Wivenhoe Town Council

MINUTES of the Full Town Council meeting held in the Council Chamber on Monday 19 October 2026 at 7.00pm **Chair Approved**

Present: Cllr Hailes-Morley (Chair), Cllr Garland, Cllr D Burke, Cllr Andrew, Cllr S Burke, Cllr Harmon Cllr Guy, Cllr Boughton, Cllr Aldis, Cllr Evans, ECC Cllr Cory, Peter Kay (Public Transport Representative), Jo Beighton-Emms (Town Clerk), Emma Buckley, RFO and Cllr Peter Davey, President of the EALC.

Public Questions: The President of the EALC, Cllr Peter Davey, presented WTC with the National Association of Local Councils Local Council Bronze Award. He congratulated everyone on this achievement which demonstrates the council's commitment to good governance, effective policies, community initiatives and projects.

Cllr Davey left the meeting.

PART A

FC/10.26/01 Apologies for absence: Cllrs Smith and Luxford-Vaughan. Their apologies were accepted.

FC/10.26/02 Declarations of interest: None.

FC/10.26/03 Minutes of the previous meeting:
The minutes of the full town council meeting held on 21 September 2026 were proposed by Cllr Harmon, seconded by Cllr D Burke and approved as an accurate record of proceedings.

FC/10.26/04 Reports from Members of County and City Councillors & Public Transport Representative:

a) A report from Cllr Cory is attached as **Appendix A**. He congratulated the council on the award.

Questions raised:

- Cllr Evans - Ferry Marsh – Cllr Cory to chase up the group of officers for an update
- Cllr Andrew - Highways Value for Money Review – Cllr Cory will send an email to Cabinet Member Mark Webster and Members Enquiries
- Cllr D Burke – Wheelie Bin roll-out, specifically Clifton Terrace. Cllr Cory will email the CCC officer in charge

b) Cllr Kelly had not provided a report
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.

FC/10.26/06 Committees:

a. Planning: Cllr D Burke reported that WTC's response to the Local Plan has been submitted and she thanked the councillors who had worked on it. A summary will be provided in the next newsletter.

b. Finance & Personnel: Cllr Guy reported that the budget for 2027/8 is currently being worked on.

c. Environment: Clare Kendrick-Robinson provided an update for the Biodiversity WG:

- A licence is being applied for from ECC to plant street trees.
- The group are working on a dry garden outside the High Street car park
- The CIC is progressing and works at the nature reserve are going ahead.
- The group had a stall outside the Co-op- 2 further dates have been planned
- A nature discovery day is being planned
- Chris Packham's National Emergency Briefing film is being shown at the WLH on 10 November
- The group are helping Wivenhoe in Bloom

Cllr Evans thanked Cllr S Burke for his work with the Net Zero Group. Cllr Andrew said that funding is available for community energy projects and this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Environment Committee on 21 October.

d. Estates: Cllr Harmon reported that:

- Fire doors have been ordered for the WLH. The funding was held in Reserves. Andy will install them following appropriate training.
- Quotes are needed for new curtains at the WLH. The decorating will then be finished.
- RAs are being updated
- The tree management plan has been received. It has highlighted works to be done immediately and further tests to be done on trees on the KGV. All work has been instructed.
- Quotes are being obtained by the tenants at the First Floor 77 High Street for air con.

FC/10.26/07 RFO Report:

a. RFO Report: A previously circulated RFO Report at **Appendix C** was considered.
b. Approve list of payments and receipts previously circulated: The councillors considered the previously circulated list of payments which is attached as **Appendix D.** The list was proposed for payment by Cllr Hailes-Morley, seconded by Cllr Garland, with all in favour. Carried.
c. Approve the Bank Reconciliation: The bank reconciliation is attached as **Appendix E**. It was proposed by Cllr Hailes-Morley, seconded by Cllr Garland, with all in favour. Carried.
d. The Budget: Considered. The RFO asked for all committees to consider their budgets for the next year.

FC/10.26/08 Working Groups:

a) Pride Event: Cllr Harmon reported that the group are currently working on grant funding applications.

b) Wiv Works: Cllr Harmon reported that phase 1 of the website is complete. She will share the draft.
c) Health & Wellbeing: No update. The group discussed a Safe Spaces for Women Scheme. Cllr Cory said that he would like to be involved.
d) Community Engagement & Events: The next newsletter will be published in late November. Councillors were reminded about the planned Christmas events.
e) Car Parks: No update.
f) Sporting Trust: No update. Cllr Guy will be speaking with the new chair.

FC/10.26/09 Wivenhoe Community Charity- Cllr Hailes-Morley reported on grants for the local football club.

FC/10.26/10 Mayor's Report A report from Cllr Hailes-Morley is attached as **Appendix F.**

FC/10.26/11 Town Clerk's Report: The Town Clerk reported on the recruitment progress for a new member of the estates team.

FC/10.26/12 Date and time of the next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Monday 16 November 2026 at 7pm.

FC/10.26/13 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.

PART B

None.

The chair closed the meeting at 20.30.

Appendix A

Cllr Mark Cory – Wivenhoe Town Council Reports – 19/10/2026

Essex County Council Report:

1. **Road Repairs**

- Clingoe Hill – crack repairs have been investigated and ECC understand that significant repairs are required – I am waiting for confirmation of the works planned and timing.
- Bollards – Rectory Road Bollard repaired and one removed. Vine Drive bollards reported again and suggestions made for railings or removal of bollards as they are more dangerous than a safety measure now.
- Bowes Road pavements repaired and residents happy.
- Lammas Way end of November/December.
- After chasing, the Street Lights along the cycle path into Wivenhoe have now been fixed. This including fixing the traffic lights outside the Flag Pub too.

- I have reported the signs outside of the Horse and Groom and the central reservation by the roundabout.

2. **School Streets**

   ECC have asked residents in the affected areas for feedback.

3. **Street trees**

   Tree Group – document to submit.

4. **Railway Bridge**

   No update, apart from pothole repairs.

5. **ECC Decisions – Removal of Net-Zero project**
   ECC Cabinet agreed to moved forward with an application to Government for an Essex Combined Mayoral Authority.

   All motions passed see agenda:
   Agenda Document Pack - Full Council - 13_10_2026

Colchester City Council Report

1. **CCC Full Council – motions passed**

   Operation Vanguard motion passed with an amendment secured by me working with both Labour, Conservative, Independents and Greens.
   Motion on Understanding the origins of Violence Against Women – Proposed by Green Councillor and supported by me – this did not pass for numerous reasons and Councillors refers back to a motion on Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse from a previous meeting.

   Cllr Sean Kelly's motion on regulating takeaway deliveries has been delayed till next meeting.

2. **Planning**
   - Elm Grove passed retrospective planning application – I did not object.

3. **Funding for local projects**

   I have shared a number of links with Sam Davey - 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)

I plan to spend my CCC Locality Budget on the following projects:
a) Wivenhoe Park Run - £1,000
b) Wivenhoe United U15s Team - £1,000

I plan to spend my ECC Locality Budget on the following projects:
a) Wivenhoe Pride- £1,000
b) Parkinsons Dancing Association - £500

c) Tree Planting and Bio-diversity projects. TBC.

Monies still outstanding to spend.

4. **Wivenhoe Pride**

I met with Sam Davey to discuss a Lottery Funding application of circa £20,000 needed for Pride in 2027 (June 26th). I also met with Cllr Fiona Harman to discuss frameworks for the event and next steps with Working Group first meeting (in coming six weeks).

Appendix B

Public Transport Rep – October 2026 Report

The St Botolph's Roundabout works are affecting the reliability of most Colchester bus routes, as it is taking up to ten minutes to get down Queen St during the daytime. This will go on for many months.

It has been announced that Arriva will be selling their Colchester operation to First as from 20.12.2026. This will give First a monopoly of Colchester town routes. Any changes to routes made as a result of this are unlikely to affect Wivenhoe, except insofar as where the 87 goes beyond North Station. Monopolies tend to produce higher fares but there is no danger of that at this stage because of the new government reduced maximum fare of £2 starting in January.

The further information on the proposed new ECC/CCC Colchester Bus Station, issued on 28.9.26 for consultation, confirms the conclusion that it should be on the Queen St site, but the arrangements shown are very preliminary (unclear). It is stated that 25 stops will be needed by 2041 (which seems excessive!) though neither of the options illlustrated appear to include that many. Both options are designed on a 'reverse out' basis, something which ECC has been opposed to in the past. The cost is given as £25-£30m. If proceeded with, it would be the *fourth* bus station in 25 years! Because of the access from/to East Hill being blocked by the VAF, the new Bus Station would not serve as the single main town centre boarding point for all services via the University, as was the case pre-2006.

Appendix C

RFO Finance Report Update for October 2026 FTC

Please submit any expected requirements for the 2027/28 budget.

b) **Payments** – That the circulated schedule of payments be approved.
Receipts – To approve the receipts reports for Cashbook one –

01/09/2026 – 30/09/2026	£276,642.83

c) **Bank Reconciliations –**

31/07/2026	Confirmed bank balances	£563,973
31/08/2026	Confirmed bank balances	£490,717
30/09/2026	Confirmed bank balances	£722,092

d) Budgetary Control Reports at 30.09.2026

The budget report is up to 30.09.2026.
We are now halfway through the year, the total income received to date is £651,216, original budget set £618,339.
£118,000 has been used from earmarked reserves: Minibus purchase, Mede Way playpark, KGV Gym installation & environment survey.

- The whole years precept and parish grant has been received
- £4,042 bank Interest has been received, if the rates continue stable then it is predicted to receive an extra £2,000 over the original budget
- Office rental income has been received for the full year in advance, this is over budget by £2,500
- £10,000 has been received from an insurance claim, this has been earmarked towards HR/tree management plan
- Planning budget remains unspent
- Over half of the WLH income has been received for the year
- 34% of the Community Expenses budget has been spent (this does not include the recent civic expenses)
- Elections budget of £8,500 remains unspent
- £1,296 has been received for the council chamber hire, this is £800 over the original budget
- Cemetery income is £14,539, which has exceeded the original budget by £7,500
- Out of the £44,100 repairs and renewals budget, just over £20,000 has been spent

Appendix D- See attached

Appendix E- See attached

Appendix F

Mayor's Report – October 2026

On October 3rd, WTC staff, councillor, residents and I gathered at the KGV doggy park to formally open the bench in memory of our esteemed colleague Jim Young, who was devoted to his work for the Wivenhoe Estate for over 25 years.

On October 4th, I attended the West Mersea Civic Service lead by Mayor Bob Jenkins with my envoy Mark Norrington, the theme of which was "Respect".

Sunday October 19th marked the Wivenhoe Civic Service and reception, the theme of which was "Community and Inclusion". The service was well attended, and the choir of Millfields School, who sung "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" conducted by Headmistress Natasha Bennett, was very well received.

I am very grateful to the Reverend Canon Erwin Lammens and Church Warden Mary Jacob for their guidance, to Deputy Mayor Fiona Harmon for her self-penned reading, and, last but no means least, to all the WTF staff for their support throughout, in particular to Mandy Smart for all her efforts and painstaking work.