

Council – 9 June 2005

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **9 June 2005** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P F A Webster
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr R G S Choppen	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr C A Hungate	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr Mrs L Hungate	Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R A Amner, Mrs L A Butcher, K A Gibbs, Mrs H L A Glynn, T E Goodwin and D G Stansby.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren - Chief Executive
R J Honey - Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
J Crawford - Transportation Manager
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

223 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 17 May 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor A J Humphries declared a prejudicial interest in the item on Parking Charges by virtue of a close family member being a Blue Badge holder and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor Mrs R Brown declared a prejudicial interest in the item on Parking Charges by virtue of being a Blue Badge holder and left the meeting during its consideration.

Councillor T Livings declared a personal interest on the item on Parking Charges by virtue of being the Council's representative on the Community Transport Trust Board.

225 MOTION ON NOTICE FROM COUNCILLORS C I BLACK, C J LUMLEY, MRS J R LUMLEY AND R A OATHAM

The Proper Officer reported on a Motion received from the above named Councillors pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor C I Black referred to indications that there was a demand for an all weather pitch.

During debate reference was made to the possibility that early detailed investigation on the location of an all weather pitch could be premature in that final planning permission for the proposal at Sweyne Park School was still the subject of an appeal.

Council agreed an amendment, moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor J E Grey, that the position of an all weather pitch be identified by those Members submitting the Motion and it was:-

Resolved

That this Council investigates the possibility of creating an all-weather sports pitch at the Rayleigh Leisure Centre site (in a position identified by Councillors C I Black, C J Lumley, Mrs J R Lumley and R A Oatham that would not affect existing residents).

That local residents, local schools, Essex County Council, Rayleigh Town Council and Rawreth Parish Council be consulted about this proposal.

If found to be feasible, that this Council then liaises with all interested bodies in order to achieve this, and to obtain funding. (CD(F&ES))

226 PARKING CHARGES

Council considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on proposed parking charges and tariff, including the season ticket charge structure and the strategy on charging Blue Badge holders.

In presenting the report, the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) referred to a campaign being run by the Yellow Advertiser inviting its readers to return a coupon identifying support for the newspaper's campaign to retain free parking for all Blue Badge holders. It was noted that a total of 267

coupons had been completed, with approximately one in five returns being from persons living outside the District.

During debate it was observed that only 1.2% of Blue Badge holders had objected to the proposals as set out in the report and that, in terms of total Yellow Advertiser readership levels, the quantity of returns associated with the Newspaper's campaign was low.

The final recommendations set out in the report were moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor J E Grey. An amendment that the Council adopt Blue Badge holder Option 2 as set out at paragraph 5.1 of the report, moved by Councillor R A Oatham and seconded by Councillor C I Black, was lost on a show of hands.

Responding to questions, the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) advised that there would be a gentle introduction to any charging of Blue Badge holders that would include advance messaging on vehicle windscreens and car park signage and a period of 4 weeks' amnesty after introduction.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed parking charges and tariff structure, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be implemented.
- (2) That a season ticket charge structure be introduced over a three-year period equating to 80% of the annual equivalent of the daily charge.
- (3) That the Council's strategy on charging Blue Badge holders, as identified in the report, be agreed. (HRHM)

Note: Councillors C I Black, J R F Mason and Mrs M S Vince wished to be recorded as voting against the decision under Resolution (3) above. Councillors P A Capon and P R Robinson wished to be recorded as abstaining from the decision under Resolution (3) above.

227 PERFORMANCE PLAN 2005

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Performance Plan 2005.

The Chief Executive referred to some factual errors already identified and asked that authority be delegated to allow corrections during the final check.

It was agreed that officers should be congratulated on the document. The high level of work undertaken over the last year and associated advancements were of particular note.

Responding to questions, the Chief Executive advised that:-

- The terminology relating to the role of Committee Members on page 6.1 of the Draft Plan was directly related to the content of the last Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The Authority had/was taking a number of steps to address this and other areas.
- Some indicators are reflected in the Quarterly Performance documentation received by Members.
- Further photographs/visuals would be included in the final version of the Plan.

Resolved

That the Performance Plan 2005 be approved, with authority delegated to the Chief Executive to correct any factual errors identified during a final check. (CE)

228 ANNUAL EFFICIENCY STATEMENT – BACKWARD LOOK 2004/05

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on approval of the Annual Efficiency Statement – Backward Look 2004/05.

Officers were commended for their work in developing the statement and it was:-

Resolved

That the Annual Efficiency Statement – Backward Look 2004/05, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, be agreed. (CD(F&ES))

229 APPOINTMENTS TO FINANCE AND PROCEDURES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Council considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services on the appointment of Councillors to the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was felt that there should be no change to the pro-rata criteria.

Resolved

That one of the vacancies on the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee be available to a Member of the Liberal Democrat Group (appointee to be confirmed by the Group). (HAMS)

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The Meeting closed at 8.03pm

Chairman

Date