

Council – 28 July 2005

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **28 July 2005** when there were present:-

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

Cllr C I Black	Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr R G S Choppen	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr P R Robinson
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr Mrs S A Harper	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr A J Humphries	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs M S Vince

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner, C A Hungate, Mrs L Hungate, J R F Mason, S P Smith and Mrs B J Wilkins

OFFICERS PRESENT

R J Honey - Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
D Deeks - Head of Financial Services
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

306 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

307 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs H L A Glynn and Mrs M S Vince each declared a personal interest in the item on Sutton Court Drive Playspace, Rochford by virtue of being Rochford Parish Councillors.

308 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Council received the Minutes of Committees and considered Committee reports as follows:-

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(1) Planning Services	26 May 2005	208-210
(2) Appeals	2 June 2005	211-213
(3) Community Services	2 June 2005	214-218
(4) Environmental Services	7 June 2005	219-222
(5) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	14 June 2005	230-232
(6) Policy & Finance	16 June 2005	233-237
(7) Appeals	17 June 2005	238-240
(8) Appeals	21 June 2005	241-243
(9) Community Overview & Scrutiny	21 June 2005	244-247
(10) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	23 June 2005	248-249
(11) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	28 June 2005	250-252
(12) Planning Services	30 June 2005	253-255
(13) Community Services	5 July 2005	256-265

(a) Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing Stock

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the remaining appointment to the New Joint Transfer Steering Group (Minute 263/05 refers).

On a motion, moved my Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor P A Capon, it was:-

Resolved

That Councillor Mrs M S Vince be appointed to the vacancy on the Joint Transfer Steering Group. (CD(F&ES))

Council – 28 July 2005

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(14) Environmental Services	7 July 2005	266-274

(a) Rochford Design, Heritage and Conservation Awards for 2005

It was confirmed that Councillors R A Amner, Mrs R Brown and Mrs M J Webster were the three Conservative nominees to the Judging Panel (Minute 268/05 refers). (HPS)

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(15) Policy & Finance	12 July 2005	275-282
(16) Community Overview & Scrutiny	14 July 2005	286-288
(17) Standards	19 July 2005	289-291
(18) Environment Overview & Scrutiny	20 July 2005	292-296
(19) Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	21 July 2005	297-302

It was noted that the word “two” in the first line of Minute 298 should be “one”. This could be corrected by the Committee at its next meeting.

(a) Review of Corporate Governance Policy

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the annual assessment of the Council’s Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Resolved

That the annual assessment of the Council’s Local Code of Corporate Governance be agreed. (CD(F&ES))

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(20) Planning Services	26 July 2005	303-305

309 MOTION ON NOTICE

The Proper Officer reported on a motion received from Councillors K J Gordon and Mrs S A Harper, supported by Councillors R A Amner, Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, R G S Choppen, T G Cutmore, T Livings, D Merrick, P K Savill, D G Stansby, Mrs M A Starke, M G B Starke, Mrs M J Webster, P F A Webster, Mrs C A Weston and Mrs B J Wilkins.

In presenting the first part of the motion, Councillor K J Gordon referred to it being particularly appropriate to include the flying of flags on Trafalgar Day given that this year saw the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Council endorsed a suggested amendment relating to the reporting line of the proposed Heritage Sub-Committee within the second part of the Motion.

During discussion, reference was made to the overlapping nature of the celebration of historic events and heritage. Reference was also made to how pleasing it is to see the planting of trees at the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park in connection with the Battle of Trafalgar. The Chairman of the Council confirmed that he had been invited to, and would be attending, the local VJ commemoration ceremony being arranged by the British Legion.

Resolved

- (1) That this Council increases the number of days that it flies flags other than the Council's own flag. It has already been agreed to fly the St George's Cross on St George's Day and appropriate flags should now be flown on the following days:-

St George's Day	-	23 April (previously agreed)
VE Day	-	8 May
VJ Day	-	14 August
Battle of Britain	-	15 September
Trafalgar Day	-	21 October

This means that, apart from the statutory days, the Council will fly appropriate flags on five other days.

- (2) That the St George's Day Sub-Committee has both its name and sphere of work amended as follows to take into account the additional days when we will be remembering both our District's history and those brave men and women who served in the services, as well as civilians, and in some cases paid the ultimate price:-
- (a) The Sub-Committee to be renamed the Heritage Sub-Committee and to report into the Community Services Committee. Its terms of reference to be amended to include responsibility for co-ordinating events and celebrations throughout the District on the days identified in resolution (1) above falling in the current Municipal Year.
- (b) The Community Services Committee, having delegated responsibility for heritage issues, to be asked to consider arrangements and budget provision for celebration of these days in future years. (HAMS/CD(F&ES))

310 SWEYNE PARK WARD BY-ELECTION

Members noted the results of the Sweyne Park Ward By-Election and welcomed Councillor Mrs J A Mockford on to the Council.

311 COMMITTEE/SUB-COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the allocation of Committee and Sub-Committee seats for the remainder of the 2005/06 Municipal Year.

It was noted that the Conservative Group would be confirming its appointee to one of the vacancies on the Licensing Committee.

Resolved

That appointments be made to vacant seats as follows:-

Committee/Sub-Committee	Appointee/s
Environmental Services Committee	Councillor Mrs J A Mockford
Policy & Finance Committee	Councillor Mrs J A Mockford
Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Mrs J R Lumley and P R Robinson
Playspace Sub-Committee	Councillor K J Gordon (HAMS)

312 DRAFT FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2004/05

Council considered the report of the Head of Financial Services on the draft financial statements 2004/05.

Responding to questions, the Head of Financial Services advised that:-

- The revised figures that saw the amount for social housing reduced from £108m to £88m was a reflection of how the Government had asked the Council to express the value of social housing that is occupied.
- With regard to pensions, the actuaries considered the age of all staff within the pension scheme and will make a judgement on the pension liability accordingly. A full copy of the latest pensions report can be made available to individual Members on request. A copy is also in the Members' Library.

Council endorsed the observation of a Member that officers should be congratulated for producing such an easy to understand statement.

Resolved

- (1) That the Financial Statements 2004/05 be approved and signed by the Chairman.
- (2) That the Statements be agreed for submission to the external auditors. (HFS)

313 REPORT OF WASTE MANAGEMENT AND RECYCLING SUB-COMMITTEE

Council considered the report of the Waste Management and Recycling Sub-Committee on the allocation of external recycling funding.

The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) advised that the supplier of the smaller recycling collection vehicle had indicated that vehicle delivery would now be just after the forthcoming Christmas period. In view of the amount of waste generated over Christmas, it would be appropriate for Service Team to be asked to commence use of the vehicle at a point in January when Christmas waste activity had been concluded.

Resolved

That the following recycling initiatives be implemented:-

- Purchase of smaller recycling collection vehicle.
- Collection of old green bins for recycling.
- Purchase of blue boxes and red, re-usable bags.
- Continue with emptying of plastic recycling banks on a weekly frequency. (CD(F&ES))

314 SUTTON COURT DRIVE PLAYSPACE, ROCHFORD

Note: The Chairman admitted this item of business as urgent in order to allow works to commence early in the summer school holidays to address the needs of users and neighbouring residents.

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking approval to carry out works to the Sutton Court Playspace, Rochford.

In presenting the report the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) confirmed that the opening times endorsed by the Parish Council were 8.00am to 9.00pm all week. He also advised that he had taken the decision to formulate the proposed Phase 1 solution on the basis that there had been no feedback from the youth service on possible design solutions that could be costed.

It was noted that the Parish Council had yet to budget for contributing to the project but that it would be possible for works to commence subject to the Parish agreeing to source any immediate shortfall in their own financial contribution via next year's precept. It was also noted that, at this point in time, the Parish was very much hoping to achieve external funding.

Members concurred with the suggestion of the leader of the Council that it would be appropriate to seek written confirmation of intent from the Parish Council and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That Phase 1 works be carried out at the Sutton Court Playspace, Rochford as described in the report submitted at the last meeting of the Sub-Committee in the sum of £3,500.
- (2) That Rochford Parish Council contribute 50% of the above cost, confirmed in writing, in the Financial Year 2006/07. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 8.13pm.

Chairman

Date