

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON**

21 September 2017

7.30 - 8.06 pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Sue Livings (Chair)
Maggie Hulcoop (Vice-Chair)

Ian Beckett	Mark Ingall
David Carter	Andrew Johnson
Simon Carter	Eddie Johnson
Joel Charles	Dan Long
Nick Churchill	Russell Perrin
Jean Clark	Bill Pryor
Jon Clempner	Danny Purton
Karen Clempner	Lanie Shears
Mike Danvers	Clive Souter
Bob Davis	John Strachan
Tony Durcan	Edna Stevens
Waida Forman	Emma Toal
Michael Garnett	Phil Waite
Tony Hall	Mark Wilkinson

OFFICERS

Malcolm Morley OBE, Chief Executive
Brian Keane, Head of Governance
Lisa Thornett, Corporate Governance Support Officer
Janet Jackson, Corporate Governance Support Manager

29. **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair of the Council, Councillor Sue Livings, asked that a minutes silence be held following the tragedy in Barcelona.

30. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Stefan Mullard and Shona Johnson.

31. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

32. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR**

The Chair advised that she had been invited to some wonderful events in Essex and Hertfordshire and had enjoyed each and every one especially the Herts and Essex Community Farm event held on 12 August 2017. She recommended to her colleagues that they should visit when they have the opportunity.

The Chair spoke about the Harlow Carnival which was held on 23 July 2017 as part of the Harlow is 70 events. She advised her colleagues that it had been a great success and that many residents had asked this would become an annual or bi-annual event. The Chair thanked the staff and volunteers involved and in addition thanked St Andrews Church of the Stow for their hospitality.

The Chair mentioned her Civic Service which was held on 10 September 2017 again she thanked the Officers involved and also the Reverend Martin Harris for their help in organising the event.

The Chair advised of her forthcoming events, which included a golf day, bonfire night and the quiz night.

34. **PRESENTATION OF CIVIC HONOUR**

The Chair of the Council presented a Civic Honour to Malcolm Morley OBE in recognition for his outstanding personal commitment and his contribution to the local community.

35. **PRESENTATION - COMMUNITY SAFETY TEAM**

Chief Inspector Matt Cornish, Essex Police and Jenny Brouard, Citizen in Policing Manager presented a plaque to the Chair of the Council in recognition of the Council's Community Safety Team being accredited by Essex police for ten years.

36. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

37. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

38. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The question and the answer is appended to these minutes.

39. **MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None

40. **REFERENCES FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

Proposed by Councillor Jon Clempner and seconded by Councillor Emma Toal.

RESOLVED that the recommendation on items a to e are APPROVED on bloc

- a) Referral from Licensing Committee - Guidance on Criminal Convictions and Motoring Offences in Taxi and Private Hire Licensing.
- b) Referral from Licensing Committee - Licensed Driver Training.
- c) Referral from Licensing Committee - Arrangements for Street Trading in the Town Centre.
- d) Referral from Cabinet - Annual Treasury Management Report 2016/17
- e) Referral from Cabinet - Non Domestic Rates - Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

41. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

None.

42. **MINUTES OF CABINET AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following meetings are noted.

- a) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 5 September 2017 of Scrutiny Committee
- b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 30 August 2017 of Development Management Committee
- c) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 11 July 2017 of Licensing Committee
- d) Minutes of meeting Tuesday, 25 July 2017 of Scrutiny Committee
- e) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 5 July 2017 of Development Management Committee
- f) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 20 July 2017 of Cabinet

43. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None

CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

**COUNCIL – 21 September 2017
QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Agenda item 6 refers

1. Councillor Simon Carter, to Councillor Mike Danvers, Portfolio Holder for Resources.

In your first budget in February 2013 you abolished the free first hour of parking in council-owned car parks, a decision which underwent a rapid U-turn and the free hour re-introduced. At the same time, the option of a voluntary donation was introduced to go to local charities.

How much did it cost to change the ticket machines to remove the free hour and then reinstate it and to process the donation? And how much money has been raised in each year since?

Response from Councillor Mike Danvers, Portfolio Holder for Resources.

As you will be aware, it was the last Conservative administration that put the car parking charges in place. As part of producing a balanced and sustainable budget, in the light of central Government cuts, all options for balancing the budget were explored.

The Council's budget for 2013/14 initially proposed the introduction of a 20p charge for the first hour of parking in the neighbourhood shopping centres.

However, the Council was cognisant of, and receptive to, public and business opinion at the time and the subsequent changes to tariffs was made to take up the shortfall in budget as a result of not introducing 20p tariff.

These changes were made prior to implementation (September 2013) and as a result there were no additional costs. The cost for amending machines and advertising new tariffs in the local press would have been the same circa £950. This had to be done because of the other changes to charges, in line with the Traffic Regulations Orders.

The income from the neighbourhood centre car parks including any 20p donations has enabled the Council to continue to allocate partnership grants since 2013 and last year it allocated £130,000.

However, I am unable to give you a breakdown of the 20p income as the Council's accounts are not structured in a way which allows for this.