

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 3 July 2001

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **3 July 2001** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn – Chairman

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr D F Flack
Cllr Mrs J E Ford
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr Mrs J Hall

Cllr V H Leach
Cllr Mrs S J Lemon
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R S Allen, Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, D M Ford, K A Gibbs, C C Langlands, Mrs L I V Phillips and Mrs W M Stevenson.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs J R F Mason and P D Stebbing.

VISITING

Cllr Mrs J Helson.

OFFICERS ATTENDING

R Crofts	– Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
G Woolhouse	– Head of Housing Health & Community Care
L Lapite	– Principal Solicitor
J Bourne	– Leisure and Contracts Manager
A Wyatt	– Committee Administrator

211 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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212 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Sub-Committee received the schedule relating to decisions since May 2000. Outstanding Issues would be carried forward.

213 REPORT OF URGENT ACTION

The Committee noted the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which advised Members of action which had been taken under the urgency procedure in order for the brief in respect of the new leisure contract to be released to prospective tenderers.

214 SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

(1) Leisure Sub-Committee – 12 June 2001

Minute 106 – Leisure Connection Management Report

Resolved

That the actions outlined in the Minutes be agreed. (CD(F&ES))

Minute 107 – Clements Hall Showers

Resolved

That the findings of the Consultants report be accepted and that agreement be given for Officers to proceed with the works as described in the report and estimated cost as set out in the private and confidential report contained at Agenda Item 12 to the Leisure Sub-Committee Agenda.

Minute 108 – Freight House Security Lights

Resolved

That Members agree to the replacement of the existing security lights with funding from the Capital Programme at the estimated cost set out in the Exempt Report, subject to the points outlined in the Minute. (CD(F&ES))

Minute 109 – Summer Playschemes Swimming Provision

Resolved

That agreement be given to the proposals set out in the report. (CD(F&ES))

Minute 110 – Rayleigh Boys Football

Resolved

That the proposals detailed in Section 4 of the report, as amended in the Minutes of Leisure Sub Committee, be agreed. (CD(F&ES))

(2) Housing Management Sub-Committee – 13 June 2001

Minute 132 – Rear of 5/9 Prentice Close, Rochford

Resolved

That the parking bays to the rear of Prentice Close are not delineated and allocated. (HRHM)

Minute 133 – Housing Allocations – Suspension Policy

Resolved

- (1) That subject to the amendments in the Minutes, the suspension policy as appended to the report be agreed.
- (2) That the suspension policy be reviewed after 12 months operation.
- (3) That the Head of Revenue and Housing Management provide Members with figures relating to bed and breakfast accommodation and vacant properties.
- (4) That a report be submitted to the Community Services Committee relating to vacant bedsit accommodation in Sheltered Housing Schemes. (HRHM)

(3) Community Safety Sub-Committee – 14 June 2001

Minute 181 – Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy Update

Resolved

- (1) That the report be noted and update reports be submitted to future meetings of the Sub-Committee.
- (2) That the items outlined in the Minutes be agreed.

Minute 182 – Essex Policing Plan 2001/2002

Resolved

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That Members note the content of the Essex Policing Plan for 2001/2002 and those objectives specifically relating to Rayleigh Division.

Minute 183 – Hullbridge Youth Issues

Resolved

That a Member site visit take place as outlined in the report together with an all party panel meeting to be arranged with the Parish Council, Essex County Youth Services and the Police to discuss the way forward. (CE)

Minute 184 – Great Wakering Cycle Speedway Club

Resolved

That a one-off grant of £3,700 be awarded to the Great Wakering Cycle Speedway Club. (CD(F&ES))

Minute 185 – Bid to Essex County Council Community Safety Project Fund

Resolved

That the bid for the afore-mentioned proposal be endorsed and that the bid be match-funded by up to £2,000, to be funded from the Crime and Disorder Budget provision subject to the proposal being approved by the County Council.

Minute 186 – Youth Issues – Rayleigh High Street

Whilst considering this Minute, Members considered that signage should be erected in the worst areas advising against skateboarding, that Officers should look at introducing bye—laws where appropriate in the District in conjunction with the Police in order to prohibit the activity of skateboarding and also that all Parish Councils and the Town Council should be approached with a view to the provision of other skateboarding facilities within the District where finance permits.

Resolved

That the points above be agreed. (CE)

215 TOILET REPLACEMENT OF BRICK WALL – BACK LANE, ROCHFORD

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided additional information relating to options for dealing with the problems associated with the brick wall adjacent to the toilet in Back Lane, Rochford.

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Noting this information, the Committee considered that Option 1 should be pursued, in that iron railings should be erected in place of the damaged brick wall, with the trees retained.

Resolved

That first resolution approval for a conservation area submission to replace the damaged wall with railings be agreed. (CD(F&ES))

216 BEST VALUE REVIEW - HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING ADVICE - SERVICE ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care which sought approval of the Improvement Action Plan which follows from the review of homelessness and housing advice services.

Resolved

- (1) That the Improvement for Action Plan be adopted.
- (2) That progress be reported twice a year. (HHHCC)

217 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOGS (FOULING OF LAND) ACT 1996

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which provided a further update on the implication and practicality of adopting the above Act. Whilst considering the issues surrounding adoption of the Act, Members considered that the following would be an appropriate way forward at this stage:-

- Increase the number of dog waste bins available within the District.
- Adopt the Act
- Officers to investigate and report back on staffing implications associated with enforcement of the Act.

Furthermore, Members considered the issue revolved around the education of dog owners and that there would always be a small minority who would ignore the provision of dog waste bins wherever they were placed. On a show of hands, it was: -

RECOMMENDED to the Finance & General Purposes Committee

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that an amount of £5,000 be set aside from contingencies for the provision of additional dog waste bins throughout the District.
(CD(F&ES))

It was further

Resolved

- (1) That the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 be adopted.
- (2) That a report be brought to the Autumn Cycle detailing the cost to the Authority in enforcing the Act. (CD(F&ES))

218 ELDERLY RELATIVES SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management regarding the type of accommodation offered to those entering sheltered housing under the Council's Elderly Scheme as referred from the Housing Management Sub-Committee.

It was noted that the properties in question fell outside the Right to Buy legislation and also that the properties remained empty, having been refused by others on the Housing Register.

Resolved

- (1) That the Elderly Relative Scheme and Single Elderly Applicants Scheme be extended to provide either bed-sitter or one bedroom flatted accommodation in Sheltered Housing Schemes or one bedroom bungalows.
- (2) That the Head of Service continues to publicise the availability of accommodation in order to keep void losses to a minimum.
- (3) That the suspension policy for the Elderly Relative scheme and Single Elderly scheme be brought into line with the Council's general suspension policy.
- (4) That a report on the outcome of this initiative be made to the Housing Management Sub-Committee, after one year of operation. (HRHM)

219 HOUSING STRATEGY

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care which invited Members' comments on the Housing Strategy for 2001/2004. Noting the information outlined in the report and also the draft Housing Strategy which had been circulated to

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Members under separate cover, Members considered the following point needed to be clarified.

Page 6/7 heading (b)

Bullet Point 5 – it was considered appropriate for the wording to be amended to readfor people who suffer mental illness or have suffered mental illness.

Resolved

That subject to the above amendment, the Housing Strategy, be agreed. (HHHCC)

220 PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH ROCHFORD PRIMARY CARE GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care, which suggested that proposals to form a joint partnership board with Rochford Primary Care Group (PCG) be developed.

Resolved

That the Chairman and Acting Chief Executive of Rochford PCG and a Social Services representative be invited to the next Meeting of the Community Services Committee to consider possible partnership board arrangements. (HHHCC)

221 PLAYSACE ROLLING PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which informed Members of the progress of the current playspace rolling programme for 2000/2001, delayed due to the inclement weather and sought approval for the next phase of the programme for 2001/2002. Whilst considering the report, Members were of the opinion that the following priority order should be given to the outstanding playspaces:-

- Canewdon
- Fyfield Path
- Warwick Drive in Rochford

Furthermore, Members considered that adequate consultation should be undertaken on proposals and that future reports on the playspace rolling programme should only include matters outstanding and not those playspaces which had been completed or were subject to works which were to be funded from alternative budgets.

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Resolved

- (1) That the installation of a skateboarding facility at Canewdon, following agreement with Canewdon Parish Council on the actual location with Althorne Way recreation ground, Rayleigh, be agreed.
- (2) That the refurbishment of Fyfield path, Rayleigh, playspace be agreed.
- (3) That the refurbishment of Warwick Drive playspace, Rochford be agreed subject to finances being available from this year's fund. (CD(F&ES))

222 ACCESS TO GROVE NURSERY GROUP VIA GROVE WOODS

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which updated Members on the current situation regarding the suggested new path through Grove Woods leading to the Nursery Group building.

Resolved

That as the initial request for access through Grove Woods is no longer required by the Nursery Group whilst they discuss alternative options with the School, no further action be taken. (CD(F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Chairman

Date