



# MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

*Clerk to the Council: Mrs Ruth Frost*

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## **Minutes of the Town Assembly held at the Masonic Lodge, South Street, Manningtree, CO11 1BG on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7pm**

**Present:**     **Cllr Taylor (Mayor)**     **Cllr Stocks (Deputy Mayor)**  
                  **Cllr Lay-Flurrie**           **Cllr Dunnett**       **Cllr Lewis**

In attendance: Mrs R Frost (Clerk) and 1 member of public

### **1) Introduction and Welcome**

Cllr Dunnett on behalf of all the Councillors would like to thank Cllr Taylor for her hard work and dedication as Mayor.

Cllr Lay-Flurrie also noted what a brilliant asset Cllr Taylor was to Manningtree.

### **2) To receive any apologies for absence**

Cllr Charlesworth, they were accepted

### **3) Minutes from the previous town assembly held 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 to be agreed and signed**

Resolved that the minutes of the Town Assembly held 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by Cllr Stocks

### **4) Report from the Mayor**

Copy Attached

### **5) Questions from the public**

None received

Meeting Closed 7.08pm

.....Cllr Ruth Stocks, Mayor

.....Date

Town Assembly Meeting 16 May 2024

Welcome everyone to our 2024 Town Assembly meeting.

It's great to have welcomed new Cllr James Lewis who has joined us since our last Town Assembly, he is a welcome addition. Sadly due to other commitments we have lost Cllr Anna Helm Baxter but wish her well in all her future endeavours.

As 2023 posed challenges for us all, so too does 2024, with the continued cost of living crisis which is still impacting us all.

We as a council are belt tightening and being very mindful on what we are spending taxpayers money on this coming year, so cannot be as generous as we have previously, but are hoping to work with our neighbouring councils to still deliver on some of aesthetic essentials in the town (beach / High St). The council continues to support local organisations where we can, including but not limited to payments to Age Concern, Dedham Vale AONB, Essex and Herts Air Ambulance, Singing for Pleasure, and many more.

The council have a cheese and wine fund raiser for the Singing for Pleasure group on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May and tickets are still available for last minute bookings from the clerk.

It is however, despite some of the challenges facing us, lovely to see our High Street continuing to thrive, with a number of events to look forward to in and around our town. There are flyers in circulation with everything listed. The Manningtree and District Business Chamber has been instrumental in organising so many fabulous, days and evenings out in our area, it is fantastic to see the enthusiasm with which all the members have embraced our little community.

Looking back on the past 12 months since the Kings Coronation in May 2023, the town has celebrated its first ever Pride event, brilliantly organised by Rowan from Estuary wine bar and his team.

It is uplifting to see our small town embracing the diversity of its residents and welcoming in visitors for a safe, inclusive, and celebratory event which will be repeated next month...only on a little bit bigger scale.

And Manningtree Town Council is proud to be an inclusive, diverse, and forward- thinking council that represents all parts of our local community.

Our thanks must also once again go out to the street keeper volunteers who continue to work tirelessly keeping Manningtree glyphosate free. We as a council were thrilled to share their celebrations when they were named as one of the winners in the Pride Of Tendring Awards in February, following their nomination by TDC Cllr Bensilum.

Their merry band of weeders, litter pickers, wildlife garden maintainers and so much more, is growing monthly and their efforts are always appreciated by us and all of our residents and visitors to the town.

Cllr Dunnett please once again be sure to pass these thanks on in person.

The Council has maintained dementia friendly organisation status since December 2022 and we are continuing to work with other organisations within the local community in a bid to make the community of Manningtree, Mistley and Lawford dementia friendly. To that end, a number of businesses in the business chamber attended the free dementia awareness workshops that were put on this year and are joining in with dementia awareness week this week, as we celebrate Manningtree Town becoming dementia friendly .

The beach toy library is very well used, as is the sun lotion dispenser next to it, both remain very popular additions to our beach area, We did suffer some vandalism to the sunscreen dispenser last year but hope some new features that are soon to be installed will prevent this wanton destruction of a very valuable asset.

This year's recipients of the community engagement awards were Steve Sadler as the individual award winner for all of his community work in the town, he has always supported every event we have put with enthusiasm and drive.

The main Shield has been awarded to the Rotary Club who equally have supported every venture and

event that both the council and business chamber put on.

On Monday the Manningtree Mermaids won a long - fought campaign to achieve bathing water status for our stretch of the River Stour. I will honour my promise of dipping a pinkie toe , and maybe a little bit more, into the river, providing it is jelly fish free on the day I do so! I hope other councillors will join me!

With the town now being glysohate free, having achieved designated bathing water status, maintaining a ban on single use plastic, and celebrating the return once more of the swifts, our next goal is to install some EV charging points in the town. Hopefully this dream will become a reality and allow visitors to charge as they shop and keep our wonderful micro economy alive.

On a personal note, I have continued to enjoy the support of my fellow councillors over another very interesting period in our small town's history. Ruth's support as Deputy Mayor has once again proved invaluable. It is with some sadness that I stand down after 3 years as Mayor, but it is time to give others the opportunity to enjoy some of the highlights of leading our wonderful council.

And with that as I sign off the last thing I wish to say is that I am proud to have served as Manningtree's first Mayor of colour and wish my successor all the very best.

Michelle Taylor  
Mayor of Manningtree June 2021- May 2024