



MANNINGTREE TOWN COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Fiona Coley
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Minutes of the Town Assembly Meeting held at the Masonic Lodge in South Street, Manningtree, on Thursday, 17th April 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Councillors Present:

Cllr Ruth Stocks (Mayor)
Cllr E Dunnett
Cllr L Lay-Flurrie
Cllr M Taylor
Cllr F Gee
District Cllr T Barrett

Others in attendance: 6 Members of the Public

- 1) Introduction and Welcome – The Mayor welcomed everyone.
- 2) To receive any apologies for absence - None
- 3) Minutes from previous Town Assembly held 16th May 2024 to be agreed and signed – Minutes were agreed and signed by the Mayor.
- 4) Report from the Mayor – The Mayor read her report which is detailed below.
- 5) Report from the Business Chamber – The Business Chamber did not provide a report.
- 6) Report from the Street Keepers – Cllr Dunnett provided a very comprehensive overview of what the Street Keepers had been doing over the last year. Cllr Dunnett explained that the Street Keepers were started during Covid and this has continued up until today. Cllr Dunnett stated that this is invaluable and that

good friendships have been formed and it is a fantastic service that is provided by volunteers and assists with keeping our Town tidy.

- 7) Presentation of the Community Award to the Manifest Theatre – The Mayor provided a short speech about the great work of the Manifest Theatre and presented them with the Community Award.

- 8) Questions from the public- None

Meeting Closed

.....Cllr Ruth Stocks, Mayor
.....17th April 2025.....Date

MAYOR'S SPEECH APRIL 2025

Good evening and welcome to the 2025 Town Assembly.

This has been a very interesting and rewarding year.

Sadly, we had the resignation of Cllr James Lewis due to work and family commitments.

We have also lost Cllr Jason Charlesworth who has moved out of the immediate area. Jason has been a very valued member of the Council, happy to do anything asked of him and we will miss him very much.

We welcomed Fiona Gee as a Councillor in July and she is already proving to be a very valued addition to the team.

We are appointing Natalie Keep to the Council at our meeting this evening and hope to appoint another Councillor in the near future. We will then be up to our full compliment of seven.

I would like to thank all the council members for their dedication and in particular Councillor Liz Dunnett for her sterling work and support as Deputy Mayor. She has been a great support to the Council and to myself in particular.

The Council has again been financially challenged and we have sadly not been able to support all the local charities, though we have been able to donate to many.

The year has been a busy one for the Council.

In May 2024 the Manningtree Mermaids gained Designated Bathing Water status.

The Street Keepers have continued to do sterling work to keep the Town free of weeds and looking good. They are leading the Council's efforts to keep the Town glyphosate free.

A cheese and wine evening was held in May with entertainment provided by Harwich Sings. All profits were donated to the group to fund a monthly Dementia friendly sing along at Mistley Church Hall. The evening was a great success and raised £349.90, masterminded by Councillor Taylor as her Mayor's

charity.

New sand was laid on the beach which is proving very popular with residents and visitors. Lawford, and Mistley Parish Councils donated funds to this. The toy library on the beach is very popular and the suncream dispenser will be installed again for the summer.

In September we congratulated PACE who won the BBC Essex make a difference award, closely followed by Manningtree Mermaids.

Winter planting of the tubs was discussed and it was agreed that perennials be planted instead of the planting of winter plants and summer bedding plants. This is now been done with great success, thanks to Lucy and Dominic Watts with the assistance of the Street Keepers. A letter of thanks was sent to Craft Nurseries for their help in previous years.

In November PACE achieved the King's award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE for the Charity. Huge congratulations to John and Caroline Hall and the PACE trustees and members for this well-deserved award.

A new self employed handyman Dave Childs was appointed and thanks were sent to Environmental Design for their work in previous years.

Participation in Quasar Local Policing was discussed, but in view of the high cost it was decided the Manningtree Town Council would not participate.

The Budget Proposal for 2025 was discussed and it was agreed that a Precept request of 7.6% would be needed in view of increased staffing and other increased costs. This has now been agreed by Tendring District Council.

The Council parted company with the previous Clerk and a new Clerk Fiona Coley has been appointed. She is now busying putting the Council's affairs (and the Council) in order. She will be a welcome addition to the Council.

The Manifest Theatre has been chosen to receive the Community Award this year and the Group will be presented with the shield at this meeting.

VE day celebrations have been discussed and it has been agreed that the Council will lay a wreath at the War Memorial on the 8th accompanied by

various organisations.

A picnic will take place on the beach on Saturday 10th. This will be an informal gathering with residents bringing their own picnics. A cupcake competition will be held for the younger members of the community with prizes awarded for the best decorated cupcake.

I look forward to helping the Council continue to support the Town in all its future endeavors.

I would also like to pay a special thanks to Cllr Taylor for all her hard work as the previous Mayor.