

COUNCIL

18 JULY 2012

Present :- Councillor Christopher Arnold (the Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillor Colin Sykes (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Nick Barlow, Lyn Barton, Kevin Bentley,
Mary Blandon, Mark Cable, Peter Chillingworth,
Helen Chuah, Barrie Cook, Nick Cope, Mark Cory,
Beverly Davies, Andrew Ellis, Annie Feltham,
Stephen Ford, Bill Frame, Ray Gamble, Martin Goss,
Glenn Granger, Scott Greenhill, Julia Havis, Jo Hayes,
Pauline Hazell, Peter Higgins, Theresa Higgins,
Mike Hogg, Brian Jarvis, John Jowers, Sonia Lewis,
Cyril Liddy, Michael Lilley, Sue Lissimore,
Jackie Maclean, Jon Manning, Richard Martin,
Kim Naish, Nigel Offen, Will Quince, Paul Smith,
Terry Sutton, Laura Sykes, Anne Turrell (Leader of the
Council) , Dennis Willetts, Julie Young and Tim Young

The meeting was opened with prayers by the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend Canon David Atkins.

13. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2012 were confirmed as a correct record.

14. Have Your Say!

Andy Abbott addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1). In response to claims that he had been scaremongering on the future of social housing schemes, he stated that it had been reported in local media that another five homes were under threat. The Council had given an assurance had been given that no action would be taken for at least five years. Colchester Against The Cuts were sceptical about this assurance and had subsequently received a letter from a Council officer which stated that no action would be taken for two years. A public debate on the future of social housing in Colchester was necessary. He also commented on a break taken by Councillors Tim and Julie Young.

Councillor Tim Young made a point of personal explanation in response to Mr Abbott's comments.

Norman Bailey addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1). He believed that the democratic process in Colchester had broken down. Decisions were made by the Cabinet or by officers and the rest of Council was disenfranchised. The Petition Procedure Rules had been misinterpreted to prevent a debate on social housing. Minutes had not been taken at meetings where the policy on social housing had been formulated. Colchester deserved better management. He

stressed that he excluded those officers who maintained Castle Park from his criticisms.

Councillor Turrell responded that the Council had accepted the petition on Joyce Brooks House. She stated that the Council was in negotiations with the resident's solicitor and that it would be inappropriate to make any further comment at this stage.

Nick Chilvers addressed the Council pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 6(1) about the proposed new bus station on Osborne Street. This was a challenging project but the public expected that Colchester Borough Council and Essex County Council would work together to deliver the project. Assurances were needed on pedestrian safety: members of the public were raising legitimate concerns but it had been difficult to get information from senior officers at a recent roadshow event. He asked what role the opposition or the relevant Champions in the Council were playing. They should walk the routes pedestrians would take to the station and consider the issues this would raise for those with disabilities, or with young children. In order to ensure public confidence in the project and to ensure the facility would be used, Colchester Borough Council needed to ensure that Essex County Council took safety issues seriously.

Councillor Barton, Portfolio Holder for Renaissance, stated that she would ensure Mr Chilvers concerns were passed on.

15. Mayor's Announcements

Councillor Martin presented the Mayor with a plaque commemorating the new uniform he had purchased for the Town Serjeant in memory of the late Peter Crowe.

16. Standards Committee Annual Report 2011/12

RESOLVED that that the recommendation contained in minute 17 of the Standards Committee meeting on 23 March 2012 be approved and adopted and that the Council's thanks to the Independent Members and Parish Council representatives for their service on the Standards Committee be formally recorded (UNANIMOUS).

17. Honorary Aldermen

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in minute 5 of the Accounts and Regulatory Committee meeting of 26 June 2012 be approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

18. Diamond Jubilee

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Quince that:-

"Council conveys its heartfelt congratulations to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee and expresses its thanks and admiration for the dignity of her leadership, and records its hope that her supreme examples of service and duty continues to influence her subjects for generations to come.

Council is of the opinion that the monarchy attracts tourists from around the globe contributing importantly to our economy, both nationally and here in the Borough of Colchester. Her Diamond Jubilee came at a time of austerity when we experience economic gloom. What a welcome relief for our country the Jubilee provided. Our nation had reason to express its joy, to party, to feel excited, and to have something wonderful to remember. Furthermore, communities were brought together and our British identity was heightened, especially because the rain failed to dampen the nation's enthusiasm.

Council notes that Her Majesty the Queen has received in excess of 60,000 messages of congratulations following her hugely successful Diamond Jubilee celebrations and that in this country we are immensely fortunate to have a Head of State with the qualities of Queen Elizabeth II. This remarkable lady, well into her 9th decade, has an unblemished record of public service stretching 60 years. She truly has reigned over us majestically and shone like a beacon as a role model. Support for the monarchy stands at a record high in recent times.

Council therefore resolves that the Mayor should communicate to Her Majesty the Borough's congratulations of the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee."

A MAIN AMENDMENT was moved by Councillor Manning that the Motion be approved and amended subject to:-

(i) The deletion of the first, second and third paragraphs;

(ii) The fourth paragraph to be amended as follows:-

- The deletion of the word "therefore";
- After the word "Mayor" the insertion of the words "on behalf of residents of Colchester";
- The deletion of the word "communicate" and its replacement with the word "convey";
- After the words "Her Majesty" the insertion of the words "the Queen";
- After the words "the Borough's" insert the word "heartfelt";
- After the word "congratulations" the deletion of the word "of" and its replacement with the word "on".

Pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 14(10) Councillor Quince indicated that the MAIN AMENDMENT was accepted whereupon, with the consent of Council, the MOTION was deemed amended accordingly.

The MOTION as amended was thereupon approved and adopted (UNANIMOUS).

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

Councillors Frame (in respect of his position as current Chairman of Colne Housing), T. Young (in respect of his appointment as the next Chairman of Colne Housing) and J. Young (in respect of her spouse's appointment as the next Chairman of Colne Housing) declared an other pecuniary interest in respect of the question from Councillor Granger pursuant to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 9(5).

Questioner	Subject	Response
Verbal Questions		
Councillor Quince	In view of the Portfolio Holder for Renaissance's support for a motion in favour of the Committee model of local government at a meeting of Essex County Council, did the Portfolio Holder believe that the Committee model was the most transparent and democratic form of local government?	Direct verbal response given by the Portfolio Holder for Renaissance
Councillor Lissimore	How successful had the Heatseekers Initiative been within the borough and would the Portfolio Holder ensure that the techniques used to promote the scheme were reviewed to ensure vulnerable residents were not pressurised?	Written response to be provided by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Community Safety and Culture.
Councillor Lissimore	Where did Colchester sit in the league table of recycling rates for local authorities in Essex?	Written response to be provided by the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services.
Councillor Naish	Could the Council implement the decision it had made previously to replace the signs for Ford's Lane to ensure that they contained the appropriate apostrophe?	Direct verbal response given by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy.
Councillor	Would the Portfolio Holder for	Direct verbal response given by the

Chillingworth	Renaissance make a statement on the proposals for the High Street, or give an indication when such a statement may be made?	Portfolio Holder for Renaissance.
Councillor Hazell	Would the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure Services confirm that none of the tennis courts at Eudo Road would be sold off for housing development?	Direct verbal response given by the Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure Services.
Councillor Lewis	What personal involvement did the Portfolio Holder for Renaissance have in the planning of "The Future of Colchester" exhibition?	Direct verbal response given by the Portfolio Holder for Renaissance.
Councillor Lewis	Was the Portfolio Holder for Housing aware that some of the two storey flats had no storage facilities, room for sheds or space for sitting out and would the Portfolio Holder consider ensuring the provision of some storage facilities in these blocks?	Written response to be provided by the Portfolio Holder for Communities.
Councillor Granger	Would the Leader of the Council expect the Cabinet to be notified and the appropriate interest declared when the then Portfolio Holder for Housing applied for a remunerated post as the Chairman of a Housing Association, and when was the Leader of the Council notified that the Portfolio Holder's application had been successful?	Direct verbal response given by the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy.
Councillor Willetts	Why had the Council not applied for a grant in the first round of the Portas funding or for a grant from the scheme to address drinking in the High Street	Direct verbal response given by the Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources.
Councillor Ford	The lack of an apostrophe on the door to the Mayor's Parlour.	Written response to be provided by the Portfolio Holder for Business and

Resources.

20. Election and Term of Office of the Leader of the Council

RESOLVED that the Leader of the Council continue to be elected by the Full Council at an Annual Meeting for a term of four years or for the remainder of his/her term of office as a councillor (whichever is the shorter).

21. Annual Scrutiny Report

RESOLVED that the Annual Scrutiny Report 2011-12 be noted and that the Council's thanks to Robert Judd, the Scrutiny Officer, for his support for the scrutiny function, be formally recorded.

22. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders

RESOLVED that the schedule of Portfolio Holder decisions for the period 8 March 2012 - 3 July 2012 be noted.