

Minutes

Council Meeting



27th June 2016

These Minutes principally record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. A webcast of the meeting is available for six months at www.braintree.gov.uk.

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
Councillor J Abbott	Yes	Councillor G Maclure	Yes
Councillor Mrs J Allen	Yes	Councillor D Mann	Yes
Councillor C Bailey	Apologies	Councillor J McKee	Yes
Councillor M Banthorpe	Yes	Councillor R Mitchell	Apologies
Councillor J Baugh	Yes	Councillor Mrs J Money	Yes
Councillor Mrs J Beavis	Yes	Councillor Lady Newton	Yes
Councillor D Bebb	Yes	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Yes
Councillor R Bolton	No	Councillor Mrs I Parker	Yes
Councillor K Bowers	Apologies	Councillor Mrs S Paul	Apologies
Councillor Mrs L Bowers–Flint	Apologies	Councillor Mrs J Pell	Yes
Councillor G Butland	Yes	Councillor R Ramage	Yes
Councillor S Canning	Yes	Councillor F Ricci (Chairman)	Yes
Councillor J Cunningham	Yes	Councillor B Rose	Yes
Councillor Mrs M Cunningham	Yes	Councillor Miss V Santomauro	Yes
Councillor T Cunningham	Yes	Councillor Mrs W Scattergood	Yes
Councillor M Dunn	Yes	Councillor Mrs W Schmitt	Yes
Councillor J Elliott	Yes	Councillor P Schwier	Yes
Councillor J Goodman	Yes	Councillor C Siddall	Yes
Councillor A Hensman	Yes	Councillor Mrs G Spray	Yes
Councillor P Horner	Yes	Councillor P Tattersley	Yes
Councillor D Hufton-Rees	Yes	Councillor Miss M Thorogood	Yes
Councillor D Hume	Yes	Councillor R van Dulken	Apologies
Councillor H Johnson	Yes	Councillor Mrs L Walters	Yes
Councillor Mrs A Kilmartin	Yes	Councillor Mrs S Wilson	Yes
Councillor S Kirby (Vice-Chairman)	Yes		

23 **CHAIRMAN'S AND/OR LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman's announcements covered the following:

Essex Teaching Awards - Essex teachers and support staff from the Braintree District had received national recognition following the Essex Teaching Awards. Winners from the Awards were entered in this year's National Pearson Teaching Awards that celebrates excellence in education and the Chairman was pleased to announce the following recipients of Certificates of Excellence:

- The Governing Body (Maltings Academy and New Rickstones Academy, Witham) – The Award for Outstanding School Team of the Year
- Belinda Burt (Maltings Academy, Witham) – The Award for Teaching Assistant of the Year
- The Philosophy, Ethics & Religion Department (Notley High School, Braintree) - The Award for Outstanding School Team of the Year.

Service to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty The Queen – On Saturday 11th June 2016, the Chairman hosted a Church Service, officiated by The Reverend Charles Mason, at St. Michael's Church, Braintree to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.

Armed Forces Day – On Saturday 25th June, the Chairman had raised the Armed Forces Day Flag at Braintree Town Hall on behalf of the Council. The event was well attended and the Chairman was very pleased to have the opportunity to meet representatives of various military groups and youth organisations who joined the Chair for this special and important annual event. The Chairman thanked Councillors who had also attended the event.

In addition to these, the Chairman had also attended the following events:

Saturday 7th May - Official Dedication Service of the Colne Engaine War Memorial
Sunday 15th May - Mayor of Halstead Civic Service
Friday 10th June - High Sheriff's Garden Party, Saffron Walden
Saturday 18th June - Rayne Village Fete (Rayne WI/Rayne Parish Council)

The Leader did not have any announcements to make.

24 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:-

Councillor G Butland declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 9 – 'Recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee –8th June 2016 - Scrutiny Review into Health in the Braintree District' as the elected Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Health.

Councillor C Siddall declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 10d – 'Report from Councillor T Cunningham – Cabinet Member for Economic Development' as a non-paid Director of Ignite Business Enterprise.

Councillor T Cunningham declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda Item 10 – ‘Reports from the Leader and Cabinet Members’ as a non-paid Director of Ignite Business Enterprise.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members remained in the meeting and took part in the debate and decision when the Item was considered.

25 **MINUTES**

INFORMATION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Special Meeting of Council held on 20th June 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked, or statements made.

27 **MEMBER APPOINTMENT TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND OUTSIDE BODY (MALTINGS LANE FORUM)**

INFORMATION: At the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Full Council the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was agreed.

It was proposed to amend the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Stephen Canning with Councillor Gavin Maclure. Councillors Canning and Maclure have been consulted and were in agreement.

The Council also appointed representatives to Outside Bodies. At the time of AGM there was a vacancy in the Witham South Ward and Council agreed that Councillor Mrs Janet Money and the successful Candidate in the By-Election for the Witham South Ward be appointed to the Maltings Lane Forum.

Councillor Gavin Maclure was elected to the Witham South Ward on 5th May 2016 and Council was therefore requested to note his appointment to the Maltings Lane Forum for the Civic Year 2016/17.

DECISION: That the Council:-

1. Agrees the amendment to the Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remove Councillor Stephen Canning and to include Councillor Gavin Maclure as set out in Appendix A.
2. To note that Councillor Gavin Maclure is appointed as the Council's representative, together with Councillor Mrs Janet Money, to the Maltings Lane Forum for the Civic Year 2016/17.

REASON FOR DECISION:

1. To comply with legislation and to enable the Council to discharge its functions through Committees and Sub-Committees.
2. Full Council discharges its functions in accordance with Article 4 of the Constitution.

28 COUNCILLORS' COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

INFORMATION: Members were asked to approve the proposals to introduce a new ward based Councillors' Community Grant Scheme from 1st September 2016.

The Scheme would enable ward members to bring about changes in their area through the provision of grants to community groups and would be supported by the Grant Panel and the Community Services Team.

A provision of £180,000 had been included within the budget for the next two years to cover the funding of the grants, plus the administration and promotion of the scheme. The scheme would provide all 49 Ward Councillors with funds to support organisations and groups to develop and deliver community projects and initiatives that benefit local residents.

Each Councillor will be allocated the following grant to spend in their ward: £1500 from the 1 September 2016 to 31 March 2017, and £1500 from the 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

DECISION: That the Council:-

1. Approves the Braintree District Councillors' Community Grant Scheme as set out in the report.
2. The consequential additions to the Constitution in section 7 of the report be adopted, and the Head of Governance be authorised to produce updated copies of the constitution incorporating these.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the implementation of the new Councillors' Community Grant Scheme.

29 CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL TO JOIN SEAX ESSEX BUILDING CONTROL SHARED SERVICE TO DELIVER BUILDING CONTROL REGULATION SERVICES

INFORMATION: Members were asked to consider the two recommendations to Council. On the 23rd May 2016 Cabinet considered proposals to join the SEAX Shared Building Control Service. Cabinet approved the Council joining the shared service with recommendations to Full Council.

The provision of the Building Control Service was conducted under statutory powers. In order for Colchester Borough Council as the host Authority to undertake the work on the Council's behalf appropriate arrangements must be made. The details of these arrangements were set out in the report.

The development of the new shared service would have a number of initial set-up costs which were to be divided proportionately between the participating Authorities. Approval was sought for the use of unallocated balances to fund this cost.

DECISION: That the Council:-

1. Under section 101 Local Government Act 1972 the Council arranges that the functions as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be discharged on its behalf by Colchester Borough Council, subject to the acceptance of this by Colchester Borough Council, and from the later the signing of a Partnership Agreement on the 1st October 2016.
2. That a budget provision of £250,000 is agreed for the one-off set-up costs, funded by an allocation from the Council's unallocated balance.

REASON FOR DECISION: To delegate the relevant statutory functions which relate to the Council's Building Control service to Colchester Borough Council and make appropriate budget provision for the allocation to facilitate the forming of the shared service.

30 **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8TH JUNE 2016 - SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO HEALTH IN THE BRAINTREEDISTRICT**

INFORMATION: Further to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's scrutiny review in to Health in the Braintree District, Members were asked to consider the Scrutiny Report and the recommendations to Cabinet.

Subject to Council's approval, the Scrutiny Report would be taken to the meeting of Cabinet on the 12th September 2016 for response.

The recommendations of the Scrutiny Review triggered discussions amongst Members regarding the importance of health in the District in which areas were identified with the potential to investigate further, these included: school readiness, pharmacies, outreach services, mental health, tackling child obesity, social prescribing, the Council's role in working with GP practices to assist in engaging with the public, forward planning in relation to health provision in the Local Plan, the need for Counselling services in GP practices, communication with partners, and the rise in diabetes.

DECISION: To refer the Scrutiny Review in to Health in the Braintree District, undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the Cabinet for consideration and response.

REASON FOR DECISION: To enable the Committees' report to be referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Procedure Rules for Scrutiny.

31 **REPORTS FROM THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS AND ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS - PUBLIC SESSION**

INFORMATION: The Chairman invited the Leader and the Cabinet Members to introduce their reports. Following this, the Chairman invited Members to ask questions. Questions were not limited to the content of the reports and could be

about matters relating to a portfolio, the powers and duties of the Council, or the District.

Consideration was given to the reports of the Leader and Cabinet Members.

Councillor Butland updated Members on the devolution proposals. The Chairman of the Devolution Board, Councillor Howard Rolfe, Leader of Uttlesford DC, had written to the Secretary of State on the 3rd June 2016 as a result of the decision taken by the combined Leaders in Essex and was awaiting a response. The Leader undertook that he would update Members when necessary.

Councillor Butland added to his report that following the A120 campaign he was hopeful that alternative sites may come in to public consultation before the end of the year. The Leader was aware of the importance of identifying potential routes, having started with a possible 69 routes he was expectant that this would be brought down to a smaller number which would be taken in to account when considering the Local Plan.

Councillor T Cunningham added to his report that following the result of the EU referendum he had asked Economic Development Officers to make contact with local business and in particular large employers to gauge any short term impact the uncertainty caused by the result may have.

Councillor Lady Newton updated her report by adding an additional sentence that read "The Chief Executive of HFI had also made the comment that Braintree District Council demonstrated that it had an outstanding team with the confidence and capability to deliver".

Councillor McKee added to his report that following a recent survey it was revealed that 92% of residents felt the Braintree District was a good place to live, 86% believed the Council was providing a good service, 62% believed the Council provided good value for money and 76% of resident felt that they were well informed.

Councillor Mrs Schmitt added to her report that she along with Councillor Mitchell and staff members had attended the funeral of Mick Ashby, the former Cemeteries Supervisor. Councillor Mrs Schmitt advised Members that Mick had a very small team who were very highly thought of as demonstrated by the 100's of letters that have been received over the years for the support they had given to people during difficult times. Special thanks were given to Becky Ellison and John Cull for their support to Mick throughout his illness.

Members asked several questions arising from the reports. A webcast of the questions to and responses of Cabinet Members is available on the Council's website at: <http://www.braintree.public-i.tv/core/>

The main topics covered were as follows:

- Potential impacts on the District following the result of the EU Referendum.

- The issue with regard to some residents in the Stour Valley South ward having not received a copy of the Contact magazine.
- The uncertainty around the proposed devolution deal following the EU Referendum.
- Incorporating Dementia Friends in to a Members’ development session.
- Cabinet Member response relating to a news article criticising the locality of fast food restaurants in relation to schools.
- Opportunity of getting children involved in extra out of school activities to assist in tackling childhood obesity.
- Barriers faced when encouraging children to take up extra activities.
- Maps, signs and car parks in relation to the network of footpaths throughout the District.
- Briefing District Councillors with regard to Town Regeneration schemes.
- Possibility of looking at brownfield sites across the District with a view of working with land owners to agree on areas for development.
- Details on the provision of super-fast broadband for the residents of Pebmarsh.
- Update on the details of the works proposed for the A12 and A120.
- Update on the works proposed to take place at the Marks Farm roundabout, Braintree.
- Members to be updated on proposed works and schemes to take place at the Galleys Corner roundabout.
- Allocation of recycling bags.

32 **LIST OF PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD SINCE THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 18TH APRIL 2016**

INFORMATION: No matters were raised.

33 **CHAIRMEN’S STATEMENTS – PUBLIC SESSION**

INFORMATION: No statements were made.

34 **STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS - PUBLIC SESSION**

INFORMATION: No statements were made.

35 **BUSINESS OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

INFORMATION: There were no reports received from Council representatives on external organisations, or issues raised.

There were no matters raised in Private Session.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 9.18pm.

Councillor F Ricci
(Chairman)