



Wivenhoe Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 16 February 2026 at 7.00pm **Chair Approved**

Present: Cllr Guy (Chair), Cllr Hailes-Morley, Cllr Burke, Cllr Evans, Cllr Aldis, Cllr Maltby, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Widgery, Cllr Boughton, Cllr Luxford-Vaughan, ECC Cllr Cory, Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative, Jo Beighton-Emms (Town Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Public Questions: None

PART A

FC/02.26/01 Election of Deputy Mayor: Cllr Burke proposed Cllr Widgery as Deputy Mayor. This was seconded by Cllr Hailes-Morley. Two councillors abstained. Carried.

FC/02.26/02 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Blomeley and Harmon. Their apologies were accepted.

FC/02.26/03 Declarations of interest: None.

FC/02.26/04 Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the extraordinary full town council meeting held on 6 January 2026 were proposed by Cllr Guy, seconded by Cllr Burke and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

The minutes of the full town council meeting held on 19 January 2026 were proposed by Cllr Widgery, seconded by Cllr Evans and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC/02.26/05 Reports from Members of County and City Councillors & Public Transport Representative:

- a) The councillors considered a previously circulated report from Cllr Cory which is attached as **Appendix A**.
Cllr Cory said that the £6m funding from ECC for Highways was disappointing. He will be circulating more information on the School Streets project.
- b) The councillors considered a previously circulated report from Cllr Luxford-Vaughan which is attached as **Appendix B**.
Cllr Luxford-Vaughan reported that she had attended a briefing on the NPPF and will circulate details to the Planning Committee.

Cllr Burke raised a concern on the location of the new SIDs particularly the one at The Cross which is close to the mini roundabout. Cllr Cory said that the SID s can be turned around and that the locations had depended on where was available space. The aim is still to add more on Rectory Road and Rectory Hill. The data will be collated and considered by Speedwatch.

Cllr Andrew raised the issue of potholes on Philip Road. Cllr Guy offered help to Cllr Cory to get them filled in-house.

- c) The councillors considered a previously circulated report from Peter Kay, Public Transport Representative, which is attached as **Appendix C**.

FC/02.26/06 Proposal by Cllr Guy- Proposal by Cllr Guy: 'That on the recommendation of the Minibus Working Group WTC commits to continue to support the community by providing a minibus and that a new minibus is purchased to replace the current one which is nearing the end of its serviceable life. The EMR for the new minibus is £28,206.'

Cllr Guy reported on the issues with the current minibus. The EMR were raised for a purchase of a new minibus only. A hybrid vehicle has been considered but they are not yet a viable option. A replacement minibus can be purchased and adapted as necessary. It was agreed that use of the minibus by residents and the rate of pay needs to be reviewed.

It was agreed that the word new would be changed to 'replacement' in the proposal. Cllr Guy made the amended proposal. This was seconded by Cllr Hailes-Morley with all in favour. Carried.

FC/02.26/07 Committees:

- a. Planning: Cllr Burke reported the February meeting had not gone ahead as it was not quorate.
- b. Finance & Personnel: Cllr Guy reported that the next meeting will be held on 23 February 2026.
- c. Environment: Cllr Evans reported that he has a Teams meeting with Tarmac on 3 March on pollution issues. The University are conducted water testing. The Biodiversity Working Group has a meeting with Taylor Wimpey.
- d. Estates: Cllr Burke reported that S106 funding will be discussed at a meeting planned with CCC.

FC/02.26/08 RFO Report:

- a. RFO Report: The councillors considered a previously circulated report which is attached as **Appendix D**. The councillors discussed the increasing costs of elections.
- b. Approve list of payments previously circulated: The councillors considered the previously circulated list of payments which is attached as **Appendix E**. The list was proposed for payment by Cllr Guy. This was seconded by Cllr Hailes-Morley, with all in favour. Carried.
- c. Approve the Bank Reconciliation: The councillors considered the previously circulated Bank Reconciliation which is attached as **Appendix F**. It was proposed for approval by Cllr Widgery. This was seconded by Cllr Burke, with all in favour. Carried.
- d. The Budget: Considered.

FC/02.26/09 Working Groups:

- a) Wiv Works: Cllr Guy reported that Cllr Harmon is looking at funding for the maps. She is also arranging a High Street clean up in March.
- b) Community Hub: Cllr Guy reported that once the feasibility study has been received a consultation process will be planned.
- c) Devolution: No update.

- d) Health & Wellbeing: Cllr Hailes-Morley reported the group are arranging two events- the International Women’s Day lunch on 9 March with a guest speaker and a Men’s Health Day on 28 April. The Town Clerk will arrange NHS Provide health checks.
- e) Community Engagement: Cllr Guy reported that the next meeting has been arranged for 9 March to discuss the newsletter.
- f) Car Parks: No further update.
- g) Sporting Trust: No update.
- h) Wivenhoe Community Charity: Cllr Hailes-Morley reported that she is working on the website which should be going live soon.
- i) Events: Cllr Guy reported that the group are arranging a Picnic on the Park and an Annual Town meeting on 9 May. He will be contacting a potential guest speaker.
- j) Local Plan: No Further Update. Cllr Luxford-Vaughan expressed concern that a councillor had voiced opinions at a meeting which did not align with WTC’s response on the Local Plan.
- k) Mayoral Activities: Cllr Guy reported that he will be attending an event at St Mary’s Church and the High Sheriff’s Annual Awards in Chelmsford.

FC/02.26/10 Town Clerk’s Report: The Town Clerk reported on staffing and the tender process for the Mede Way playpark.

FC/02.26/11 Date and time of the next meeting: The next meeting will be held on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7pm.

FC/02.26/12 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

None

Appendix A

Cllr Mark Cory – Wivenhoe Town Council Reports – 16/02/2026

Essex County Council Report:

1. Road Repairs

Completed Repairs:

- Colchester Road sunken drain near the Flag Pub repaired after my requests.
- Part-pavement resurfacing on Ernest Road close to the Co-op, opposite to the Co-op outside numbers 10A-6 and from the 15-17 on the Co-op side.
- Belle Vue Road significant drain pothole repaired outside numbers 19 and 19A.

Planned Repairs:

- Urgent winter repairs requested for Harvey Road, Heath Road, Elmstead Road, Amberley Close, Manor Road, Broome Grove and Chaney Road.
- Blocked drains reported in various locations – meeting residents near the old surgery – about the flooded footpath from The Avenue/Cross through to Spring Lane/Tower Road.

- I encourage residents to help report issues as this adds weight to the lobbying, especially about roads that need full resurfacing, such as Heath Road. Reports should be made to: [Tell us - Essex County Council](#)

2. **Pavement Repairs**

Completed Repairs:

- Part-pavement resurfacing on Ernest Road close to the Co-op, opposite to the Co-op outside numbers 10A-6 and from the 15-17 on the Co-op side.

Repairs in-progress:

- Bowes Road – opposite Millfield School as part of the School Streets work, I asked that the pavement be resurfaced.

Repairs reported:

- Bowes Road opposite Trinity Close.
- Ernest Road top end reported to me by Cllr Widgery.
- Ash Grove small sections.
- Milford Close kerbing.

3. **School Streets**

Millfield School works have started today! See below for the final plans. I have asked about the speed cushions originally part of the scheme along Rectory Hill, which have since fallen-away.

As I have reported publicly, the Broome Grove scheme has been postponed till Easter. I have reported the badly potholed road in the meantime.

[Bowes Road Wivenhoe | Safer, Greener, Healthier](#)

[Broome Grove Wivenhoe | Safer, Greener, Healthier](#)

4. **Vehicle Activated Signs – Speed Signs**

Thank you to the Town Clerk and team for securing the contractor who has successfully installed the signs. I will follow up with ECC to secure more sites, most needed being Rectory Road/Hill – as evidenced by Speedwatch.

Andrea and I added the final amounts for the installation of the poles from our CCC Locality Budgets. A good team effort, thanks to the Town Clerk, Cllr Andrew and the support of the Transport Sub-Committee, and delivered fully-funded by your three Councillors Andrea Luxford-Vaughan, Sean Kelly and I.

5. **Street trees**

No update – however, I have put £625 of funding into WTC for the acquiring of street trees once permissions are gained.

6. **ECC Highways Chaos**

I have requested that Colchester City Council Scrutiny Panel calls in Essex County Council Highways to be scrutinised over their management of our Highways and the future contract they are looking to sign (7 years and over £2billion cost). I have specifically raised Roadwork Co-ordination as we have suffered from roadwork chaos in Wivenhoe as a result of numerous overlapping works and diversions. I raised the issue of conflicting roadworks to Essex Highways in advance and during the issues two weeks ago. Colchester Planning Enforcement Team acted first on my request to alter the Traffic Lights patterns to help improve things. See below a laughable response I received from Essex County Council.

“Dear Cllr Cory

Further to Dale’s email below, our Streetworks Team have advised that looking at the whole of January (up to now) on one network, there have been no visible clashes/multiple sets of PLS (portable light signals) or traffic management in Wivenhoe that we are aware of.

Sometimes utility works are urgent and must be undertaken immediately without notice. In these instances our Permit Team are unable to coordinate the works or impose restrictions to prevent disruption.

The ongoing Cadent works are phased closures, however they have had some engineering difficulties on site as the excavation is significantly deeper than their plans show. The Permit Team duration challenged an extension and requested works are re-planned with this in mind.

There was one emergency closure due to a gas leak (ref. AZ1031001490264-01) from 02/02 – 05/02 on Rectory Road, which would not have directly affected any diversion route.”

7. Clingoe Hill

I still await an answer on the remaining roadwork signs and 40 mph limit on Clingoe Hill. Meanwhile, I can share an answer from the new Cabinet Member, Cllr Mark Platt, about the Bus Lane, asked by an informed resident - See below:

It is good to see infrastructure ahead of development, but the timeline is such that I cannot see much happening with the RTS in the short-term. The TRO can be made by ECC, but the bus lane will not be used until the development of a substantial amount of housing is occupied. This could be many years away and what happens to buses when they get to the top of Clingo Hill and proceed towards Hythe and Colchester; additional bus priority at the triple mini roundabouts?

The operation of the Greenstead Roundabout and the roads leading to and from it are vitally important to the flow of traffic, public transport operation, walking and cycle movements in the area. The new Clinghoe Hill bus lane has priority bus signals the end of the lane, which allows the bus out head of traffic on the approach to Greenstead Roundabout and allows drivers the choice as to which way they pass through the junction. We have also identified to the developer, Latimer, that this location is sensitive and expect them to come forward with mitigation for all modes in this area. When we have received the planning application and its Transport Assessment, we can begin to assess the impact and the required mitigation.

I would hope that Homes England and the relevant authorities insist on Phase 2 of the Link Road being built. I would reiterate that the developer LATIMER may wish to pursue a phased planning approach if no funding for the Link Road is forthcoming in the short-term. Would the authorities agree with this approach? Do you know who would actually deal with the planning process before Local Government Reorganisation in 2027/28?

The approach to the Link Road is that the adopted Development Plan policy requires full funding and planning to have been secured before the Tendring Colchester Borders Garden Community (TCBGC) Joint Committee can approve any applications for development at TCBGC. The Link Road has planning-approved in November 2021 and a submission to Homes England has been made for grant funding towards Phase 2 which alongside a developer contribution to cover the cost of Phase 2 delivery. With a positive decision on funding the aim is to commence construction in late 2027, with completion in 2030. Prior to Local Government Reorganisation the established TCBGC Joint Committee made up of

members from Essex County Council, Colchester City Council and Tendring District Council would determine the application.

Colchester City Council Report

1. Vanessa Drive Wall

As reported last time, the subsiding wall by Trickett Court in Vanessa Drive was causing public concern. It has had temporary work and surveys to understand the full work required. A safety cordon was added and works are being priced up by Colchester Borough Homes currently.

2. CCC Budget Preparations

[We have a final Budget Report that I will present to Colchester City Council – Full Council Meeting on 25th February. Approximately £3.5 million of budget pressures were identified on top of a £3.3 million budget gap. The Government Fair Funding Settlement gave us a small amount more, but this has been mainly used on inflationary pay rises and closing the gap. We will see a 2.99% percent CCC Council Tax increase. Essex raised theirs by not by the maximum but have the added Social Care premium. No dramatic changes to service will be seen at CCC and most grants still remain the same.](#)

3. Local Plan

[Andrea can update on the moving plans and the connection with the Link Road etc.](#)

4. LGR

[All elections are now going ahead across the County and the Country following a decision by the government earlier this month and today. We will hear in a matter of weeks \(by the end of March\) about the final LGR make-up of Essex.](#)

[Have your say | Essex Local Government Reorganisation Hub](#)
[Proposals | Essex Local Government Reorganisation Hub](#)

5. Locality Budget Spend

My CCC Locality Budget was split three ways:

- £625 for Speed Indicator Signs installation - WTC
- £625 for Street Tree planting project – WTC
- £750 A Therapy Space for Broomgrove Junior School (SEND Focus)
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6. Jetty Repairs

As you will have seen, the Jetty repairs by Colchester City Council have begun. CCC Engineer Simon High is keeping us updated. Once complete, the decking will be pressure washed to ensure a clean and safe surface is returned. I include his last update below from 10th Feb:

Dear Cllr Cory,

A successful start to the works. The jetty is now straight! Weather looks poor for the next week or so but as stated before, we'll jump on the welding and painting immediately. We will also jet wash the surface on completion as it is currently pretty slippery.

Kind regards

Simon.

Appendix B

Cllr Luxford-Vaughan Report February 2026

Spatial Development Strategy

Initial meetings have taken place between ECC, Southend and Thurrock. North and South Essex representatives will now be included. Gary Guiver (TDC) will represent North Essex and is coordinating further engagement across all authorities.

Garden Community

The link road is now £86m over budget. A HIF Material Amendment requesting an additional £65m has been submitted, leaving a £21m shortfall for Latimer. There has been no government response and no legal route to recover costs from Latimer. Colchester has signed a memorandum of understanding that heavily favours Latimer, potentially creating a significant gap in the £547m infrastructure budget. I have raised concerns and am working with others to call in the decision, though ECC and TDC have already signed it off.

The planning application is still awaited; Latimer appears to be delaying submission to increase pressure on government regarding the HIF amendment.

City Centre Masterplan

Work continues to identify a site for the new bus interchange. Britannia Car Park and Vineyard Street Car Park are now unlikely due to access and heritage constraints. Re-use of the former Queen Street bus station (Painters Yard) remains under consideration. The St Botolph's Circus redesign is progressing through ECC Highways towards tender.

Sustainable Transport

Progress on the EV strategy is paused pending ECC feedback on the chargepoint delivery contract, with collaboration terms still unresolved. Work continues with ECC and the Colchester Travel Plan Club to promote park and ride, including possible extended hours for events. A bus-use promotion campaign is in development.

Several s106-funded schemes are advancing, including Walk with Words, King Edward Quay, Swing Basin and improvements to the Wivenhoe Trail. Purchase of the Portal Precinct secure bike park is nearing completion, with works expected in March/April 2026. Cycling promotion, shared mobility initiatives and redevelopment of the Walk Colchester website are also underway.

Infrastructure

The Norwich to Tilbury NSIP is now at the examination stage.

Consultations

- Draft NPPF response is being prepared. Once my notes are shared with Colchester officers, I will circulate to the planning committee, as we should consider submitting our own response.
- Streamlining Statutory Consultations closed on 13 January.
- A draft response on permitted development rights for EV charging has been submitted for approval.

Appendix C

TRANSPORT REP'S REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

The first stage of the ECC government-funded 'Bus Service Improvement Plan' service improvements comes into effect on 22.2.26 and involves the Tendring and Harlow areas. The Tendring changes are largely minor, involving additional early morning and later evening journeys, and the introduction of Sunday journeys on some routes. The one major change is the introduction of an hourly Clacton-Brightlingsea service. The only improvement applicable to Wivenhoe is the increasing of the weekday evening 74b service to hourly (vice two-hourly), and later last Sunday 74 journeys. Even these are not likely to attract more than the odd extra Wivenhoe passenger, especially as they do not stop to pick up at the usual town centre stops.

A subsequent stage of the improvements will cover the Colchester area, but on the basis of the Tendring results being related largely to ECC-supported routes, it is unlikely to result in any change to Wivenhoe's other (all commercial) services.

Re ECC's enthusiasm on providing P&R facilities at the GC, and recent flannel from them on how P&R usage in Essex is prospering, it is interesting to see that in the real world from next month the Chelmer Valley service is being reduced to a Mon-Fri daytime only operation!

Appendix D

RFO Finance Report Update for February 2026 FTC

The signed precept request has been submitted to CCC.

An election has been called for March, the previous election expense was £8,235. The second election this year will take the election budget to £16,470. The 2025/2026 election budget was £2,500, meaning this year we would have overspent by £13,970 on elections. At year end the council will have to decide if this needs to be taken from reserves.

The VAT return upto 31 December 2026 has been submitted and HMRC have refunded this in February. Aviva have contributed towards the car park fencing in January and the arborist report that was undertaken. The original funding towards legal costs from Aviva has now been spent and to date the Council has now incurred £750 expenditure for the High St car park dispute on legal advice.

b) Payments – That the circulated schedule of payments be approved.

Receipts – To approve the receipts reports for Cashbook one –

01/01 – 31/01/2026	£62,324.79
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c) Bank Reconciliations –

30/11/2025	Confirmed Bank Balances	£595,861
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31/12/2025	Confirmed Bank Balances	£579,818
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31/01/2026	Confirmed bank Balances	£528,064
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d) Budgetary Control Reports at 31.01.2026

The planned income budget was £574,609, to date we have received £614,224. This is mainly due to: £1,000 – additional bank interest received, £1,000 extra rental income, £37,000 grants and donations received.

The planned expenditure budget was £553,889, to date we have spent £498,535 from the budget and £34,000 from reserves.

Community Expenses are currently underspent, this is mainly due to underspends on website expenditure, community funds and the council newsletter.

Civic Expenses are overspent, this is due to elections and hospitality expenses.

Minibus budget is overspent, this is due to lower donations received, due to the ongoing mechanical issues.

The minibus working group has been discussing the minibus replacement.

Cemetery income is expected to be £1,000 lower than the original budget.

Mede Way play area donation for £20,000 has been received and moved to reserves.

Appendix E- See attached

Appendix F- See attached.