllr Multon asked if taxpayers had funded the works. Cllr Cory confirmed yes that ECC and BT had received government funding for the works. Cllr Cory suggested that an officer from Amphora attends a WTC meeting to take questions formally. This was agreed.

Cllr Andrew said that he was pleased with the works that had been done to Wivenhoe Trail and wanted to know if there was an agreed maintenance plan. Cllr Cory said that this was a good point and one that he would chase. Cllr Andrew asked if there was any progress with proposed works to Clifton Terrace. Cllr Cory said that the Highways Panel only has 4 meetings a year. Following reports on feasibility, there needs to be an agreed design and costs. This takes time.

Cllr Andrew asked if the banning of HGVs could also go on the next agenda which was agreed.

FC/11.22/05 Update from Cllr Kane and proposal for Wivenhoe Town Council to adopt and sign up to:

- I. Updated Councillor Code of Conduct
- II. Councillor-Officer Protocol
- III. Civility and Respect Pledge- (all previously circulated)

The updated Councillor Code of Conduct, Councillor-Officer Protocol and Civility and Respect Pledge were proposed by Cllr Kane to be adopted by Wivenhoe Town Council. This was seconded by Cllr Evans with all in favour. (These will be available on the WTC website).

FC/11.22/06 Request from St Mary's Church Wivenhoe for £70 to purchase sweets for the children from St Nicholas:

It was agreed that St Mary's had been asked to consider healthier options last year. Cllr Kane proposed that WTC agree to give £70 to St Mary's Church on the understanding that they consider healthy options this year and provide WTC with an update. This was seconded by Cllr Andrew, with all in favour.

FC/11.22/07 Proposal from Cllr Andrew- To instal Cycle Parking at agreed sites in Wivenhoe. To be funded by ECC.

Cllr Andrew had previously circulated a list of proposed sites for cycle parking stands to be installed. He reported that he has highlighted 8 sites for the first stands as a priority and where there will be the most regular use of them. Cllr Andrew said that ECC have been sympathetic with his proposal to fund them although funding had not been secured yet. Cllr Read asked if WTC are installing the stands on land not owned by WTC then will the labour costs be met by WTC. Cllr Andrew confirmed that this would be the case. Cll Read also confirmed that permission to install the stands would be needed in writing from the landowners and he queried who would meet the costs of any maintenance or damage. This needs to be agreed. Cllr Cory said he would try to secure a maintenance budget.

Cllr Andrew proposed that : 'Wivenhoe Town Council supports Cllr Andrew's efforts and work to install a numbers of cycle stands, working with ECC and Cllr Cory. On the condition that ECC would be providing the funding'. This was seconded by Cllr Read, with all in favour.

(Cllrs Cory and Burrows left the meeting).

FC/11.22/08 Committees:

- a) Planning: Cllr Read reported that following the resignation of Cllr Henley more members were required for this committee.

Cllr Aldis reported that the Public Inquiry for the Hearing on the Taylor Wimpey appeal (Land at Broadfields) will now be held at the Headgate Theatre, Colchester rather than in Wivenhoe. He was disappointed that CBC had not supported WTC and said no to the change of venue. WTC now need to help residents attend the Inquiry and that WTC should have a presence every day. It was agreed that Cllr Aldis will look at the agenda and lead on which councillors can attend and when. Cllr Kane suggested a meeting so that all members can help. Members of Wivenhoe Society will also in attendance.

Cllr Aldis asked the Town Clerk to confirm on social media that the venue had been changed and that WTC had not been consulted.

Cllr Read said that other local councils will be in support. They are drafting neighbourhood plans and will query if there is a point if the WNP is overruled.

- b) Personnel: Cllr Read proposed that WTC adopt the Safeguarding Policy, which was previously circulated. This was seconded by Cllr Maltby, with all in favour. (This will be available on the WTC website).

- c) Environment: Cllr Evans reported that :

- He and Mark Halladay are working with ECC and Involve to create a biodiversity plan.

- The Biodiversity Working Group have drafted Terms of Reference which will be considered at the next Environment Committee meeting to be held on 29 November.
- The orchard initiative led by Phil Long was a success. Leutenant Col Ed Rankin will arrange a visit and take some ideas back to Merville Barracks and possibly Middlewick Ranges. This will be an effort to create a template for other local councils to use on this kind of work.
- He will contact Tarmac regarding the Tye Lane planning application with his biodiversity concerns.
- He will chase CBC on the Ferry Marsh consultation. The public exhibition to start the consultation is booked for 3 and 6 December, 4-8pm at the Royal British Legion hall.
- He thanked Andy for installing a water butt at the Scout Hut. A larger one will also be sourced and installed.
- The meeting with Anglian Water will be held on 28 February.
- The Wildflower Booklet created by the Biodiversity Working Group will be reprinted and shared with other local councils.

d) Estates: The Council considered three quotations for replacement windows for 81 and 83 High Street. These have been considered by the Estates Properties Manager who had made recommendations. The councillors considered the costs and lead times given. Cllr Boughton said that Academy Windows use locally sourced products. Cllr Aldis confirmed that the funds were available in the Repairs & Renewals Budget.

Cllr Aldis proposed that WTC proceed with the quotation from Academy Windows. This was seconded by Cllr Boughton, with all in favour.

e) Finance & Administration: Cllr Kane reported that there was no real change and that the projected underspend for the year is still £40k.

A review of fees and charges had been conducted by the Finance Committee and some increases were agreed.

The committee had agreed a £50 gift card for each member of staff.

The committee considered a Community Fund application from the Sailing Club for funds to be used towards the cost of defibrillator at the club, with public access. Cllr Kane proposed that WTC approve the payment of £300 to the Sailing Club. This was seconded by Cllr Burke, with all in favour.

FC/11.22/09 RFO Update

- a. The council considered a previously circulated RFO Report, which is attached at **Appendix D**. Cllr Evans agreed to review the invoices and payments for December. The RFO reported that the pay award for the coming year has been agreed. Also that she recommends that an online NS&I account is opened to achieve a higher rate of interest. £50k will put the new online account and the funds in the current NS&I account will then be moved to the online account.
- b. The council considered a previously circulated Bank Reconciliation which is attached as **Appendix E**.
- c. The council considered a previously circulated list of payments, which is attached as **Appendix F**.

The Bank Reconciliation and Schedule of Payments were proposed by Cllr Kane, seconded by Cllr Evans, and approved by all.

d . Budget Control Report- Considered.

Cllr Aldis requested a new First Aid box for the museum. Cllr Read asked the Town Clerk to confirm with the Estates Properties Manager how often these and the fire extinguishers are checked.

FC/11.22/10 Working Group Reports:

- a. Youth Hub: No update.
- b. Office & Yard: The Town Clerk reported that seven tenders for the contract have been received and will be considered at a meeting to be arranged with the architect.
- c. Health & Wellbeing: Cllr Multon reported that group have progressed the 'Warm Spaces' initiative and will be meeting again on 22 November. The group are also looking to expand the Walking Bus to the top of the town.
- d. Community Engagement: Cllr Multon reported that the newsletter has now been distributed.
- e. Travel & Transport: Cllr Andrew reported that he attended a EALC webinar on '20 is plenty'. 48 other parish councils have signed up.
- f. Mayoral Activities: Cllr Kane reported that the Remembrance Service was very well attended. He also attended the Oyster Festival and the opening of new glass panels at the Congregational Church.

FC/11.22/11 Town Clerk Report: The council considered a previously circulated report from the Town Clerk, which is attached as **Appendix G**.

FC/11.22/12 Date and time of the next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 19 December 2022 at 7.30pm.

FC/11.22/13 Exclusion of press and public: In accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Council is invited to consider if the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item(s) owing to the confidential nature of the business.

PART B

FC/11.22/14 Update from Cllr Kane and Cllr Read on the joint Finance Committee and Personnel Committee meeting held on 2 November 2022 regarding payroll.

FC/11.22/15 Cllr Widgery – Update from Cllr Kane.

The Town Clerk holds a separate note of this part of the meeting.

The Chair closed the meeting at 21.29 .

Appendix A

CLlr Mark Cory – Wivenhoe Town Council Report: 21/1/2022

Essex County Council matters:

1. Road Repairs/Roadworks:

Pothole Repairs: I have used my County Councillor priority scheme to raise pothole issues which have been missed in the past due to ECC priority levels/not meeting the requirement for repair. This includes areas like, Colchester Road junction with Brightlingsea Road at the traffic lights, where there area number of small potholes. Also places like Alma Street with a terrible trench like run of potholes which have not been addressed due to priority levels at ECC.

Pavements: Manor Road pavement repairs are complete. I am very pleased with the outcome, as all problem areas raised have been resurface. Despite this, I feel it is a false economy to not just do 100% of the road rather than 60%. However, I am glad, after lobbying, ECC did act.

Despite a lack of ECC action, paving slabs in Rosabell Avenue have been partly repaired and re-laid due to the ultrafast broadband work. I have checked the worst areas and am pleased to say that the trip hazards have been significantly reduced.

Highways Panel: The next meeting is 6th December. The most prominent issue for Wivenhoe, the Clifton Terrace Station Access, we still await the feasibility study to be completed in Q3/Q4, before design work can then go ahead. Both stages of work are funded. The next stage to get funding for would be the constructions phase.

2. Wivenhoe Trail:

Work has been completed the Wivenhoe Trail. I have fed back certain issues to the Council's engineer, but overall, this is a vast improvement on the previous surface deterioration.

3. HAF Activities:

The bid for HAF provision over the Christmas Holidays, from the TinyRugbySchool has been accepted. This means 30 spaces for free school meal children and low income families. The provision will be led from the Scout Hut as before.

4. Health and Wellbeing Board and Alliance Chair

I have been reappointed to the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board. This is a strategic level board but it helps me to understand the health of the Essex system and enables me to lobby on a Wivenhoe/Colchester-wide basis. Further to this, I have just been employed as the new North East Essex NHS Alliance Chair. I can explain this role further in-person, but this does give a more direct role in understanding and leading the investment in and quality of our local NHS services. I may need to declare an interest on some discussions over local health issues in the future – but I will always aim to participate and represent Wivenhoe residents in the work I do.

5. ECC School Streets

The next stages of the school streets discussions will happen at the end of November/start of December. The discussions will first involve the schools, understanding the need to provide a safer environment for pupils. I will then ensure residents are involved in understanding what

options we have. There remains funding for the schemes, but I insisted we do wide consultations first, before any options are put on the table. I will update when wider consultation beings.

6. Youth Hub Project:

Work continues to complete the Hub, overruns have occurred due to keeping the budgets tight and using local trade and volunteers.

Colchester Borough Report:

7. Budget and Autumn Statement

Colchester Borough Council's Budget remains extremely tight. In year pressures, due mainly to inflation and macro-economic changes, mean we are currently overspending. Costs need to be reduced, but this is difficult when the organisation is already very lean. The Medium Term Financial Forecast is even more grim, with a projected budget gap of £4 million in 24/25. We are currently leading a whole-scale transformation plan, which I can explain further in person. The first step, passed at CBC Cabinet on Wednesday 16th Nov, was to reduced the senior management team by two posts, saving close to £200,000. I will update you further on the changes and savings made as the transformation work continues one.

The transformation work goes hand in hand with the Council's strategic vision. CBC consulted digitally on the future of Council services in October and received a good response rate. Further focus groups and workshops will be carried out to ensure we get the public voice central to the reshaping of the Council.

The Autumn statement was not positive for District level Councils like Colchester. The following points summarise the effects on Colchester of the Chancellor's announcements:

- Increased latitude to raise Council Tax of 3% without referendum
- A 7% cap on rents for social housing, this impacts longer term social house building and borrowing
- No news on key grants like the New Homes Bonus (NHB)
- Business Rate changes and revaluation. Compensation to ease transition but likely to see income reduce for Councils.
- Investment Zones with some exceptions not proceeding further but devolution continues with a deal for Suffolk.
- Levelling Up Fund (LUF): the second round of LUF will go ahead – CBC has a bid in for this

8. Cost of Living Support:

The Warm Spaces mapping site is now live. CBC continue to coordinate Cost of Living support, whether directly supporting residents through the benefits team with direct help such as Emergency Housing Payments, to keep people in their homes during extreme hardship; but also connecting to partners in housing CBH, or communities organisations like C360.

9. Ferry Marsh:

Cllr Evans and I met again with CBC officers, Natural England and EWT reps, to discuss the consultation plans on the future management of Ferry Marsh. We now have a date and a draft

consultation leaflet soon to be published. Thanks to Cllr Evans, we now have dates for the consultation in-person event, to be signed off by the Council – Saturday 3rd Dec and Tuesday 6th Dec (hopefully 4pm-8pm).

10. Ultrafast Broadband Deployment

I have been working closely with Cllr Burrows to ensure we get answer to the scores of residents who have enquired or complained about the Ultrafast Broadband deployment. 90% of Wivenhoe roads are now covered; the tricky areas remain where the road is not registered as Highways/public and/or where land registry ownership is not clear. In a number of examples, we have supported residents through communication with VXFiber/Lila Connect and Colchester officers, to research ownership and seek permissions from land owners. This has proved successful and is the approach to be taken in most cases. Angelsea Road remains an anomaly where legal searches show now clear ownership documents from the 20th century – so historic deeds will need to be found via resident input. ‘Permission to build’ documents are now being given to land owners where responsibility is clear – this is a simplified process thereafter.

Of the circa 3,500 properties in Wivenhoe, around 1,500 are now listed as “ready for installation”. Lila Connect and Colchester Fibre see this number rising quickly towards Christmas. Ready to install means that individual households have fibre to the connector outside their home and can get it installed within days.

11. Police Patrol – updates and action

Emma Wright continues to carry out engagement stalls and Coffee with Cops in Wivenhoe. The relationship is strong and we are trying to keep her in Wivenhoe despite current personnel issues meaning that she is further spread across other parts of Colchester. Local issues have reduced since the warmer months, but Emma remain quick to respond if needed, please include WTC and Borough Councillors on issues raised with Emma. Joint working is definitely helping us to tackle short and longer term issues.

Appendix B

Cllr Michelle BURROWS

1. Teenager locked in castle park

One of our resident’s daughters got locked in the Castle Park earlier this month. She was unable to find any information about who to call/what to do. As a result of discussion and collaboration with Rosa Tanfield, Group Manager of Neighbourhood Services at CBC, a review of signage and emergency numbers has now been completed. The team are looking into getting some vinyl stickers with current numbers on but in the meantime they have printed off some signs for notice boards displaying the CBC 24hr number. They have agreed that a facebook post, reiterating the opening and closing times be done. Also, a new answer message on the Ranger’s phone has been recorded, which included the number to ring in an emergency. The resident’s daughter contacted the police, who were ‘unable to help,’ which was a rather worrying response for a young person to be given in this situation. The neighbourhood services team spoke to the police about this, as they were disappointed in their response; the police do hold a FB (fire brigade) key, which opens public spaces in emergencies such as these.

2. **Lila connect** Residents are concerned about VX fibre not being laid in their roads which are unadopted or private roads. I have spoken to the manager at Colchester VX Fibre and it has been explained that there are difficulties due to the land ownership. Colchester Fibre are working on how these roads are approached for fibre installation. This is a complex process. Residents have contacted me to say they haven't heard anything from VX Fibre about the progress being made or a timescale for this work to happen. I have asked for clarity from the team dealing with this and look forward to hearing from them soon.

3. **Chief Exec meeting with Pam Donnelly 26th October**

This centred around the cost of living crisis and what the council are doing to support residents. There is a document going into print soon with signposting and info for support available to residents. Once printing, we will collect some of these leaflets and distribute them around Wivenhoe

4. **Warm and cosy places over winter** Initially, Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group's response to opening up the Friendly Club and Café as a free warm and cosy space for everyone during the winter months was a resounding, 'Yes, of course!' However, we then thought of the complexities this might present; we have to pay for the space every week, we also have to fund tea, coffee, biscuits and pay a small amount to people who come and entertain us, as well as paying each week to hire the community bus. We don't operate at a profit but we do have to ensure that we have a constant income to cover our costs as well as to keep some money available to cover special events (such as Christmas parties, Jubilee events, fundraising activities). The other problem would be, how do we differentiate between people who can afford the £2 and who should come in for free? We felt, overall, that given everything we offer and given all the outgoings as discussed here, £2 is a very reasonable charge for everyone and provides as wide a spread as possible of the community access to this cafe.

However, I suggested to Kathleen that a possible solution to this might be to see if you can access some new funding available through Essex County Council, which is specifically to help communities to provide warm and welcoming spaces of the winter. It is called the 'Community Winter Warmth and Welcome Spaces' fund and you can apply for up to £1,000. With some of this money, you could give us money to cover the cost of some pre-paid vouchers that you could give to people who needed them so they could come along to the café. I hope this is useful.

5. **Meeting with DAA, October 27th** – I attended a meeting with Dementia Action Alliance, hosted by Colchester 360. At the end of the meeting, the groups attending discussed ideas for actions to take forward in their groups for next year. Consequently, I am going to be collaborating with Maria Blanche, Dementia and Intergenerational Lead at Essex County Council and Mark Healey, Community Enabling Officer at CBC on developing a short video to go on CBC website about 'demystifying dementia.' This intends to be accessible for ages will help to raise awareness of dementia and help signpost people on to support etc. This would hopefully be ready to launch in time for Dementia Action Week in May.

6. **In collaboration with Clare Young dementia friends and community developer.** Clare is delivering two 'dementia friends' training sessions on-line, Monday 16th January and Thursday 19th January 7pm. Directly after Christmas, I will be posting information with a link about these on-line events. Can I also ask WTC to share it on their council pages? This might also be an opportunity for all WTC councillors to attend the session, so that we can all wear a 'dementia friend' badge

with pride! With Clare Young's support, we are also going to be starting on paperwork to become a dementia friendly community.

7. Understory Community Mapping 18th November. I was invited as a result of being at the DAA meeting, to represent Wivenhoe Dementia Support Group in a community mapping session that involved organisations from around Colchester, included St Helena Hospice, Age Well East, Headway Essex, Catch 22 Housing Intervention Plan, CBC Community Enabling Team, We are the Minorities. This community mapping was about creating a map made of people and organisations working together in a place or a community. It is a map that 'helps create connections and bridges between groups to create a web of strength underpinning the community.' This map, not live yet, is something that can be used to engage with people in other communities that might be able to support us, or maybe we can offer them support. Before it goes 'live,' another meeting is being held with those organisations/people that the map shows has the greatest connections at the moment, to help further develop the map.

8. Environmental and sustainability briefing

The Environmental and Sustainability team and the Neighbourhood Services team did a presentation about the work they are doing with regards to the climate emergency. One area that they are keen to promote is the CARless pollution campaign. The neighbourhood services team would be interested in collecting information about any pollution hotspots in areas around Colchester, including Wivenhoe. My initial thoughts about areas higher in pollution would be around the two schools. What other areas do you think might also be higher in pollution?

The Neighbourhood Services team are also keen to hear from people in our communities that are already doing something positive for the environment with the aim of linking up with them and offering support/help with their projects. I have connected one resident with the team; she runs a recycling point for harder to recycle items. I would be grateful to hear from you about other people I could contact to ask if they would like to connect with Neighbourhood Services. Thank you.

The other thing to note from this meeting is that Cabinet have approved the solar farm/microgrid to be located at the Northern Gateway to go to planning stage and will, from that, explore funding options for a council-led solar farm/microgrid.

9. Pam Donnelly visits Wivenhoe 10th November

Andrea and I met with Pam Donnelly, CEO of CBC and Tom Tayler, Communities Enabling Officer for a tour of Wivenhoe. The purpose was for Pam to get an on the ground understanding of Wivenhoe and all that is going on. We showed her the area of land that Taylor Wimpey have bought, the play area on Field Way, the Ferry Marshes area, the river trail and the Church Annexe.

10. Colchester arts centre board meeting/subsequent meeting with Anthony Roberts and Vijay Patel (Consultant) 2nd November

At the board meeting I talked about our work with raising awareness about dementia. I also raised the issue of accessibility for people using wheelchairs at live gigs. I mentioned my work with adults with supported learning needs and how there is perhaps an opportunity to engage people with the arts centre. Anthony was interested in talking about my ideas further and so Anthony, Vijay and I met on Wednesday 16th November. As a result of our conversations, we have the following three projects lined up for development:

9th May 2023 for a dementia friendly bespoke performance – hopefully the first of many. This bespoke performance will include memory boxes with items relating in some way to the performance as well as other sensory elements that will help to enhance the performance for people living with dementia.

11th January for a focus group meeting with people who use wheelchairs to explore the barriers for attending live gigs at the Arts Centre.

11th April for a bespoke performance for adults with supported learning needs. If people with supported learning needs live in supported living arrangements, they are often reliant on their support workers to be aware of community activities, performances and events. The aim of this performance, and the engagement work with support workers and the people they support that will precede and inform it, is to raise awareness of the venue as a place where entertainment is available, accessible, and engaging.

11. **Meeting about rural England prosperity fund:**

Some notes from the meeting:

Prospectus published last month, **to get money, submit investment plan in November, submit 30th November.**

Government money of £500,000 over 2 years starting in April 2023. To be spent over two years. Administration of the grant is not included.

Capital projects only to support rural businesses and ‘pride of place’ in rural areas (i.e. buildings)

Eligible if you are under 30,000 pop , the fund recognises that rural areas often face specific challenges including lower productivity, poorer connectivity poorer access to key services

Examples of spend would be for rural businesses: farm wanting to diversify into glamping.

For community grant; cricket pavilion, village hall, to improve insulation in a village hall.

If this is something that you feel Wivenhoe might want to look into further, I can pass on further details.

12. **Tree Planting ceremony at University of Essex, 18th November.**

To commemorate the jubilee this year, and to commemorate the life and service of Her Majesty the Late Queen, two trees were unveiled at the University.

13. **Climate Comms for November ‘22**

- The Council have updated its sustainability webpages to provide more information on how the Council is tackling climate change and reducing its environmental impact.

- **An eCargo bike delivery service** trialling in Colchester on late night shopping evening, weekends and every day in the week before Christmas. The Council, working with the eCargo bike delivery service will offer this service, enabling town centre shoppers to have their shopping delivered to their homes either the same or the next day, enabling them to stay in the town centre for longer to enjoy the Christmas activities and to potentially leave their car at home, knowing they haven’t

got shopping to take home. Comms about this service will be published by the Council soon.

- **En-Form, Colchester's environment charity**, have acquired a building (27-29 Priory Walk, opposite the Sainsbury's) to set up a local environment centre, to provide further opportunities for outreach and engagement with the community on environmental matters. The centre for 'Learning, the Environment and Action for the Future' (LEAF) will be opening soon, with plans to hold workshops, talks and activities in the space, along with a food waste café. The space will be able to be hired out for events that organisation would like to hold in it. The Council will follow the developments of the centre, and will explore how the space can be used for any engagement around environmental issues .

- **Climate Action Challenge Fund**. Community groups, town and parish councils, charities and schools can bid for funding of up to £20,000 of funding to deliver activities that respond to key climate challenges in Essex. www.essex.gov.uk/leisure-culture-local-heritage/culture-and-communities for more details and application. The Council are keep to offer help with applications.

Appendix C

PUBLIC TRANSPORT REP'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2022

Peter Kay

BUS

The further First Essex service cuts from 31.10.22 represent (when combined with those of 17.4.22) the most disgraceful thing ever done by a local bus operator in our time. Whilst other operators are still receiving the special government grant money to keep up service levels, First decided early this year to stop taking it and make big cuts instead. Secondly the cuts are far bigger in most cases than the 20% loss of custom they report compared to pre-covid (and the level of *revenue* loss must be *less* than 20%, as the biggest decline is in Sen Cit passholder travel). And thirdly whilst they claim they cannot afford to run a proper service on routes where people have no alternative to First, they are happily wasting three buses all day on new unnecessary routes whose only purpose is to abstract custom from Arriva in the hope that this will push Arriva into a net loss and drive them out of Colchester (not the first time they have tried this). From the late 90s to the late 2010s First management made big positive improvements to Colchester services, but their successors now only seem interested in enforcing a spiral of decline.

What they have done to the 87, in line with this policy, is convert it from its proper purpose into being focused on a Horkesley Heath - South Courts operation, preferring to get a handful of passengers on the Horkesley Heath section just to spite Arriva, than to run a proper service to Wivenhoe and Brightlingsea. Over six hours a day Mon-Sat there is no only one bus an hour to Brightlingsea and only one direct bus an hour between Colchester and Wivenhoe. (Contrast the 4 buses an hour to Brightlingsea they gladly ran when bullying Hednham off the route!). Pre-2020 Wivenhoe had 3-5 direct buses an hour in the daytime. They are now effectively trying to make the 61/s1, with its 35-40 min journey times, the *main* Wivenhoe route. Some people have always refused to use this slow route (7mph) to the town centre.

However the worse sufferers are the 800+ Uni students who come out to the Uni in the am peak and back home 1500-1830. The combined service at these times is now insufficient to convey the numbers (the s1, perversely, has been reduced at peak times but maintained as before offpeak!). In early October First

effectively sold them annual passes on a fraudulent basis. Also the crowded state of the remaining buses brings worse late running.

Wivenhoe-Uni passengers will also now have longer average waits at stops coming home, a further disincentive to bus use on such journeys.

It is impossible to raise any political pressure from the University as the students are hopeless on local issues and the powers that be are only interested in transport policy waffle. (And the new Transport Officer like her predecessor seems to have a we-don't-answer-emails policy).

Whilst Wivenhoe is too car-minded to have ever used its previous good services to the extent that might have reasonably been anticipated, there is now no hope of anything progressive on the transport front.

RAIL

It has come to light this month that GA are now refusing to provide a replacement bus service from Tendring stations and Wivenhoe to Colchester Town on those Saturdays when there are no trains. Instead their buses now run from Hythe to North Station *going past* Town station without stopping! GA claim this is alright because those wanting the town centre can go on their bus to North Station and then get an ordinary bus back down the same road to the town centre! (Total journey time Wiv to town centre 40 mins instead of 20 mins).

This is further evidence of the contempt that GA timetablers show to Colchester Town passengers whenever they can – they clearly haven't learnt anything from the Jan 2021 episode when they withdrew all Town services (the only service in the whole GA area withdrawn totally in the winter lockdown) but were forced to rapidly restore them by political pressure. On normal Saturdays the traffic from Tendring to Town is much more in the middle part of the day than Mon-Fri. Of course the train companies are not at all concerned by the big loss of custom at weekends, because they get compensated by NR and only the public suffer.

Appendix D

RFO Finance Report Update 31.10.2022 for November FTC

The system has been closed for October 22. Thanks to Cllr Kane who will be checking the October accounts on Monday.

The NJC pay award agreement has been confirmed and has been updated for the November Payroll. The agreement was for £1,925 increase per pay scale and has been backdated to 1 April 2022. These agreements are within the set budget for the year. Personnel & Finance approved the £50 Christmas gift voucher for staff.

No update has yet been received from EALC about the submission of the loan application, JBE has chased again.

The Finance Committee discussed a current prediction of a £39,822 surplus for the year 22/23. This is mainly due to savings on loan repayments and lower expenditure on repairs and maintenance and legal for

planning.

Fee's and charges for the year 23/24 were discussed as per the report. Finance committee would like to recommend the following increases from 1 April 2023:

William Loveless Hall	- 7.5%
Cemetery	- 5%
Canoe Spaces	- 5%

The current rate of interest on the bank accounts is very low for the NS&I account (0.4%). I have spoken to NS&I and they have been recommending to all customers to open an online account which currently has an interest rate of 1.8%. This is an Income Bond Trust Account and the funds are 100% protected. The Finance committee agreed to the recommendation of opening an online account. There will be two signatories required for any transactions, and they will be the same as the current NS&I account. (Cllr Kane, Cllr Maltby, Town Clerk & RFO). I would recommend opening this account with £50,000 initially and once open the allocation of the Councils funds can be reassessed.

Two applications for the Community fund had been received. The Finance committee would like approval for £300 towards the Sailing Clubs application. The application from Historia Normannis Colchester, was rejected as it did not meet all the criteria. The council would like to offer the group to attend a future fair to help the group raised awareness in Wivenhoe.

The Mayors Civic Service raised £200 from donations, the Mayor would like these funds to be added to the Community fund, which is currently left at £280, if this month's application is approved.

Please advise of any budgets/plans that are needed for next year, as work on the final budget for 23/24 is completed in December.

a) **Bank Reconciliations** –

30/09/2022	Confirmed Bank Balances	£743,517
31/10/2022	Confirmed Bank Balances	£702,085

b) **Payments** – That the circulated Schedule of payments be approved. ~~£42,920.35~~ **£43,353.49**
updated 21.11.2022(See attached draft schedule)

c) **Budgetary Control Reports are available on the system up to 31/10/2022**

The council has received £443,445 (98%) of its budgeted income and spent £203,018 (58%) of its budgeted expenditure to date.

Appendix E- See Attached

Appendix F- See attached

Appendix G

Town Clerk's Report- Full Town Council Meeting 21 November 2022

1. Staffing: No update. Cllr Read and I had a meeting on 10 November and discussed the safeguarding policy which will be proposed.
2. Further work is being done to update the website. The new site will be launched in the new year.
3. The closing date for tenders for the office redevelopment is 18 November although there may be requests for an extension. There has been lots of interest and site visits from 9 construction companies. A meeting will be set up with the working group and the architects to decide on the criteria for selection.
4. A Notice of Vacancy was published following the resignation of Cllr Henley. The closing date for members of the public to call an election is 23 November.
5. Further meetings have been held by the Health & Wellbeing WG to discuss 'warm spaces'. Suitable venues have now been agreed and after an appeal on Facebook there are a number of volunteers involved. Graham has submitted an application for funding of £1000 to ECC.
6. The skate park contract has now been finalised. A date for works to start is to be agreed.
7. Works are progressing well on the Sensory Garden will raised beds currently being built.