COUNCIL
5 DECEMBER 2013

Present :-   Councillor Colin Sykes (the Mayor) (Chairman)
Councillor John Elliott (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Christopher Arnold, Nick Barlow,
Lyn Barton, Kevin Bentley, Mary Blandon, Tina Bourne,
Mark Cable, Nigel Chapman, Peter Chillingworth,
Helen Chuah, Barrie Cook, Nick Cope, Mark Cory,
Beverly Davies, Andrew Ellis, Margaret Fairley-Crowe,
Annie Feltham, Bill Frame, Ray Gamble, Martin Goss,
Scott Greenhill, Marcus Harrington, Dave Harris, Julia
 Havis, Jo Hayes, Pauline Hazell, Peter Higgins,
Theresa Higgins, Mike Hogg, John Jowers,
Sonia Lewis, Cyril Liddy, Michael Lilley, Sue Lissimore,
Jackie Maclean, Jon Manning, Richard Martin,
Colin Mudie, Beverley Oxford, Gerard Oxford,
Philip Oxford, Will Quince, Lesley Scott-Boutell,
Peter Sheane, Paul Smith, Laura Sykes, Anne Turrell
(Leader of the Council) , Dennis Willetts, Julie Young
and Tim Young

The meeting was opened with prayers by Graham Theobald.

37. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Blundell, Ford, Hunt, Jarvis, Kimberley, Naish, Offen and Sutton.

38. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

39. Announcement by Chief Executive // Flood Alerts

At the invitation of the Mayor Adrian Pritchard, Chief Executive, outlined the actions the Council had taken in response to the flood alerts issued for the coastal areas of the Borough and neighbouring boroughs.

40. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor announced that at the Colchester Business Awards Colchester Borough Council and Colchester Borough Homes had won the following awards:-

- Colchester Borough Council had received an Excellence in Marketing Award for its proactive communications, marketing and engagement work carried out to support residents affected by Welfare Reform. The Mayor presented the award to Clare Atkinson, Business Relationship Manager.
- The refurbishment of Worsnop House, sheltered housing scheme, had won Colchester Borough Homes an award for efficiency and innovation. The Mayor presented the award to Mark Wright, Director, Property Services, who thanked the Council for providing the strategic vision that enabled Colchester Borough Homes to undertake the work and win the award. Councillor Bourne, Portfolio Holder for Housing, thanked Colchester Borough Homes officers for the work undertaken in respect of Worsnop House, which had delivered an exceptional housing scheme and urged Councillors to visit.

The Mayor announced the following events:-

- Garrison Christmas Concert at St Botolph's Church on 19 December 2013;
- The New Year's Eve Dinner in the Mayoral Suite on 31 December 2013;
- The 3rd Colchester Lecture would be given by Rebecca Perry, Colchester Zoo, for Action for the Wild, on 25 January 2014;
- The Operatic Society's Civic Night at the Mercury Theatre was provisionally scheduled for 31 January 2014;
- Beer Tasting on 7th February 2014;
- Bach Choir Concert at St Botolph's Church on 22 February 2014.

The Mayor offered his thanks to all those who had attended the Oyster Feast.

41. Licensing and the Night Time Economy

Councillor Hogg (as the holder of the alcohol licence for St Annes Community Centre Association) declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(5).

It was PROPOSED by Councillor T. Young that:-

This Council takes on board the points made and discussions held at the recent meeting of the Crime & Disorder Committee and as a result:

- Instructs the Chief Executive of Colchester Borough Council to write to all licensed premises operating in Colchester Borough, inviting them to make a financial contribution towards the running costs of Colchester's SOS bus;
- Recognises the problem of 'pre-loading' with regards to alcohol misuse and recommends the setting up of an all-party task and finish group to investigate the issues surrounding this and to report back to Full Council by March 2014;
- Calls on the MPs representing Colchester Borough, The Hon Bernard Jenkin MP, Priti Patel MP and Sir Bob Russell MP to call for reform of our licensing laws;

- Invites the three MPs representing Colchester Borough, The Hon Bernard Jenkin MP, Priti Patel MP and Sir Bob Russell MP to spend a Saturday evening in Colchester town centre with the Group Leaders to view and discuss the issues and problems surrounding the night-time economy at first hand.

A SECONDARY AMENDMNET was PROPOSED by Councillor Quince as follows:-

In the fourth bullet point, the deletion of the word "evening" and its replacement with the words "night/Sunday morning".

Councillor T. Young indicated that he accepted the SECONDARY AMENDMENT and the MOTION was therefore deemed amended accordingly.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION AS AMENDED was CARRIED (UNANIMOUS).

42. Electoral Review of the Borough of Colchester

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in the Monitoring Officer's report be approved subject to the wording of the answer to question 8.2 on page 33 of the agenda being deleted and replaced with "Please refer to Political Groups' submissions" (UNANIMOUS).

43. Review of Local Code of Corporate Governance

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 22 of the Governance Committee meeting of 15 October 2013 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

44. Review of the Ethical Governance Policies

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 21 of the Governance Committee meeting of 15 October 2013 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

45. Sex Establishment Licensing Policy

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 9 of the Licensing Committee meeting of 7 November 2013 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

46. Local Council Tax Support Scheme

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 52 of the Cabinet meeting of 27 November 2013 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

47. Capital Programme

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in minute 54 of the Cabinet meeting of 27 November 2013 be approved and adopted (MAJORITY voted FOR).

48. Late Night Levy

It was PROPOSED by Councillor Quince that:-

This Council believes that a late night levy pursuant to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 should be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity for bars, pubs and clubs and other relevant late-opening alcohol suppliers in the Borough of Colchester and requests the Licensing Committee to investigate its introduction.

A MAIN AMENDMENT was PROPOSED by Councillor Barlow as follows:-

That the motion on the Late Night Levy be approved and adopted subject to the following amendments:-

The deletion of the words "should be introduced at the earliest possible opportunity for bars, pubs and clubs and other relevant late-opening alcohol suppliers in the" and their replacement with the words " may provide some benefits for the residents of the";

The deletion of all wording from "Licensing Committee" onwards and their replacement with the words "newly created Task and Finish Group on preloading and the night time economy to investigate the costs and benefits of introducing this levy with a view to recommending to Council in its report in March whether or not it should be introduced.

Councillor Quince indicated that the MAIN AMENDMENT was accepted and the MOTION was therefore deemed amended accordingly.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION AS AMENDED was CARRIED (UNANIMOUS).

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

Questioner	Subject	Response
Verbal Questions		
Councillor Mudie	What action would the Leader of the Council take in respect of the poor	Councillor Turrell, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for

	condition of the pavement opposite the Castle Park and Queen Street?	Strategy indicated that she would raise the issue with Essex County Council who were the responsible authority.
Councillor Hazell	Did the Council intend to introduce car parking charges at Gosbecks Archaeological Park in the 2014/15 budget?	Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources, indicated that in line with other authorities, including Essex County Council, who had introduced car parking charges for all their country parks, the Council was considering the introduction of car parking charges at Gosbecks.
Councillor P. Higgins	Would the Leader of the Council approach colleagues at Essex County Council to keep street lights on until 1.00am to improve public safety?	Councillor Turrell, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy, indicated that she would raise the issue at Essex County Council. Consultation was ongoing and the position would be reviewed after six months.
Councillor Harrington	Why had there not been more staff available or a manager on site to deal with issues that arose from delays in issuing tickets bought online for a performance of Russian ballet at Charter Hall.	Councillor Feltham, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure Services, indicated that a written response had been sent to Councillor Harrington about the steps tht had been taken to prevent a repetition and how tickets bought online could be collected.
Councillor Lewis	What works were carried out to the Abbots building before it was handed over to the Hythe Community Centre and could details of the lease and financial	Councillor Feltham, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Leisure Services, indicated that a written answer would be provided.

	arrangements entered into with Hythe Community Centre be provided.	
Councillor Goss	Would the Portfolio Holder pass on concerns expressed to him by a resident about the state of the displays and the toilets at firstsite.	Councillor T. Young, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Community Safety and Culture indicated that if further details were provided he would raise these issues with firstsite as part of his regular dialogue with them.

50. Schedules of Decisions taken by Portfolio Holders

RESOLVED that the Schedules of Portfolio Holder decisions for the period 1 October 2014 - 20 November 2014 be noted.