

## **Community Services Committee – 30 September 2004**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **30 September 2004** present:-

Cllr R A Amner (Chairman)  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr J Thomass

Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T G Goodwin, Mrs J R Lumley, G A Mockford and J M Pullen.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllrs C I Black, T G Cutmore and C A Hungate.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
N Khan	- Solicitor
D Timson	- Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
A Coulson	- Housing, Client & Strategy Officer
M Martin	- Committee Administrator

### **413 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **414 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins declared a personal interest in item 13 of the Agenda by virtue of being a Great Wakering Parish Councillor.

### **415 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services which related to items of business referred to this Committee by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2004.

### **1 Holmes Place Progress Report**

The Community Services Committee had recommended that a more appropriate and marketable name for the leisure centre being built on the site of the former Park School would be 'The Rayleigh Leisure Centre'.

In response to a Member question, the Corporate Director confirmed that the date for the opening of the leisure centre was still anticipated to be Spring 2006.

#### **Resolved**

That the Centre being developed on the site of the former Park School, Rayleigh be named 'The Rayleigh Leisure Centre'. (CD(F&ES))

### **2 Catering Franchises on Open Spaces**

The Community Services Committee had recommended that officers seek expressions of interest as to the viability of taking up franchise opportunities at one or more of various locations around the District and that any such franchises should be trialled for a 12 month period.

Officers confirmed that franchise conditions would include the requirement to provide litter bins and to remove any litter from the site. The litter situation could be monitored closely by, for example, the provision of coloured serviettes. Another condition could be to encourage the provision of healthy eating options.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That officers seek expressions of interest as to the viability of taking up the franchise opportunities at one or more of the following locations:-
  - Great Wakering
  - Ashington
  - Fairview
  - Rawreth
  - St John Fisher
  - Grove
  - Hullbridge.
- (2) That, initially, any franchises so taken up be trialled for a 12 month period. (CD(F&ES))

### **3 Public Open Space Land and Place Space Areas in Rochford District owned by the Council**

The Community Services Committee had recommended that the principle of transferring public open space land to one or more appropriate trust bodies be agreed, focusing initially at one or more of a list of identified sites, and that discussions take place with Parish Councils to establish whether they would wish to include any spaces leased to them in any trust arrangement, and that an update report be provided early in 2005.

Members had noted that work on this subject had been built into this year's work programme and that, whilst there would be an opportunity cost involved, time should be invested in the issue of protecting such areas.

Officers confirmed that consideration would be given initially to the main parcels of land referred to but that investigations would continue to discover the best way of protecting other smaller parcels of land.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the principle of transferring public open space land to one or more appropriate trust bodies be agreed.
- (2) That, initially, the principle of developing one or more trust bodies focus on the following sites:-
  - The Playing Field, Althorne Way, Canewdon
  - Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park
  - Playing Field, High Street, Great Wakering
  - Clements Hall Playing Field
  - Hawkwell Common
  - Hockley Woods
  - Playing Fields, Pooles Lane, Hullbridge
  - Playing Fields, Rawreth Lane, Rawreth
  - Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh
  - Brooklands Gardens, Hockley Road, Rayleigh
  - Grove Road Public Open Space and Woods, Rayleigh
  - Kingley Wood Public Open Space, Rayleigh
  - St John Fisher Playing Fields, Rayleigh
  - New Public Open Space at the former Park School Site
- (3) That discussions take place with Parish Councils in respect of the spaces currently leased to them, to investigate whether they would be prepared to include these areas in any trust arrangement. (CD(F&ES))

### **416 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions and in response to Member questions the following was noted:-

### **Proposed Designation of Public Places in Terms of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2002)**

Consideration could be given to inviting the Police to the December meeting. (CE)

### **Woodland Strategy Resources**

English Nature had withdrawn their grant scheme. Officers would take a final decision about the way forward by the end of this year.

Corporate Management Board would give further consideration to the grading of the post of an Arboricultural Officer. (CD(F&ES))

### **Skateboard Facilities – Clements Hall**

The Excel Group were continuing to pursue this and would undertake public consultation. (CD(F&ES))

### **Disposal of Garage**

This had now been completed. (HRHM/HLS)

### **Rayleigh Windmill Heritage Lottery Bid**

Costs had been incurred in the bid process in terms of officer time. However, much external expertise had been provided at no cost. A bid had been submitted to Thames Gateway for underspend money as tenders were now in for physical works needed. (CD(F&ES))

### **Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002**

Guidance was still awaited and was anticipated by mid November. (HRHM)

## **417 HOUSING STRATEGY – UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care which apprised Members of the development of the Housing Strategy.

Members noted that:-

- the Housing Revenue Business Plan had still to be submitted.
- changes would be made to the Housing Strategy in line with comments from Go-East.

- these would only be brought back to Members if they were of any significance; simple changes would be conveyed to Members via the Members' Bulletin.
- the document would not be assessed as satisfactory unless it was considered to be in accordance with regional and sub-regional housing policy.
- a number of key worker units were being built within the District

### **Resolved**

That, subject to any comments from GO East, the latest draft of the Housing Strategy be approved. (HHHCC)

#### **418 PROPOSED ST JOHN AMBULANCE HEADQUARTERS – HOCKLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which advised Members of issues encountered in relation to the project.

Members noted that there had not been any further developments since the report had been written and agreed that investigations should continue with a further report being brought back to the next meeting of this Committee.

### **Resolved**

That investigation continues to see whether an agreement can be achieved between the Hockley Community Centre Association Trustees and St John Ambulance. (CD(F&ES))

#### **419 ROCHFORD TOWN SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB – APPLICATION FOR NEW LEASE ON THE PAVILION AT ROCHFORD RECREATION GROUND, ROCHFORD**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which sought Members' views with regard to the agreement for a new lease in respect of the above.

### **Resolved**

That a lease on the Pavilion at Rochford Recreation Ground be granted to Rochford Town Sports and Social Club to commence retrospectively from 1 December 2001 for a period of 8 years. (CD(F&ES))

#### **420 PETITION FOR SKATEBOARDING FACILITY – GREAT WAKERING**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which advised Members of the receipt of a petition requesting support for a skateboarding facility in Great Wakering.

Members applauded the initiative and hard work of the young people in seeking to gain support for a skateboarding facility in Great Wakering, but noted that an earlier request from the District to the Parish Council in respect of funding for such a facility had met with a negative response.

Members agreed that alternative external funding should also be sought.

### **Resolved**

That a skateboarding facility at Great Wakering be considered in terms of Council priorities for the future. (CD(F&ES))

### **421 MUSEUMS IN ESSEX SERVICE**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which advised Members of an opportunity for a Member to join the Museums in Essex Board.

On a Motion moved by Cllr T G Cutmore and seconded by Cllr K A Gibbs it was:-

### **Recommended to Council**

That Cllr Mrs M A Webster be nominated as this Council's representative to join the board of the Museums in Essex service. (CD(F&ES))

### **422 ROCHFORD SPORTS COUNCIL**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative & Member Services which related to the appointment of a representative to the Rochford Sports Council

On a Motion moved by Cllr K A Gibbs and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

### **Recommended to Council**

That Cllr R A Amner be nominated as this Council's appointee to Rochford Sports Council. (HAMS)

### **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 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

**423 FUNDING FOR POTENTIAL HOUSING SCHEME**

**Note:** Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a Hawkwell Parish Councillor.

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which apprised Members of a potential housing corporation funding bid.

**Resolved**

That, in principle, the funding bid referred to in the report be supported.  
(HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 8.51 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....