



Wivenhoe Town Council

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

Present: Cllr Hailes-Morley (Chair), Cllr Aldis, Cllr Evans, Cllr Luxford-Vaughan, Cllr Andrew, Cllr D Burke, Cllr S Burke, Cllr Smith, ECC Cllr Cory, ECC Cllr Kelly, Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative) and Emma Buckley, RFO. One member of the public.

Public Questions: None

PART A

FC/07.26/01 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Harmon, Boughton, Garland and Guy. Their apologies were accepted.

FC/07.26/02 Declarations of interest: None.

FC/07.26/03 Minutes of the previous meetings:

The minutes of the town council meeting held on 15 June 2026 were proposed by Cllr Evans, seconded by Cllr Smith and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC/07.26/04 Reports from Members of County and City Councillors & Public Transport Representative:

- a) Cllr Cory provided a report, attached as **Appendix A**. Cllr Cory is currently working with the biodiversity group to plant on the pathway near the Co-Op car park, to avoid cars parking on the path. Cllr Burke reported issues with the parking and emergency access on Anchor Hill, as the yellow lines are faded, Cllr Cory will report to CCC. Cllr Cory will meet with the environment committee for further discussions with CCC about the cycle path.
- b) Cllr Kelly had not provided a report. A motion has been put forward to CCC for them to address the top themes that were priority from the recent local consultation, with the responses to be published to maintain public engagement. There were over 3,000 responses, a big increase from the previous 60.

A previously circulated report from Cllr Luxford-Vaughan is attached as **Appendix B**. Cllr Luxford Vaughan is still going through the development consultation detail and will be attending the next meeting in August.

- c) A previously circulated report from Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative) is attached as **Appendix C**. This was considered. WTC to advertise the free bus travel for children in August.

Cllr Luxford Vaughan, Cory and Kelly left the meeting to attend CCC's meeting. (19:29)

FC/07.26/05 Committees:

- a. Planning: Cllr D Burke reported that three companies have been contacted for a neighbourhood plan review.

- b. Finance & Personnel: No update.
- c. Environment: Cllr Evans reported that the Biodiversity Group are still finalising working with Taylor Wimpey on a transfer of land at the Broadfields development for a nature reserve. They are waiting for confirmation about the field north of the quarry and its habitat protection scheme.
- d. Estates: Cllr D Burke reported that the skatepark currently has regular maintenance from ground staff. Estates are investigating different surfaces for when it requires replacing.

The second phase of cemetery wall repairs will be progressed, the funds are in reserves.

The temperatures in the office over the recent heatwaves have been unbearable and estates are looking into the cost of aircon units.

The funding officer is looking at possible sources for benches at Mede Way play park.

Cllr Evans reported on the next allotment inspection will be held on 10 September and four letters were issued at the previous inspection.

FC/07.26/06 RFO Report:

- a. RFO Report: No report provided. The RFO reported that VAT return had been submitted for June. A new process will be put in place for damage deposits as some deposits have not been refunded.
- b. Approve list of payments and receipts previously circulated: The councillors considered the previously circulated list of payments which is attached as **Appendix D**, this has been checked by Cllr Evans. The list and receipt reports for 01.03.2026 – 30.0.2026, was proposed for payment by Cllr Evans. This was seconded by Cllr S Burke, with all in favour. Carried.
- c. Approve the Bank Reconciliation: The bank reconciliation of £583,395.90 is attached as **Appendix E**, was proposed by Cllr Evans. This was seconded by Cllr S Burke, with all in favour as an accurate record.
- d. The Budget: Considered.

Cllr S Burke agreed to carry out the checks for August.

FC/07.26/07 Working Groups:

- a) Wiv Works: Cllr Harmon reported that the event on 14 July was successful. A local business donated refreshments and there is potential funding opportunities from attendees.
- b) Devolution: No update
- c) Health & Wellbeing: Cllr Hailes-Morley asked for more members, Cllr S Burke agreed to join the group.
- d) Community Engagement & Events: Cllr Hailes-Morley reported that the newsletter is being finalised. The Mede Way event was successful and well attended by the community. Cllr D Burke gave thanks to a member of staff that had collected rubbish at the weekend after social media posts. Discussions were had about the current facilities and potential improvements for the youth within Wivenhoe. Local policing was also discussed, Cllr Hailes-Morley will try and arrange a meeting with them.

- e) Car Parks: All postcodes have now been added to the system as requested. Two weeks' notice will be given to the public, before the charges are introduced.
- f) Sporting Trust: No further update.

FC/07.26/08 Wivenhoe Community Charity- Cllr Hailes-Morley reported that donations have been made towards fitness sessions, a new parents' group and for first aid kits.

FC/07.26/09 Mayor's Report- A report from Cllr Hailes-Morley is attached as **Appendix F**. A suggestion for a working group for local crime was made and a request for the local police to attend a meeting with the councillors will be requested.

FC/07.26/10 Town Clerk's Report: The report is attached as **Appendix G**.

FC/07.26/11 Date and time of the next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 17 August 2026 at 7pm.

FC/07.26/12 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

The chair closed the meeting at 21:00

Appendix A

Cllr Cory Report

Essex County Council Report:

1. Road Repairs

- Under the new Reform administration, they have promoted a pothole emergency campaign with increased spending. I was able to nominate two Wivenhoe roads. Heath Road and Valfreda Way were the areas with the highest reports for a street. Alma Street would be my next priority.
- Reform have removed other schemes where members were able to get pavement repairs and historic issues sorted. I had used this to get pavements repaired up until May.
- Highways Panel are under review and could also be scrapped in the future.
- The Avenue drain was "repaired" after my report, with the whole drain being tarmacked over. I am chasing Highways for an assessment on drainage in that area now.

2. Pavement Repairs

- Bowes Road opposite Trinity Close remains on the list as this was planned prior to the changes outlined above. A minor repair has been done but a full repair will be carried out in October.

3. **School Streets**

Both Millfields and Broome Grove schemes are having updates added over the next 10 days. This includes some dropped curbs and bollards at Broome Grove, and repairs to the concrete surface and barriers at Millfields. I am meeting the Highways Manager on site on the morning 20/07/2026.

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

I have started the process of seeking permission from ECC on new sites for VAS poles to be erected. These include Elmstead Road and Rectory Road.

At the Environment Committee, as part of the Travel and Transport sub group, we discussed and agreed the movement of the current signs. The sign by Watsham Place will be moved down to the High St near to the Queens Road junction. The other two will be spun around to face the opposite direction.

5. **Street trees**

I met with Tree Group representatives and Sam Davey to discuss Street Tree planting. We have agreed plans and possible funding routes. We are in the early stages of completing an ECC application for permissions to plant.

6. **Railway Bridge**

I continue to wait on confirmation of Highways Surgery on the matter of the bridge and longer term solutions. Further repairs have been scheduled but with no clear detail – I have chased this.

7. **Zebra Crossing Markings**

After a report from the Lollipop person I chased up the road marking at the Heath Road/Colchester Road Zebra Crossing. This has now been repainted.

8. **July ECC Full Council**

I will send a further update on this with the agenda attached.

Colchester City Council Report

1. **CCC Roles**

Andrea on Cabinet, I stepped away. I am now Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee. This is a financial scrutiny committee.

2. **LGR**

It is still moving forward but it is under some jeopardy. We will find out Monday or Tuesday on the Minister for Local government and whether they support it continuing. Essex Conservatives have changed their tune, now calling for the people to have a say in a referendum. Reform have started their Judicial Review of the LGR decision and are removing some funding and Essex officers working on the project.

3. Locality Budget Spend CCC and ECC

- I aim to spend some more of funding for street trees and planting – e.g. by Co-op Car park.
- Support for WivWorks business group launched by Cllr Harmon.
- Support for the possible Wivenhoe Park Run.
- VAS sign posts.

4. Mede Way

I attended the Mede Way working group and have taking part in the door-knocking to survey views of local residents. We had mainly positive responses.

5. Ferry Marsh

The Ferry Marsh saga drags on. Cllr Evans updated on the silt now being too deep and more substantial work is needed to ready the area for the sluice extension work. Delays till Autumn, may even run into next year.

6. CCC Full Council

I will send over the agenda with comments. Cllr Kelly and I both have motions submitted.

Appendix B

Cllr Luxford-Vaughan Report

Elmstead Road Application

The Elmstead Road proposal is currently unsuitable for approval. The developer has not carried out a proper, up-to-date consultation with residents, and the scheme fails to deliver the required 30% affordable housing. The housing mix does not reflect Wivenhoe's needs, and the layout extends beyond the agreed settlement boundary, conflicting with the Wivenhoe Neighbourhood Plan. Key legal agreements remain unresolved — including cooperation on cemetery soil levels — and essential elements such as the Neighbourhood Plan-mandated pedestrian footpath are not guaranteed. Anglian Water and Essex Fire & Rescue have both issued formal objections relating to wastewater capacity and inadequate emergency vehicle turning space.

Taylor Wimpey development

Following sustained pressure, Taylor Wimpey has reinstated the missing footpath and confirmed that the informal football area will be restored so residents can use it safely again.

Tendring Colchester borders garden community

The public consultation on the TCBGC planning application has now closed. I have read all the responses from statutory consultees, and these outline significant issues that remain unresolved around the application. These will need to be addressed before any decision can be made on the application. It is estimated that wont be until next year and will also involve a further public consultation once the concerns are addressed by the developer.

On the basis of the consultation responses the planning application leaves major regulatory, infrastructure, environmental and governance questions unanswered, making it impossible for the joint committee or the public to judge whether the development is deliverable, safe, or compliant with policy.

Many regulators are signalling that they cannot determine the application. The Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Essex County Council, Place Services and the emergency services all identify missing evidence, unclear commitments, or unresolved risks. Core requirements such as a full Infrastructure Delivery Plan, enforceable governance arrangements, an updated drainage strategy, a minerals sterilisation assessment, and a clear education delivery commitment simply do not exist in a complete or reliable form.

Transport and highways issues our serious concern. Essex Highways and National Highways require clarification on modelling scope, baseline assumptions, trip rates, mitigation feasibility, construction impacts, and long-term operational funding. Key strategic elements, including the A120–A133 Link Road, the Rapid Transit System feasibility, active travel connectivity, parking standards, an EV charging strategy, and emergency service contributions, remain unconfirmed. Without these, the development's transport impacts cannot be safely or credibly assessed.

Community infrastructure is also undefined. There is no clear or enforceable pathway for libraries, sports provision, skills and employment delivery, healthcare, pharmacies, supermarkets, places of worship, gyms, play space, dog-walking areas, or hospitality uses. Even the location of the traveller site is still unknown.

Environmental and heritage assessments are incomplete, with gaps in ecology, landscape, arboriculture, archaeology and heritage evidence. Long-term protection of green buffers and woodland is unclear, SuDS capacity and flood risk evidence is missing, and wastewater capacity at Haven Road waste water centre remain unresolved. Also, Historic England's concerns about the 'gateway' buildings and visual harm have not been addressed.

Finally, the application lacks a credible viability process. It relies on speculative uplifts, uncertain costs, and unproven deliverability of infrastructure and affordable housing. Governance and stewardship arrangements, essential for a Garden Community, are not provided in a detailed or enforceable form. Community engagement has been limited and largely negative, with no clear plan to address this.

Taken together, these gaps show that the application is premature, incomplete and currently non-compliant. It does not provide the evidence, commitments or clarity required for regulators, councillors or residents to assess its impacts or ensure that promised infrastructure, services and protections will ever be delivered.

Appendix C

ECC HALF-YEARLY TRANSPORT MEEETING June 2026

The papers from this meeting were sent out earlier this week. Councillors of all ilks are now actively invited to attend these meetings but it should be understood that the actual *bus service* issues discussed relate largely to ECC-supported routes and are therefore not directly relevant to Wivenhoe with its largely-commercial services.

Bus *information* is much dealt with, particularly in the context of the need for new users to feel confident about accessing bus services. In this context I raised a written question asking why ECC has removed the stop identifying lettering at all the shelters in Head St and the High St which (in combination with the previous removal of the route numbers from the flags in the town centre) means that these stops no longer have any conspicuous information as to which buses stop there (only the small print in the

actual timetables). It is to be noted also that First website timetables no longer state which stops each route calls at in the town centre, as they did in the days of printed leaflets.

RTS

In February 2026 the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways made a Key Decision on 'Colchester Park & Ride Services 2026-2030'. It would be useful if Mark could extract a copy of the officers report leading to this decision as it ought to shed light on how ECC intend to arrange the transfer from the current Cuckoo Farm service to the RTS service taking over, a subject hitherto shrouded in silence. It is known that a new contract for Cuckoo Farm is to commence in September, and the title of the Decision suggests that this contract will last until 2030 (i.e. that the RTS service is now not seen as starting before 2030). There may also be content relating to the financial (non-)viability of the current service which reflects also on the (non-)viability of any RTS service. It will not be possible to charge high fares on the RTS as the motorist P&R customers will not use a services unless the fares are abnormally low (currently 3.20 return to town from Cuckoo Farm compared to 5.00 return to town for all First town routes).

RAIL

In view of the start of disruption from embankment 'wildfires' in London it may be useful to draw attention to the **real train times** website which gives information on the actual position of (or cancellation of) all trains in the country. It is very simple to use, one just types 'Wivenhoe' in the box on the home page. A few seconds checking on this site can reassure you that services are operating normally before you go down to the station or leave the office.

Appendix D – See attached

Appendix E- See attached

Appendix F

Mayor's Report

On 27th June I attended the Congregational church's Strawberry Tea and enjoyed the music provided by Cllr Evans and Justin Lammens (aka the Rockin' Rev), as well as the delicious strawberries.

Deputy Mayor Fiona, Cllr Cory and I visited Year 3 of Millfields School on Tuesday 30th June. As a handwriting project, this class of 8-9 years olds had written letters to Cllr Cory describing items they considered would improve their school experience (e.g. a tree house!) and set out the pros and cons for their suggested projects. The discussion was directed by their class teacher who asked us to set out our respective backgrounds; we were then questioned individually by the children about being councillors and other matters, some of them quite personal! As we left the school, we all agreed on how interesting and inspirational the meeting had been.

At the Wivenhoe Regatta on 4th July, I joined other councillors and the Town Clerk on WTC information stall, at the Regatta Saturday 4th July. It was a mixed experience, but as the day went on, it became more pleasant and quite a few Community Hub questionnaires were completed. I also cut the ribbon to relaunch "Little Pip", the new WF&R ferry which has been undergoing a complete engine refit since the start of the season.

This last weekend 11-12th July was quite busy; on Saturday, we held the very successful Wivenhoe World Cup Event for junior footballers. It was a lovely afternoon, with many parents bringing their children who were not in the competing football teams to the event. Hug thanks must go to Cllr Smith for all his work to

recruit and manage the footballers, and Cllr Burke 2nd for also organising the event and looking after the popular football games area with Cllr Burke 1st. Last but by no means least, heartfelt thanks to all our fabulous staff, lead by Andy, for operating the sell-out BBQ and Bar, and Mandy for sourcing and selling tickets for the games, and distributing free drinks, medals and stickers to the children.

On Sunday I attended the Mayor of Colchester's Civic Service in his ward at Layer Marney, in stunning surroundings. The theme of the service linked the Mayor and Mayoress's love of garden and growing plants with his aim to grow Colchester.

Appendix G

Town Clerk's Report- FTC 20 July 2026

1. Staffing- Staffing levels to be discussed by the Personnel Committee
2. Events-
 - Saturday 5 September – Community Day.
The poster has now been shared. We are once again having a car boot sale and the live music has been arranged.
Please let me know if you are happy to volunteer for the bar. The next Events WG meeting is on 27 July at 6pm
 - Memories Exhibition- Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 September. Please let me know if you can volunteer.
 - Sunday 18 October- Civic Service
3. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Family Football Day on 11 July.
4. Mede Way play park is now open, and we have received some excellent feedback. Please let me know if you are happy to go door to door with the consultation survey for the Community Hub in the area surrounding the proposed site.
5. The next newsletter will be out at the end of August.