



Wivenhoe Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 20 April 2026 at 7.00pm **Chair Approved**

Present: Cllr Widgery (Chair), Cllr Hailes-Morley, Cllr D Burke, Cllr S Burke, Cllr Andrew, Cllr Boughton, Cllr Smith, Cllr Luxford-Vaughan, Cllr Garland, Cllr Harmon, Cllr Aldis, Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative), Jo Beighton-Emms, Town Clerk and Emma Buckley, RFO.

Public Questions: None

PART A

FC/04.26/01 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Evans and Guy. Their apologies were accepted.

FC/04.26/02 Declarations of interest: None.

FC/04.26/03 Minutes of the previous meetings:

The minutes of the full town council meeting held on 16 March 2026 were proposed by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr Garland and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC/04.26/04 Reports from Members of County and City Councillors & Public Transport Representative:

- a) Cllr Cory had not provided a report.
- b) Cllr Kelly had not provided a report.
Cllr Luxford-Vaughan reported that Cllr Garland has been working with her on the response to the TCBGC consultation.
- c) A previously circulated report from Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative) is attached as **Appendix A**. This was considered.

FC/04.26/05 Committees:

- a. Planning: Cllr Burke reported that the committee had considered the outline planning application for the site on Elmstead Road and have raised concerns regarding the land being offered for the new cemetery.
The committee are disappointed with the outcome of the application on Park Road which WTC had strongly objected to.
Cllrs Burke and Luxford-Vaughan have met to discuss the latest Call for Sites with the next meeting planned for 28 April with officers from CCC. They will raise concerns regarding the additional housing proposed north of the current Cala Homes site.
- b. Finance & Personnel: Cllr Hailes-Morley thanked the RFO for her work on the year-end. The Asset Register needs to be approved for 2026/7.
The Committee have considered the hire charge for the Art Trail and the use of the boards and agreed on a rate which takes staff time into account.
The updated NALC contracts are now in effect and pay rises actioned from 1 April 2026. These are within the budget.
Cllr Hailes-Morley wanted to thank the WTC staff and recommended training to the new councillors.

The new minibus is now being used and has been very well received. The working group will be considering bookings and charging rates.

- c. Environment: No update.
- d. Estates: Cllr Burke reported that she had attended a meeting with Cllr Guy regarding the land at the Taylor Wimpey site set aside for sports pitches.
The new playpark at Mede Way is due to be completed by 16 July.
The Mede Way Working Group are now considering the consultation for the Community Hub and have asked an architect for drawings which can be used for this.
There was some negativity on social media about the skate park, but Andy quickly made the necessary repairs.
The issue with the signage at the car park with the new charges had been an issue- the signs were put up without our knowledge and then the links to the payment system didn't work. The Town Clerk is working with CCC to resolve this.

Cllr Aldis arrived.

FC/04.26/06 RFO Report:

- a. RFO Report: No report provided.
- b. Approve list of payments previously circulated: The councillors considered the previously circulated list of payments which is attached as **Appendix B**. The list was proposed for payment by Cllr Hailes-Morley. This was seconded by Cllr Burke, with all in favour. Carried.
- c. Approve the Bank Reconciliation: The councillors considered the previously circulated Bank Reconciliation which is attached as **Appendix C**. It was proposed for approval by Cllr Hailes-Morley. This was seconded by Cllr Burke, with all in favour. Carried.
- d. The Budget: Considered.

FC/04.26/07 Working Groups:

- a) Wiv Works: Cllr Harmon reported that she is looking for funding. The project received good feedback in response to the article in the newsletter. Quotes are being obtained for the map design, website and printing. A local business breakfast is being planned.
The High Street clean-up will coincide with the river clean-up.
- b) Community Hub: No further update
- c) Devolution: Cllr Luxford-Vaughan reported that there will be 5 unitary authorities in Essex. The mayoral election will be in 2028.
- d) Health & Wellbeing: Cllr Hailes-Morley reported that the next event is Men's Health Day on 28 April, with all welcome to attend.
- e) Community Engagement: The Town Clerk reported that there will now be a monthly bulletin. Councillors reported issues with the delivery of the newsletter which the RFO will deal with.
- f) Car Parks: No further update.
- g) Sporting Trust: No further update.
- h) Wivenhoe Community Charity: No further update.
- i) Events: The Town Clerk reported that the next events are the Annual Town Meeting and the brass band and BBQ on the KGV on Saturday 9 May.
- j) Local Plan: No further update.
- k) Mayoral Activities: No further update.

FC/04.26/08 Town Clerk's Report: The Town Clerk reported on staffing.

FC/04.26/09 Date and time of the next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting will be the Annual Council Meeting on Monday 18 May 2026 at 7pm.

FC/04.26/10 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.

The meeting closed at 19.51

PART B

None

Appendix A

PUBLIC TRANSPORT REP'S REPORT APRIL 2026

BUS

ECC has published the decisions on their 2025/6 'Love Your Bus' grants. As anticipated they do not include anything for improving urban commercial services.

The Stansted X20 service has a completely revised timetable on weekdays from 13th April.

TRAIN

Transport East gave publicity in March to their report on the Colchester - Clacton / Walton corridor, which a wider review of services in East Anglia had concluded was the poorest service in the region compared to potential demand, but could be enhanced with a Clacton - Colchester Town stopping service each hour, without any infrastructural improvements being required. This of course is exactly what I put forward in my 2019 report sent to GA as part of the Tendring rail group and WTC evidence to the then timetable review exercise, which GA management refused to read (and the timetable review was abandoned anyway because of covid). I have now sent a copy of it to the ECC councillor who represents Essex on the Transport East panel, who has acknowledged. What chance there is of achieving anything now will depend on how much the new national railway takes any interest in improving neglected services.

Appendix B – See attached

Appendix C – See attached