MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

APPROVED

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held in the Community Room on Thursday 19th October, 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:	Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie (Chair)	Cllr. M. Taylor
	Cllr. M. McClarnon	Cllr. H. Jones
	Cllr. J. Charlesworth	
In attendance:	Acting Chief Inspector Darren Deex	Approximately 50 members of the public
	Mrs L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk)	

76/17 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllr. R. Stocks.

77/17 Minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 20th July 2017 and 21st September 2017, having been circulated previously, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

78/17 Declarations of interest
There were none.

79/80 Co-option of potential candidates for councilor vacancy
RESOLVED that Mrs. Sam Richardson be offered the position of councillor. Her first meeting will be on the 16th November 2017.

80/17 Visit by Police Inspector Mr. Darren Deex
Acting Chief Inspector Darren Deex introduced himself. He started by acknowledging the large number of people attending the council meeting. He then gave the council and members of the public an insight from a strategic level into how and why policing has changed over the last few years. The police budget has been cut by nearly a quarter resulting in some drastic measures having to be taken. Several restructures have taken place with the loss of a large number of back-office staff in particular. Essex Police own approximately 80 properties across the county, which are extremely expensive to run and maintain. Modernising these buildings would prove extremely costly. Essex Police is in the process of reducing the number of buildings from 80 to around 30 which will enable them to modernise those remaining buildings. Regarding the sale of the Mistley Police Station, Inspector Deex made it clear that it is a misconception that the proceeds from that sale can just be taken and reinvested in the local area, it is unfortunately not that simple. The police share the public's frustrations and are looking at ways to maintain and improve their standard of service delivery to the public in terms of responding to calls and reports of crime and anti-social behaviour. Essex Police are currently undergoing a big recruitment drive, they are investing heavily in technology and trying to modernise the police service. Police are no longer able to respond to every single crime and use a thrive process where they look at the threat, the harm and vulnerabilities of victims and the type of crime they are dealing with. Domestic abuse accounts for approximately one third of all violent crime in the district. Resources are also directed to child sex exploitation and missing children. However, the police are also doing their absolute best to provide the public with a service when it comes to other crimes such as motor vehicle thefts and damage to property. Inspector Deex finished off by opening up for questions from the public as minuted in 81/17 below.

81/17 Public Participation Session
Approximately 50 members of the public turned up to ask Inspector Darren Deex questions on policing in Manningtree. Some of the questions asked related to the number of police officers based in Tendring, crime rate statistics and the lack of visible policing in and around Manningtree. Concern was expressed that as Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford are surrounded by areas where a significant higher percentage of crime takes place, they end up with a lower priority rank when it comes to police resources. It was felt that the main problem in the area is the lack of visible policing with the nearest police station in Harwich or Clacton meaning response times to even serious crimes will be long. There was also a feeling that incidents are not always taken seriously by the police with the end result not a very good one for the local community.

Inspector Deex explained that Tendring has a local policing team made up of approximately 80 police officers who work a shift pattern and who are responsible for attending emergency and priority incidents. There is also a community policing team consisting of 9 PCs and circa 16 PCSOs. There is a criminal investigation department and an Operation Juno team dealing with domestic abuse.

He also explained that crime levels need to be put into context and although crime levels in and around Manningtree may seem high in proportion to its population it is not bad when compared to other areas of the district. The target time for responding to crime in this area is within 20 minutes. In terms of crime rate statistics, whereas some of the reported rises in crime are legitimate, a proportion of the increase in the statistics is due to crime recording standards having improved.

Inspector Deex stated that a lot of work goes on in the background to try and improve the police's service to the public. At the moment Tendring Police is considering the possibility of having a couple of special constables stationed at Manningtree Fire Station. Tendring also has a strong active citizen contingent. Community Speed Watch is one option that the police can help the community to get up and running. A couple of Mistley residents have already been trained to operate a speed gun but will need their fluorescent jackets before they can get started. Funding has been applied for to get specific speed cameras for PCSOs for district wide use. In addition, there is the Community Safety Partnership where shortly you'll be able to apply for a community day of action where the Community Safety Partnership will descend om the area for the day and work together with local volunteers.

A member of the public questioned why sleeping policemen cannot be installed in the High Street. Inspector Deex explained that this would be a decision for Essex County Council and not the police.

82/17 Reports from the District and County Councils
District and County reports are accessible to the public on the town council's website www.manningtreetowncouncil.org.uk.

83/17 Progress Report from the Clerk

27/17 f) To discuss any action to be taken regarding large Tesco lorries delivering goods to the front of the Tesco shop in the High Street The clerk was asked to write a letter to Tesco reminding them that deliveries should only take place at the back of the store and that only 8 meter rigid vans should be used for deliveries. **Action: Clerk**

69/17 a) To consider 3 x quotes for maintenance of benches, signs and railing The clerk was asked to chase Environmental Design for a start date for this project. **Action: Clerk**

RESOLVED that the following items be discharged:
154/15 To discuss alternative salt storage options in light of planning application at 37 Stour Street.

84/17 Report from the Planning Committee
A separate planning meeting was held prior to the full council meeting. Separate minutes have been issued for this meeting. **RESOLVED** that this agenda item is to come off the full council agenda going forward.

85/17 Reports from Representatives on other committees
Cllr. Charlesworth had attended the TDALC meeting. Discussion surrounding TDC's Community Governance Reviews highlighted doubts as to whether the NALC guidance on the number of councillors is still relevant. Information was also provided about a new "Supporting Communities" fund (http://www.essex.gov.uk/Community-Safety/Communities/Pages/Local-Services-Fund.aspx),which is applicable to both parishes as well as local charitable organisations. Catherine Bicknell from TDC's planning department talked about the status of the local plan. They hope to have public examination over by the end of January 2018 for part 1. For part 2, they're hoping for public examination by June 2018, possibly adoption by September 2018. There was also a brief progress update on the attempt by some of the local councils to get trespass changed from a civil to a criminal offence as part of their attempt at evicting travellers more quickly.

86/17 To formulate a response to MP Bernard Jenkin regarding policing in Manningtree
RESOLVED that the clerk will e-mail Bernard Jenkin stating that the town council very much welcomes a discussion on the presence of special constables / PCSOs within Manningtree and the surrounding area. A proposal of using the local fire station as a base for two special constables for our town has been put forward by a group of local residents and the Town Council very much supports this proposal.

87/17 Highways/Environment

a) **To consider putting forward signage / one-way problems on South Street as a scheme to the Tendring Local Highway Panel**
RESOLVED that a scheme be submitted to the Tendring Local Highway Panel. Cllrs. Taylor and Charlesworth are to assist the clerk with the application and obtaining supporting evidence.
Action: Clerk, Cllrs. Taylor and Charlesworth

b) **To consider putting forward suggestion of a Speed Indicator Device on Brook Street as a scheme to the Tendring Local Highway Panel**
RESOLVED that a scheme be submitted to the Tendring Local Highway Panel once evidence has been gathered.
Action: Clerk

88/17 To discuss ways in which the council can support the Vintage Market
Cllr. Taylor has informed the organiser of the Vintage Market that any requests for financial support will need to be sent to the council in writing.

89/17 Constitution

a) **To appoint officers to the following positions:**
   a. **TDC Parish and Town Council Community Resilience representative**
   RESOLVED that Cllr. Taylor be appointed TDC Parish and Town Council Community Resilience representative.
   b. **Stour and Orwell Estuaries Management Committee representative**
   RESOLVED that Cllr. McClarnon be appointed Stour and Orwell Estuaries Management Committee representative.
   c. **Personnel Committee**
   RESOLVED that the above agenda item be deferred to the November meeting.

90/17 Finance

a) **To set a date for the next Finance Committee meeting**
RESOLVED that the meeting is to be held on the 16th November prior to the full council meeting.

b) **To review TDC's special expense form for 2018/19**
RESOLVED that no changes are needed.

c) **To consider an S137 payment to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in the sum of £45 in accordance with the budget**
RESOLVED that an S137 grant in the sum of £45 be given to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, payable at this meeting.
Action: Clerk

d) **To approve monthly bank reconciliation figures for end of September**
RESOLVED that the monthly bank reconciliation figures be approved.

e) **To approve payments/cheques for signature in accordance with the 2017/18 budget:**
RESOLVED that the following payments be approved:

Item	Amount
Monthly salary Clerk October (including expenses)	£564.36
Environmental Design (maintenance September)	£62.40
E.ON Street Lighting	£300.58
Colne Housing (Room Hire September)	£11.00
ICO Data Protection Registration Renewal	£35.00
EALC Chairman's Course (Mayor attending)	£90.00
Plus standing order payment to Webfactory	£17.99
Plus additional payment to RBL Poppy Appeal	£50.00

91/17 Consultations and Surveys

a) **To discuss TDC's proposed Community Governance Reviews**
RESOLVED that the clerk respond stating that the council is happy with its current number of councillor positions and that a proposal to amalgamate Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford is to be discussed at the November meeting.
Action: Clerk

b) **To consider replying to the Growing a Rural Community in Essex survey**
RESOLVED that the council will not respond to this survey.

92/17 Items from councillors to be added to the next agenda

a) To request a financial donation from the Three Parishes Trust towards the maintenance of the town's benches.

There being no further business the Deputy Mayor closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

Signed..... Dated.....16.11.17