

MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

Unapproved

Minutes of the Town Council meeting held in the Community Room Thursday 17th September 2009

48/09 Present: Cllr. L. Lay-Flurrie Cllr. P. Hughes-Stanton
Cllr. A. Hoskyns Cllr. R. Streames
Cllr. E. Edwards Cllr. V. Bettle

In attendance: Bernard Jenkin M.P.
Mr. M. Robeson – for Tesco Stores
Mr. W. Kitchener – for Tesco Stores
Mr. P. Rust – for Tesco Stores
Approximately thirty members of the public
Ms. A. Collitt (Harwich & Manningtree Standard)
Two first responders (to end Item 49/09)
Ms. R. Kenneison - Clerk

49/09 Apologies for absence and welcome: Cllr. M. Dew; District Cllr. C. Guglielmi.
The mayor welcomed the two First Responders who thanked the Council for the grant they had been given and explained how the money had been used.

50/09 Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the meeting of 16th July were approved, following an amendment to 41/09 (the assault in question took place on Wherry Corner, not on The Walls). Proposed Cllr. Hughes-Stanton, seconded Cllr. Edwards and signed by the Mayor. She then closed the meeting and asked everyone to move through to the main hall for the Tesco presentation.

51/09 Presentation of Revisions to Tesco Plans The Mayor introduced Tesco's planning consultants; Mr. Robeson spoke. He said it was nearly two and a half years since Tesco had first given a presentation here. He showed the first plan, saying the layout been intended as a gateway to the town. He added that a number of issues had arisen from this design, including comments regarding the retail impact and the impact on traffic flows, as well as others related to the site layout and the design. The new site plan showed the store at the western end of the site which has kept the service yard hidden but opened up pedestrian routes into the town; this plan has been discussed with TDC but not yet submitted. Showing the revised elevations, he explained that these were not the final versions. The intention is to submit these alterations as revisions and consult sometime in October. There were some questions from Councillors regarding the details.

Bernard Jenkin then spoke. He said he could offer Tesco one and a half or two cheers for altering the location of the store. He said it looked better, especially in terms of the layout, but that it was obviously a modern store and could be from anywhere in the UK. He stressed that this is a once in 20 or 50 years opportunity to redevelop that site, so the building had to be good.

In response to a question from the floor, Mr. Rust said that it clear that traffic was a 'genuinely felt concern', but that objectivity was necessary. He explained the ECC had checked Tesco's work and asserted that the traffic to and from the store would not cause traffic jams. In reply to a query he said that peak traffic flows at the station roundabout would increase by only 5%; Mr. Jenkin said that a 5% increase (which he though implausibly low) was 5% too much. Tesco has offered funding for highway

improvements at the railway, including an extra lane to feed from Station Road onto the roundabout, and to alter the priority system at the crossing. There was considerable complaint that the High Street is often blocked and cannot easily take additional traffic.

A question was asked regarding the future of the High Street Tesco. Mr. Kitchener said that it would be a condition would keep the Metro open for 3-5 years following the opening of the larger store, as it serves a different market.

Regarding opening hours, Mr. Robeson said that the store would be open for similar hours to the co-op with deliveries from 7a.m. and that it would be possible to promote the town centre within the proposed store. No exact figures, were available for the number of full-time equivalent jobs that would be created; these were promised.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and explained that the Town Council meeting would continue in the Community Room. At this point Mr. Jenkin, the Tesco representatives, the press and most of the public remained in the hall and the meeting continued in the Community Room.

52/09 Declaration of interests The Mayor re-opened the meeting. There were no changes to the Declaration of Interests.

53/09 Matters arising from the minutes

126/05 Guide book The Clerk said that it looked as if a new edition of the guide would have to be produced within the next year.

83/07 Width restriction The Clerk said that Highways had distributed plans for signage revisions and that these would be circulated to Councillors.

20/08 Lighting The Clerk said that EDF said that it was probable that the new light wasn't working due to an internal fault; our contractor is to investigate. She added that Highways would repaint the dilapidated lighting columns of the Council paid them; she was asked to investigate further and work out the total cost. She was asked to tell the contractor to proceed with the upgrade of the light in the Lane, per quote. **Action: Clerk**

55/08 Youth drop-in Old pews are now in place, to be used as seating once they have been painted.

66/08 Access survey The Clerk said that Highways had provided a map showing the barriers that are inaccessible for motorised buggies; this was to be circulated.

101/08 Regeneration of market area The Mayor reported that Highways have marked where work is to be carried out. The old seat is to be renovated and moved elsewhere and the litter bin is to be moved slightly. The shrubs are due to arrive in the near future, and two of the new seats have sponsors.

33/09 Trees and shrubs on Quay Street The Clerk said she would move ahead with the work and obtain permission from TDC for the tree to be pruned.

43/09 Councillor safety

Item discharged

44/09 Christmas decorations The Business Chamber had not been willing to organise the mounting of Christmas trees on shopfronts. **Item discharged**

54/09 Open session Mrs. Day observed that the lamppost which has been marked for removal is still there.

55/09 Reports from Representatives on Committees a) Cllr. Hoskyns said that the Cemetery Committee had met, with a new member. It is still in profit.

b) Cllr. Hughes-Stanton reported that the Business Chamber is beginning to develop plans for the future.

c) Cllr. Edwards said that three plans had been received: **09/00751/TCA** (to fell tree, Erskine House), **09/00814/TPO** (to fell sycamore, Malthouse Road) and **09/00898/FUL** (change of use to takeaway, Station Road). There were no objections to the first two, but regarding the third the Council had commented that the town already had a large number of takeaways.

d) Cllr. Streames reported that the drainage problem on the Welcome Home now seemed to have been resolved, and that the play equipment had passed its annual inspection.

e) Cllr. Lay-Flurrie said that the police now have a headcam and that there is a new non-emergency number to enable the public to contact the police: **0300 333 4444**.

f) She added that the East Essex Area Forum had met where the new chair of the police authority had proved to be very down to earth.

g) At the NAP meeting she had enquired about a 20mph speed limit for Brook Street and was told that the Council would need to apply to Highways.

h) Finally, she asked for volunteers to ‘meet and greet’ RCCE walkers on the Essex Way on Sunday 4th October.

56/09 To discuss the Visit-Manningtree website The Mayor asked Mr. Hammick, who runs the website, to explain his proposal. He said he was aware that the Manningtree AZ website was no longer up to date, largely because the operator no longer lived in the area. He said that although he has no plans to move away, he was aware that the same issue could arise in the future with visit-Manningtree. He said he was therefore willing to continue to maintain the site for free, and put the Council’s minutes on it if the Council were to buy the domain name for £70.00 per annum. The Councillors all felt that this was a very good offer. It was further agreed to terminate the present arrangement with Manningtree A-Z; the Clerk was asked to write to request a revised bill to the end of September; proposed Cllr. Hughes-Stanton and seconded Cllr. Hoskyns. **Action: Clerk**

57/09 To approve payment of the following cheques

Audit Commission	£135.00
Ms. R. Kenneison	£20.52 (printer cartridges)
CVST affiliation	£10.00
TDALC	£5.00
Clerk’s salary and expenses	£745.88

And for urgent payment: A.R. Fabb (£31.07) and CPRE (£29.00). Proposed Cllr. Lay-Flurrie, seconded Cllr. Hoskyns.

58/09 Correspondence

For reply and attention a) The Clerk said that the SVMTP requested that the old Manningtree tourist leaflet be taken out of circulation as it is very out of date. The Mayor said she would see to it. **Action: Mayor**

b) It was agreed that the Town council would not be present for the Natural England check of the SSSI but would be interested in the findings. **Action: Clerk**

c) It was agreed to donate £70 to the Rotary music competition. The cheques was written and signed. Proposed Cllr. Hughes-Stanton, seconded Cllr. Hoskyns.

d) The Clerk said that there were numerous items in the folder requiring attention, and added that some additional post had been received: TDC Summons and Agenda and tree planting; CPRE; NHS annual report announcement; LCR; Strandline.

Signed.....Dated.....