MALDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017 IN THE MAIN HALL, TOWN HALL, MARKET HILL, MALDON

Town Mayor: Cllr Jeanette Stilts

Councillors: R Ford, A Hafiz (Deputy Town Mayor), M Harvey, M Heard, J Miller, S Nunn, D Ogg, M Pearlman, S Savage, F Shaughnessy, and P Stilts

In attendance: The Town Clerk, the Administrative Assistant, the Sergeant-at-Mace and five members of the public.

69. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr I Kidman (away on business), Cllr R Miller (away) and Cllr T Shrimpton (on holiday).

70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Members were reminded that they are required to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Non-Pecuniary Interests which they know they might have in items of business on the agenda. They were reminded that they will need to repeat their declarations at the appropriate point in the meeting and leave the room if required under the Code of Conduct. Unforeseen interests must be declared similarly at the appropriate time.

Cllrs Ford, Pearlman and Shaughnessy declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 because the speaker is known to them.

Cllr Savage declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 because he is a Maldon District Councillor and the blue plaque was paid for by MDC. He also declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 11 because he is a member of MDC’s Planning Committee.

71. MINUTES
Members considered the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th August 2017 Minutes 52-68 inclusive. It was noted that in the paragraph at the top of page 19, the wording should be changed to “At the meeting it was proposed that there would be eight councillors…”. Also, in the following paragraph an extra sentence should be added as follows “There should be no adults at Youth Council meetings”.

In the second paragraph of Item 65, the word “fayre” is spelt incorrectly (faire) in the middle paragraph.

RESOLVED: that with the addition of the above amendments, the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 7th August 2017 (Minutes 52-68 inclusive) be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Town Mayor.

72. TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR
72.1 Members received and considered a list of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor’s engagements. It was noted that in addition to the events listed, the Town Mayor hosted a charity talk at Maldon Little Ship Club on 8th September and attended a meeting at Maldon District Council offices regarding future Carnival dates on 15th September.
RESOLVED: that the list of engagements be noted.

72.2 The Town Mayor gave a verbal update on plans for the Mayoral Year. Tickets are now on sale for a charity black tie ball at the Warren Golf Club on Saturday 28th October 2017. The price is £38pp which includes a three-course meal.

A proposal for a historical talk by Cllr Nunn and Robert Long is being progressed and also a possible Town Mayor’s Carol Service. Further details will be provided in due course.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

73. TOWN CLERK’S REPORT
The Town Clerk gave a verbal update on matters arising since the last meeting. She reminded councillors to provide comments on the service provided by ECC Highways Department by 25th September. Members were advised that the Town Council has achieved Foundation Level of the Local Council Award Scheme and that Maldon in Bloom has been awarded Gold in Anglia in Bloom for the third successive year. She also advised that the Plume Library and Maeldune Heritage Trusts have been unsuccessful in their bid for Heritage Lottery funding, which will have implications for the Town Council, as owner of the building, because of the repairs required.

The Town Mayor congratulated the members of the Maldon in Bloom Committee and Jennifer Eva on their achievement and thanked them for all their hard work.

RESOLVED: that the information be noted.

74. MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Members considered the minutes of the following Committee meetings:

74.1 Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 31st July and 14th and 29th August 2017 Minutes 47-71 inclusive.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 31st July and 14th and 29th August 2017 (Minutes 47-71 inclusive) be noted.

74.2 Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held 21st August 2017 Minutes 44-63 inclusive.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 21st August 2017 (Minutes 44-63 inclusive) be noted.

74.3 Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4th September 2017 Minutes 27-40 inclusive.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 4th September 2017 (Minutes 27-40 inclusive) be noted.

75. RESEARCH INTO EDWARD BRIGHT, THE FAT MAN AT MALDON
Cllrs R Ford, M Pearlman, S Savage and F Shaughnessy had declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Mrs Lynne Raymond has carried out research into Edward Bright, the Fat Man at Maldon, and requested that any misleading information in the public domain is rectified. At the request of the Town Mayor, she confirmed that she wishes the Town Council to accept the findings of her research and to update the town’s information board in St Peter’s Churchyard accordingly. Following a discussion, it was suggested that costings should be sought for the provision of a new board and that documentary evidence be provided for the requested
amendments. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this matter be referred to Finance & General Purposes Committee for action.

It was also proposed and agreed that when councillors request an agenda item, they should state the reason for the request and what is required of the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** that this issue be referred to the Finance & General Purposes committee for action and that councillors state the reason and required outcome for any agenda items they request.

76. **MALDON’S HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 7th–10th September 2017**

Members received a verbal report on the Heritage Open Days held in Maldon on 7th–10th September 2017. The Town Mayor said she visited some of the sites and found them well-attended. Maldon District Museum had over 300 visitors, the Moot Hall had over 400 visitors and the Leech Memorial Garden also attracted many visitors. A de-brief meeting is to be held shortly. The Town Mayor thanked the Town Clerk and Council staff for their efforts in supporting this initiative.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be noted.

Also on a Heritage theme, Cllr Nunn has been asked by ECC whether the Town Council wants the George III portrait, which used to hang in the Moot Hall but which is currently on loan to ECC and hanging in the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, to be returned. Cllr J Miller confirmed that this painting is on the Moot Hall inventory, but since some brickwork was exposed there is no longer sufficient space for it to hang in. After a discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed that for the time being the Town Council will monitor the situation regarding the portrait as there is no urgency.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be noted and the situation regarding the portrait be monitored.

77. **MERCHAND NAVY DAY – 3rd September 2017**

Members received the notes of a working group meeting held on 11th August 2017 and a verbal report of the ceremony. The Town Mayor said she has received lots of positive feedback about the event.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be noted.

78. **MALDON VINTAGE CHRISTMAS FAYRE 30th November 2017**

Cllr Pearlman gave a verbal update on plans and progress of the Maldon Vintage Christmas Fayre. This year the Fayre will be held on 30th November from 6.00pm-9.00pm and the theme is the 1940s. The event will build on the success of the last two years. Good entertainment has been booked and it is hoped that the number of visitors will exceed the 2,000 people who visited last year. There will be a Winter Wonderland at the top of Bright’s Path and so far 40 stalls have been booked.

79. **SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR PLANNING DECISIONS**

Cllr Savage had declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Members received a report from the Chairman of the Planning Committee outlining concerns about the way in which the current Scheme is working and proposing amendments. The Town Council Planning committee is requesting that MDC reviews the operation of the
Scheme of Delegation for Planning Decisions with a view to bringing the scheme into line with best practice in other Planning Authorities. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that a strongly-worded letter be sent to the CEO of Maldon District Council requesting a meeting to discuss this issue.

**RESOLVED:** that a letter be sent to the CEO of Maldon District Council requesting a meeting to discuss the Scheme of Delegation for Planning Decisions.

80. **RISK REVIEW 2017**

Members received a report containing recommendations from F & GP Committee relating to training for committee chairman; ways to enhance the Council’s image; and Councillor support for the Town Mayor. During a discussion views differed on whether all chairmen of committees should be required to complete EALC Chairman Training before they can assume the chair, because of differences in their work and other experiences.

The Town Clerk confirmed that all councillors are able to take advantage of the EALC training on offer if appropriate, and that all councillors are circulated with details of courses on a weekly basis. The Council has a Training budget. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the wording in the Risk Review should be “Chairmen of Committees can take up training if they feel it is appropriate”.

Members noted the expectation that councillors fully support the current Mayor’s fund-raising events and at civic events, as they would wish to be supported should they be elected as Mayor.

**RESOLVED:** that the information was noted and the wording in the Risk Review be “Chairmen of Committees can take up training if they feel it is appropriate”. It was further resolved that members noted the expectation that councillors fully support the current Mayor’s fund-raising events and at civic events, as they would wish to be supported should they be elected as Mayor.

81. **MEMBERS ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

Members received a written report on members attendance at meetings.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be noted.

82. **BUSINESS PLAN 2017/18**

Members received an update report on the Town Council's Business Plan for 2017-18 and were asked to review progress.

**RESOLVED:** that the information was noted.

83. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

**EALC Update – Cllr A Hafiz**

Cllr A Hafiz reported on the EALC AGM, held on 19th September which was also attended by Cllrs S Nunn and J Stilts. Issues raised included the requirement to report potholes, street lighting and road defects via the Essex Highways website. The need to hold regular meetings to improve communication with their District Councils. There will be a 1.9% increase in the cost of EALC membership next year.

**Burnham Week 125th Anniversary - Cllr M Heard**

Members received a written report from Cllr Heard on his attendance at the Burnham Week 125th Anniversary event.
Cllr Heard also advised that the police meeting which was supposed to have taken place yesterday evening has now been postponed until 15th November 2017 starting at 7.30pm at Maldon District Council offices.

Cllr Heard said he has been liaising with the Plume School for a large town crest they have to be donated to the Town Council and displayed on the Town Hall.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be noted.

**84. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ALSO SERVING AS DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Savage reported that the Secretary of State has signed off the Local Development Plan.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be noted.

**85. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS OR PUBLIC**

There were no members of the press present and no questions from the public.

**86. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

The members of the public left the meeting.

**87. AGREEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES 21st August 2017**

Members received correspondence from John Whittingdale MP and related Minutes 64 and 65 of the Environment Committee Meeting held 21st August 2017 but made no further comment.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that these remain in the private domain.

**RESOLVED:** that correspondence from John Whittingdale MP be noted and related Minutes 64 and 65 remain in the private domain

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Cllr Jeanette Stilts  
Town Mayor

Signed : .......................... Date: ..........................