

## **Environmental Services Committee – 16 January 2007**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **16 January 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman of the meeting: Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr R A Amner

Cllr J P Cottis

Cllr Mrs J A Mockford

Cllr J M Pullen

Cllr C G Seagers

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **VISITING MEMBER**

Cllr Mrs T J Capon.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L Hungate, C J Lumley, Mrs M A Starke and M G B Starke.

### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllrs C I Black and P A Capon.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

F Laycock

- Senior Environmental Health Officer

S Worthington

- Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Mr S Peirson, ADAS Consultancy

Mr R Babington, Anglian Water

Mr D Lyon, Anglian Water

Ms J Manion, Anglian Water

Mr P Tovell, Anglian Water

## **9 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs J P Cottis, P A Capon and Mrs T J Capon each declared a personal interest in item 10 of the agenda, relating to Rochford Sewage Treatment Works, Stambidge, by virtue of living in the vicinity of the works. Cllrs P A Capon and Mrs T J Capon each declared a further personal interest in the same item by virtue, respectively, of chairmanship and membership of Stambidge Parish Council.

### 11 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS

The Committee reviewed the progress on decisions schedule.

#### **Additional Bring Banks (Minute 142/05)**

It was noted that the issue of additional bring banks was one that would fall to the Waste Management & Recycling Sub-Committee to consider as one of many such matters relating to future recycling.

#### **Air Quality Review and Assessment (Third Round) (Minute 278/06)**

It was noted that monitoring had been completed in Rayleigh town centre and that a further report would come to the next meeting of this Committee updating Members on the monitoring that had taken place at the various sites.

#### **Lighting in Alleyways (Minute 387/06)**

Members would be provided with further information on progress with respect to the additional locations identified as requiring lighting, including Bardfield Way, Rayleigh.

#### **Essex County Council – Tree Preservation Orders (Minute 388/06)**

Members expressed concern that no response had yet been received from the County Council to this Authority's formal written representation that the County Council should maintain the management and administration responsibility for their TPOs. It was felt that there would be merit in writing to the Portfolio Holder asking for an early response. On a Motion moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon it was:-

#### **Resolved**

That a letter be sent to County Portfolio Holder asking for an early response to a previous letter sent by this Council urging the County Council to maintain the management and administration for their TPOs but that if they decide to cease this responsibility, urgent discussions to take place to determine the resource implications and how the future situation can be effectively managed, with the County Council being requested to reimburse the District for any additional costs incurred. (CD(ES))

### 12 ROCHFORD SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS, STAMBRIDGE – MEMBERS' UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) informing Members of the key findings of the Agricultural Development & Advisory Service (ADAS) follow-up assessment of odour emissions at Rochford Sewage Treatment Works (RSTW), Anglian Water's (AW) response to the assessment report and details of their sludge de-

watering upgrade programme for the works.

The Chairman welcomed Mr S Peirson, ADAS and Mr R Babington, Mr D Lyon, Ms J Manion and Mr P Tovell from Anglian Water who were all in attendance to answer Members' questions.

Members observed that during the period after Christmas and the New Year there were some occasions when odours from the treatment works were unbearable; this appeared to be the case when there were no staff on site.

Anglian Water representatives emphasised the importance of residents reporting all instances of odours to the customer service desk as and when they occurred so that appropriate investigations could be conducted.

It was noted that communication between Anglian Water and Stambridge Parish Council had not been effective in recent months. The Parish officer confirmed that a weekly e-mail would be sent to Anglian Water including any positive or negative comments associated with odours.

In response to a Member enquiry relating to the possibility of a site visit to the works, Anglian Water representatives confirmed that they would be willing to organise a site visit for District and Parish Members to both the Southend works and the Stambridge works once the upgrade programme had been completed. Members all concurred that there would be merit in attending this site visit.

In response to Member enquiries/concerns, the following points were noted:-

- The Anglian Water customer service telephone number – 0800 145145 – was a 24-hour service. Steps would be taken to ensure that any calls received from the Stambridge area were properly recorded and monitored.
- Monitoring was undertaken by Anglian Water when there were instances of odours to ascertain what effluent was being placed into the sewers before it reached the works.
- Odours in the past related to the previous N-Viro process; this had been replaced with a de-watering process which should in itself have the effect of reducing odours.
- Upgrading work commenced in autumn 2005; the building was being refurbished, with new centrifuges installed and sealed within the building. The work was on schedule for completion in June 2007. There would be gas monitoring equipment within the building which would include monitoring of hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S). The costs of the works were around £3.5 million.
- It was planned that 8 of the old skips would be replaced immediately, with the remaining 4 to be upgraded; the refurbished ones would be greatly

improved and bear little resemblance to the existing, old ones.

- Recently odours appeared to be more intense but were quicker to disperse and on occasions when there were odours in the vicinity of Stambridge, there didn't seem to be odours in the vicinity of the Southend works and vice versa.
- Monitoring of odours would continue by the Council's Environmental Health officers and by Anglian Water and an update report would be made to the Environmental Services Committee in 6 months' time.
- The Government's preferred option for dealing with sewage sludge was for the deposition of cake/pellets to land. Anglian Water was building a caking drying process plant at Grays to convert the waste into pellets for use as a soil enhancer. Stringent soil and land testing was mandatory, which had to be compliant with strict codes. The pellets were sold to farmers as a commercial product.
- The process at the Stambridge works is similar throughout the industry and although there wasn't a 'league table' for sewage treatments works with respect to performance and associated complaints, the Stambridge plant received fewer complaints since changing from the N-Viro process to de-watering, than for many other works around the country.
- The medium within the Peacemaker units was carbon.
- The upgrade works had not been instigated with the intention of addressing odours, but would not result in increased odours but should result in an improvement in the situation. The measures identified by the ADAS follow-up assessment report should, when implemented, help to address any odours.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of the ADAS report be noted.
- (2) That a further report be made to the Environmental Services Committee, following completion of the upgrade works, in autumn 2007. (CD(ES))

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....