

COUNCIL

23 MARCH 2011

Present :- Councillor Sonia Lewis (the Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillor Helen Chuah (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Nick Barlow,
Lyn Barton, Kevin Bentley, Mary Blandon,
Elizabeth Blundell, John Bouckley, Nigel Chapman,
Peter Chillingworth, Barrie Cook, Nick Cope, Mark Cory,
Beverly Davies, Tina Dopson, John Elliott,
Margaret Fairley-Crowe, Margaret Fisher,
Stephen Ford, Wyn Foster, Bill Frame, Ray Gamble,
Scott Greenhill, Mike Hardy, Dave Harris, Peter Higgins,
Theresa Higgins, Mike Hogg, Martin Hunt (Deputy
Leader) , Margaret Kimberley, Justin Knight,
Michael Lilley, Sue Lissimore, Jackie Maclean,
Jon Manning, Richard Martin, Colin Mudie, Kim Naish,
Nigel Offen, Beverley Oxford, Gerard Oxford,
Philip Oxford, Lesley Scott-Boutell, Paul Smith,
Henry Spyvee, Terry Sutton, Colin Sykes, Laura Sykes,
Jill Tod, Anne Turrell (Leader of the Council) ,
Dennis Willetts and Julie Young

The meeting was opened with prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Richard Allen.

61. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 16 February 2011 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

(i) In minute 55 in the list of those who voted against the main amendment, the deletion of the reference to Councillor Tod and its replacement with Councillor Turrell;

(ii) In minute 55, the amendment of the final paragraph to read as follows:-

“The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was thereupon put and CARRIED (THIRTY THREE voted FOR, TWENTY THREE voted AGAINST and TWO ABSTAINED from voting).”

(iii) In minute 59 the deletion of the reference to Lexden Court and its replacement with the words “Laxton Court”.

62. Have Your Say!

Will Quince addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) about the issue of dog fouling. When the issue had been raised at the previous meeting, he had been assured that the issue was taken seriously.

However, he had since established that no penalty fines had been issued for dog fouling in 2010. He called on the Portfolio Holder to demonstrate commitment to tackle this issue by publishing on the website monthly reports on the numbers of penalty fines issued for dog fouling.

Councillor Hunt, Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services, stressed that the Council did take the matter seriously. There had been staff shortages amongst the enforcement team but matters would improve with the introduction of new zonal team which would increase the resources available to tackle this issue. All local authorities found it difficult to bring successful prosecutions for dog fouling because of the difficulty in gathering the evidence required.

Andy Hamilton addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). He raised issues about the lack of provision of a charitable mobility scooter service anywhere in the bus station, the relocation of Shopmobility to St Mary's car park and the support the Council gave to firstsite. Concern was also expressed about comments made by Councillor Goss towards a resident who raised the issue of dog fouling and he called on Councillor Goss to apologise.

Councillor Dopson, Portfolio Holder for Communities, stressed that the Council had never refused a request from a voluntary sector organisation to locate Shopmobility or a mobility scooter service at the bus station and called on Mr Hamilton to cease raising this issue.

Liz Adams addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) on behalf of small shopkeepers to explain the difficulties the new cycle lane in Crouch Street was causing small businesses. The new cycle lane was preventing buses from accessing Crouch Street and preventing cars from parking. The new restrictions on deliveries were also impractical. Small shops were gradually disappearing from the streets and more needed to be done to look after their interests.

Graham Phelps addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) representing small traders in Crouch Street. Many of the shops on Crouch Street relied on customers being able to collect goods during normal trading hours. The new cycle lane had narrowed the road and so deliveries and collections now blocked the road. There had been insufficient consultation on the scheme and the results of the consultation had not been heeded.

Dave Richards addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2) to raise concerns about the impact of the new cycle lane in Crouch Street. The traffic flow was halted by deliveries and there was an increased risk to health and safety as deliveries to the Bull public house had to be made 25 metres away and then brought to the public house, increasing the risk to pedestrians. The cycle lane itself was dangerous as there was nothing to separate cyclists from pedestrians. New delivery restrictions were due to come into effect on 31 March so there was a need for these matters to be resolved urgently.

Councillor Barlow, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Culture and Tourism, responded that the Crouch Street scheme was an Essex County Council scheme,

although the Borough Council had been consulted. Essex County Council had been asked to speak to the traders in Crouch Street to see what could be one to alleviate the problems that had arisen. He would contact Essex County Council again and ask them to ensure this meeting took place.

63. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that on 2nd March 2011 she had been honoured to attend the funeral of Lance Corporal Kyle Marshall at St Peters Church. Together with the Deputy Mayor and their respective Escorts, she had sent a donation on behalf of the Council to the regiment, in memory of fallen soldiers in Afghanistan.

The Mayor announced the following forthcoming events:-

A Paranormal Event at the Town Hall on 7 April 2011;
An Antiques Valuation hosted by James Grinter in the Mayoral Suite on 28 April 2011;
The Mayor's Banquet on 13 May 2011.

The Mayor thanked the Senior Management Team for the fundraising heritage event on 15 March 2011 which had raised £350 for Mayor's Charities.

The Mayor thanked Council for their support and consideration during her Mayoral Year.

64. Honorary Alderman

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 18 of the Accounts and Regulatory Committee meeting of 22 February 2011 be approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

65. Standards Committee Annual Report 2010/2011.

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 16 of the Standards Committee meeting of 4 March 2011 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

66. Revised Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 17 of the Standards Committee meeting of 4 March 2011 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

Councillor Elizabeth Blundell (in respect of her membership of Marks Tey Parish Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

67. City Status

Raymond Moore addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). He explained that he was baffled why Colchester was not a city already. Colchester showcased the best of Essex and had a number of facilities and characteristics commensurate with being a city, such as a modern university, a garrison, historic traditions and associations with the Royal Family. City status would leave a lasting legacy for years to come and would strengthen ties with the Royal Family.

Bill Hayton of Destination Colchester addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). He explained that every new city reported that the becoming a city led to more inward investment with consequential benefits to the economy. Whilst he appreciated there were concerns about the cost of the bid, the bid would be put together by Destination Colchester at little or no cost. The bid would not lead to further development in the borough and there was no reason to fear that the bid would exacerbate conflict between the rural and urban areas of the borough. The villages within the borough already had strong independent identities. Many cities had villages within their boundaries. If awarded city status, Colchester could promote itself with the indisputable title of "Britain's first city".

Wendy Bailey of Destination Colchester addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 6(2). She understood there was some concern about the about the status of villages should Colchester win city status. However, Destination Colchester had undertaken research on attitudes towards city status and she provided a number of quotes and comments in support of city status from local businesses, including a number based in rural areas.

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Barlow that:-

(a) Council notes that the Government is requesting bids for city status to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. City status merely confers upon a place the right to call itself a city, and does not carry with it any implications as to size and future growth of the area.

(b) Council believes:-

- (i) That as well as being Britain's oldest recorded town - Camulodunum - Colchester is also Britain's first city, and as Colonia Victricensis was the first capital of Britain.
- (ii) That Colchester remains a vibrant and dynamic borough as well as being a key regional hub and the largest borough in Essex.
- (iii) That there is support from across Colchester for a bid for city status.
- (iv) That bidding for city status would provide a great opportunity to promote all that's good about Colchester Borough and allow us to place ourselves in the national

spotlight.

(v) That Colchester deserves to be granted city status in 2012 to recognise it's historic status and future potential.

(c) Council resolves

(i) To support in principle a bid for city status for Colchester.

(ii) To work alongside community and business groups to create a bid for city status at no cost to the taxpayer.

(iii) To request the Leader of the Council and group leaders work together to oversee the detail of the bid before it is brought to the Council meeting in May for a final endorsement.

The MOTION was carried (TWENTY SIX voted FOR, NINETEEN voted AGAINST and FOUR ABSTAINED from voting).

68. Questions to Cabinet Members and Chairmen pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10

Questioner	Subject	Response
Pre-Notified Questions		
Councillor Bouckley	Whilst the information on acquiring additional home insulation sent to homeowners with their Council Tax demands is always useful, for some residents a more economic deal may be available through energy suppliers, for example, so in future would it not be helpful for CBC to explain this point?	Direct verbal response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Communities
Oral Questions		
Councillor Lissimore	Would the Portfolio Holder investigate the supply of biodegradable dog waste bags to residents?	Direct verbal response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services.
Councillor Ford	The signage to the Mayor's Parlour.	Direct verbal response provided by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Diversity.
Councillor Bouckley	Whether there were any plans to lease or sell the Town Hall to an outside company.	Direct verbal response provided by the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Strategy and Performance.

69. Amendments to the Constitution

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the Monitoring Officer's report be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

70. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders

RESOLVED that the Schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions for the period 1 February 2011 – 9 March 2011 be noted.