



Wivenhoe Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 17 August 2026 at 7.00pm **Draft**

Present: Cllr Hailes-Morley (Chair), Cllr Garland, Cllr Andrew, Cllr D Burke, Cllr S Burke, Cllr Guy, Cllr Harmon, ECC Cllr Kelly, Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative), Jo Beighton-Emms (Town Clerk) and Emma Buckley, RFO. One member of the public.

Public Questions: None

PART A

FC/08.26/01 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Boughton, Evans, Smith, Aldis and Luxford-Vaughan. Their apologies were accepted.

FC/08.26/02 Declarations of interest: None.

FC/08.26/03 Minutes of the previous meetings:

The minutes of the town council meeting held on 20 July 2026 were proposed by Cllr Harmon, seconded by Cllr D Burke and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC/08.26/04 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**.
- b) Cllr Kelly had not provided a report. He provided an update on a motion he had made at the CCC full council meeting on 22 July which was passed. It related to consultations for Local Plans and how they are conducted and how responses should be published. It has wide-reaching ramifications as the responses can now be published. This should be pushed for with the new unitary council. Cllr Kelly will be attending the next Local Plan meeting will provide a further opportunity for points to be raised on Regulation 19.

Cllr Luxford-Vaughan had not provided a report.

- c) A previously circulated report from Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative) is attached as **Appendix B**. This was considered. The councillors discussed the issue with trees near the railway line following one which fell and caused major disruption. The Town Clerk will discuss with the CCC Tree Officer.

FC/08.26/05 Adoption of an updated policy 'WTC policy for dealing with habitual or vexatious complainants'- Previously circulated. Cllr Harmon proposed that the updated policy was adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Garland, with all in favour.

FC/08.26/06 Committees:

- a. Planning: Cllr D Burke reported that the August meeting had not been held as it was not quorate.
- b. Finance & Personnel: Cllr Guy reported that the committee was recommending the following which need FTC approval:
 - a) That WTC renew Octopus Energy as suppliers for a further 2 years based on price and flexibility. This was proposed by Cllr Guy, seconded by Cllr S Burke, with all in favour.
 - b) That the bank signatories are updated, and that Cllr Hailes-Morley and Cllr Smith are added. This was proposed by Cllr Guy, seconded by Cllr Andrew, with all in favour.
 - c) That a Community Fund payment of £250 is made to the Music Trail to support this new project. This was proposed by Cllr Guy, seconded by Cllr Harmon, with all in favour.

The committee has agreed to start the recruitment process for the current staff vacancy.

- c. Environment: Cllr Andrew reported that the next meeting will be held on 21 October. The CIC has instructed a solicitor for the transfer of land for the nature reserve. Cllr S Burke reported that the Net Zero Group will be meeting on 24 August.
- d. Estates: Cllr D Burke reported that:
 - a) The survey for the tree management plan has been instructed
 - b) The Community Hub group met earlier today with the architect who will be providing draft plans. A meeting to discuss the S106 funds is needed as soon as possible. The consultation is going well with 60 responses so far.

Cllr Harmon reported that the Wet Dock Group are getting quotes for the dredging. Cllr Kelly said that he has already got the necessary licence. Cllr Harmon will contact him directly to discuss.

Cllr Kelly left the meeting.

FC/08.26/07 RFO Report:

- a. RFO Report: No report provided. The RFO reported that the cemetery income has exceeded the budget.
- b. Approve list of payments and receipts previously circulated: The councillors considered the previously circulated list of payments which is attached as **Appendix C**. The list was proposed for payment by Cllr Hailes-Morley, seconded by Cllr S Burke, with all in favour. Carried.
- c. Approve the Bank Reconciliation: The bank reconciliation is attached as **Appendix D**. It was proposed by Cllr Hailes-Morley, seconded by Cllr S Burke, with all in favour. Carried.
- d. The Budget: Considered.

Cllr Guy agreed to carry out the checks for September.

FC/08.26/08 Working Groups:

- a) Wiv Works: Cllr Harmon reported that £1300 in donations has now been received and the leaflets are being distributed. She had a meeting with the E Cargo Bikes team. They will offer free use of their delivery service.
- b) Devolution: No update
- c) Health & Wellbeing: No update.
- d) Community Engagement & Events: Cllr Harmon reported that she would like to organise a Pride Event in 2027 with the council's agreement. She has a meeting on 21 August with the Colchester Pride Team. She estimates the need for £20,000 funding. The Funding Officer will be sourcing grants, and she will have funds from the CCC cllrs. A working group will be formed. Cllr D Burke said that following the meeting on 21 August the next step will be for a business plan to be presented to FTC. The councillors discussed the need for the plan, for the event to be family friendly and manageable.
- e) Car Parks: No update.
- f) Sporting Trust: Cllr Guy said that he will provide a report ahead of the next FTC which he cannot attend.

FC/08.26/09 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/08.26/10 Mayor's Report- A report from Cllr Hailes-Morley is attached as **Appendix E**.

FC/08.26/11 Town Clerk's Report: The report is attached as **Appendix F**.

FC/08.26/12 Date and time of the next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 21 September 2026 at 7pm.

FC/08.26/13 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.

Cllr D Burke proposed that the meeting is moved to Part B in accordance with Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. This was seconded by Cllr Guy with all in favour. The public left the meeting.

PART B

FC/08.26/14 Update on the injunction- The Chair.

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

The chair closed the meeting at 20.35.

Appendix A

Cllr Cory Report

Cllr Mark Cory – Wivenhoe Town Council Reports – 17/08/2026

Essex County Council Report:

1. Road Repairs

- Valfreda Way repairs, including Victoria Close, will take place on 21st August – this Friday.
- Reform have removed other schemes where members were able to get pavement repairs and Highways Panel Projects.
- I have reported other broken bollards on Rectory Road and again on Vine Drive. Bollards near the Black Buoy pub will be repairs next week.

2. Pavement Repairs

- Bowes Road pavements opposite Trinity Close will be repaired between 12-20th October.

3. School Streets

Both Millfields and Broome Grove School Streets have had further minor additions to improve safety for pedestrians and road users. I am monitoring the parking and requesting ECC look at red lines extending to some problem junctions.

4. Street trees

I am seeking funding alongside the Tree Group representatives and Sam Davey to ensure we have a comprehensive Street Planting Project. We have agreed plans and are in the early stages of completing an ECC application for permissions to plant.

5. Railway Bridge

No update. Potholes marked up, explanations of the medium term situation given to me and Cllr Terry Garland but still waiting on a discussion over long term solutions.

6. ECC Decisions – Removal of Net-Zero project

Projects, funding and officers are to be cut following a Cabinet Decision. The Lib Dems and Independents challenged this at a 'Call-in'. Walking, cycling and wheeling to school is being put at risk. Low-income families face higher heating costs, and some grants to businesses and homeowners could stop, following budget cuts by Reform UK-led Essex County Council. Essex CC received £6M warmer homes money last year but will no longer be capable of applying for it. This dwarfs what is only a possible £3M saving - only £1.64m of which this year and next. Much of which could be swallowed up by redundancy costs.

Some of the projects that will be cut include:

- encouraging children to walk or cycle to school;
- advising households how to cut their energy bills e.g. through better insulation and more efficient heating;
- not having a staff member who can apply for grants such as the Warmer Homes Grants worth £6M last year.

1. CCC Full Council – motions passed

Both mine and Cllr Sean Kelly's motions passed. Mine focused on rejecting the ECC Reform administration ban on the promotion of Pride events via the Library Service. Colchester Council supported the motion as a majority.

Cllr Kelly can brief on his motion, but it passed with support and a Conservative amendment. This motion will help makes small tweaks to the Local Pan process – ensuring Wivenhoe's voices are heard.

2. Planning

- Carla Homes, Fire Station – reported incidents of Sunday working, dust issues and access issues for Watsham Place residents.
- -Taylor Wimpey, Richard Ave - reported, dust issues and concerns over the proximity of the cycle path to the rear of Essex properties.
- Requested support and detail for a S106 meeting with officers to understand the planning gains and settlements following Taylor Wimpey and Carla developments.

3. Locality Budget Spend CCC and ECC

- Funding for street trees and planting – e.g. by Co-op Car park.
- Support for WivWorks business group launched by Cllr Fiona Harmon.
- Support for the possible Wivenhoe Park Run.
- More VAS sign posts.

4. Funding for local projects

I will share a number of links with the Town Clerk, Finance and Grants officers, regarding funding opportunities for the following projects:

- Street Planting
- Bio-diversity Groups projects
- Pride – community cohesion projects
- Footpath funding to help with coastal paths (maybe Wivenhoe Trail too)

5. Wivenhoe Pride

Along with Cllr Fiona Harman, I have set-up a meeting on 21st August to discuss the first steps towards a Wivenhoe Pride in 2027. I have invited the current Chair of Colchester Pride and former chair to help provide advice.

Appendix B

Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative)

Re the free child bus travel in August, it seemed wise to check that First drivers had actually been told about it before venturing to advertise it! On 24th July the answer was 'they haven't told us anything, we've only seen the government announcement'. However, they were told on the 29th and it then appeared on the First and ECC websites., so I put a piece on the Wivenhoe FB group about it.

The £2 maximum fare scheme for adults (and children) will start on 1.1.2027 and end on 31.12.2027 (although it may get extended). This will reduce the return fare to Colchester from 5.00 to 4.00 and mean a weekly cap of 18.00 (?) instead of 22.00.

These 'government' fares are not actually obligatory on operators, but the big companies all adopt them.

As to the Wivenhoe tree that closed the railway for 22 hours, there are an awful lot of trees in the woods very close to the line that could do the same thing again, but does anybody ever check on them?

Appendix C- See attached

Appendix D- See attached

Appendix E

MAYORS REPORT FOR FTC MONDAY 17TH AUGUST 2026

On Friday 31st July, I attended the unveiling of the Statue of the Airborne Soldier at Colchester Garrison with Michael Smither as my escort. It was a very enjoyable, informative day, with interesting speeches about the history of the Airborne Division before the ceremonial unveiling of the statue, followed by an outdoor church service and lunch consisting of a "Feast of Canapes". It was also very useful day concerning WTC issues - I chatted to Paul Allen, the arborist who diagnosed AOD in the oak tree, and I had a discussion with Chief Constable of Essex BJ Harrington about the recent increase of crime and disorder in Wivenhoe. Subsequently, Chief Inspector Michelle Sparks, District Commander of Colchester e-mailed me to say she wanted to continue the constructive and positive engagement she had had with my predecessor Jon Guy, and to maintain regular dialogue with WTC.

On Tuesday 4th August, I enjoyed visiting and addressing a meeting of the WTC Women's Institute where my escort Mark Norrington and I were treated to a fish and chip supper.

On Wednesday 5th August, I attended a Let's Talk session in Culver Square advertised by the Colchester Neighbourhood Policing team and met up with PCSO Clair; we discussed the recent increase in criminal behaviour in our town and lack of regular police presence since our PCSO resigned. I explained that we had set up a small crime and vandalism group in response to concern expressed by some of the community, and that Let's Talk session in Wivenhoe would be appreciated. and also, a public meeting with a senior officer. I have since been contacted to police Sgt Benjamin Knighton, and a meeting has been arranged for this Thursday 20th.

I was invited to the presentation of funds from the Open Gardens event at a garden party at Peter Hill's garden on Sunday 9th, where I presented a cheque for £2,200 to Erwin Lammens for St Mary's roof restoration fund; the rest of the total OG fund of £4,400 was divided between 11 local charities, including Reaching Out at Christmas.

Finally, this month, on Saturday 15th I attended the Wivenhoe Show at the invitation of Brian Reed to present trophies to the prize winners for their hard work and dedication in producing the outstanding exhibits of vegetables, flowers, cakes, art and handicraft.

Appendix D

Town Clerk's Report- FTC 17 August 2026

1. Staffing- the Personnel Committee agreed for the current staff vacancy to be advertised. Advice will be sought from Worknest.

2. Events-

- Community Day- Saturday 5 September
Plans are well under way for this event. Bookings are still being taken for stalls and the car boot sale. Please share the details.
 - Memories Exhibition- Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 September.
Please let me know if you would like to volunteer.
3. Community Hub- the group has a meeting on 17 August with an architect. This is to discuss instructing her to draft drawings that can be used to obtain quotes from building contractors. The Funding Officer can then progress with sourcing funds.
 4. An arborist has been instructed to create a tree management plan. He will be assessing the trees at the end of September.
 5. The second phase of work to the old cemetery wall has been instructed. I will advise on a date once I have one.
 6. A new tenant will be moving in at 81a High Street in September. Terms for a new lease have been agreed by the Estates Committee.
 7. The summer newsletter is now being delivered. Please let Emma know if you don't receive one. The feedback has been positive.