

Hullbridge Sub-Committee- 1 October 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Hullbridge Sub-Committee** held on **1 October 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs L A Butcher
Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr P K Savill

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr A J Humphries and from Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson, Hullbridge Parish Council.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr M G B Starke

REPRESENTING HULLBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Mrs L Campbell-Daley
Cllr Mrs K Morgan

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
D Timson - Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

K Bristow - District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services

34 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

35 RECABLING WORKS

(**Note:** Cllr Mrs L Campbell-Daley declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of living in Wallace Close).

The Sub-Committee welcomed Mr G Dillon representing BT and Mr P Bennett and Mr M Bailey representing EDF who were in attendance for this item.

It was noted that the estimated costs of replacing the overhead BT cables

along 249 – 273 Ferry Road with underground cabling would be £19,815.27 and that the estimated costs for this, plus the removal of the existing poles, would be £32,896.51.

It was further noted that the estimated costs of removing overhead EDF main conductor cabling and replacing with underground cabling would be £36,775 and that the estimated costs for this, plus the removal of the existing poles, would be £43,609.

The BT representative advised Members that residential properties in the vicinity of Wallace Close/Pooles Lane and Ferry Road would need to provide written permission for their driveways to be excavated as part of the underground cabling works. Rochford District Council would, in addition, be liable for any instances of residential owners being dissatisfied with re-surfacing of their driveways completed as part of the cabling works.

Responding to a Member enquiry, EDF representatives confirmed that it would not be possible for BT and EDF to share ducting, but that a trench could be shared, subject to, for example, EDF signing a standard BT contract, if they were to share a BT trench.

The BT representative confirmed, in response to a further enquiry, that BT would charge 75% of the total costs in advance and that, in the event of any of the residential owners in that area withdrawing agreement for access to their driveway, would charge for any excavation works already commenced.

Members thanked the BT and EDF representatives for their contributions and they left the meeting.

During debate it was the general consensus that the total estimated costs of £76,505.51 for underground cabling works were difficult to justify, given that this equalled more than half the overall budget for the scheme, yet did not provide value for money in terms of the small area in Hullbridge that would benefit.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to lamp columns, the County Officer confirmed that it would be possible to install lamp columns, without the removal of the overhead cabling, but that there would be a limited choice of suitable lamp columns.

Resolved

- (1) That a site visit be arranged for Members with the County lighting contractor before the next meeting of this Sub-Committee in order to establish what lamp columns could be installed within the overall scheme and in what quantity.
- (2) That estimated costings for the lamp columns and for Phase 2 of the scheme be brought to the next meeting of this Sub-Committee for

consideration. (County Highways/CD(F&ES))

36 PHASE 1 – FORECOURTS

Officers confirmed that, with respect to the tree pits, although the root containment work had been completed, the irrigation system work was still outstanding. Officers further noted that, although the tree staking had been carried out, the bands around them needed to be loosened.

37 PHASE 2 – RESPONSES FROM FORECOURT OWNERS

At a site visit immediately after the last meeting of the Sub-Committee there was a general consensus that the Golden Pea Gravel surfacing (grade 1-5mm) would be most appropriate for Phase 2.

Written agreement with respect to the private forecourt works was still outstanding for Nos. 249, 253 and 259 Ferry Road. Officers would, however, continue to press for written agreement from the owners.

38 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 13 November 2003 at 10.00 am in Committee Room 4 at the Civic Suite, Rayleigh.

The meeting closed at 11.12 am.

Chairman

Date