

Extraordinary Council – 7 June 2011

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **7 June 2011** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S P Smith
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr R D Pointer
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr A C Priest
Cllr Mrs A V Hale	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr M Hoy	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr M Maddocks	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr Mrs C M Mason	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, M R Carter, J P Cottis, C J Lumley, Mrs J R Lumley, D Merrick and J Thomass.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	–	Chief Executive
A Bugeja	–	Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward	–	Head of Finance
S Scrutton	–	Head of Planning and Transportation
R Evans	–	Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock	–	Member Services Manager

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

138 PARKING IN THE DISTRICT

Council considered the exempt report of the Head of Planning and Transportation on the review of car parking policy and charges and opportunities for introducing more flexible arrangements.

In introducing this item, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation extended thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council's Review Committee whose work and recommendations developed in respect of car parking charges during the last municipal year had been significant. A number of recommendations had been adopted and this area of work demonstrated the value of that Committee.

Council concurred with the observation of the Leader that the proposals were appropriate in the context of the Council's financial position. The introduction of a half-hour charging band would bring flexibility and be a fair incentive for those that are requiring a short stay.

During discussion reference was made to the potential benefit to commercial businesses if car parking charging ceased at 6.00 pm rather than the current 7.00 pm. It was observed that, at this point, the implications of such a change had not been considered as part of the proposals. Any decisions made would be subject to a review six months after implementation (implementation was anticipated to be in October 2011).

The Head of Planning and Transportation confirmed that the replacement costs identified for new pay and display machines primarily related to the cost of installing. Whilst the precise cost to the Council of introducing credit/debit card payment methods had yet to be identified, it was anticipated that there would be financial savings associated with reduced cash collections.

Reference was made to indications that The Approach car park, Rayleigh was under utilised. It was confirmed that proposals included the introduction of the half-hour charging band at The Approach.

The report recommendations were moved by Cllr K H Hudson and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore. An amendment relating to the inclusion of the word 'District' within recommendation (1), moved by Cllr C I Black and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, was agreed and it was unanimously:-

Resolved

- (1) That parking charges in Rochford District be increased by 20p in the first three charging bands as follows:-
 - Up to one hour – 60p increase to 80p
 - Up to two hours £1.20 increase to £1.40
 - Up to three hours - £1.80 increase to £2.00.
- (2) That a half hour charging band be re-introduced in all car parks, with the tariff being set at 40p.
- (3) That all pay and display machines, twenty seven in total, be replaced by new multi-function machines that, in addition to enabling new payment options (wave and pay and credit cards – Option B+C), are

configured to allow linear charging so that additional time is provided if an overpayment is made when a ticket is purchased.

- (4) That payment by mobile phone be introduced.
- (5) That the trader refund scheme be ended.
- (6) That opportunities be sought for selling advertising space on the back of parking tickets, as appropriate.
- (7) That pay and display is not introduced to the Country Park, Hockley Woods or other open spaces in 2011/12, but that a review be carried out to determine whether it might be appropriate to consider charges from 2012/13 onwards.
- (8) That talks be held with SEETEC to discuss and consider payment options for their use of the Hockley Woods car park.
- (9) That talks be held with Virgin Active to ascertain if there might be better arrangements to control the use of the Freight House car park, including trying to manage and formalise the Tuesday market Traffic.
- (10) That the above decisions be subject to a review six months following implementation. (HPT)

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.