

## **RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCES FROM THE MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2002**

### **(a) Minute 59(4) – RELATING TO CORPORATE RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE 444 – MEMBERS ALLOWANCES – REPORT OF THE REMUNERATION PANEL.**

The Minute reads as follows:-

“During consideration of this Minute, Members continued the debate relating to the sum included in the Budget for 2002/2003 for Members travelling allowance and also the issue of discretionary payments.

Noting that this matter was due to be discussed at Council on 26 February 2002, on a motion put by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Helson, and subsequently amended by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P J Morgan, it was

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the estimate figure of £71,700 be included in the Budget for 2002/2003 for Members' Allowances.
- (2) That the existing method of payment for travelling expenses be retained.
- (3) That the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) meet with Group Leaders and the Independent Member with a view to achieving consensus on a method of administering discretionary payments.
- (4) That this item be referred to the meeting of Council on 26 February 2002 for detailed consideration. (CD(F&ES))

Note: Cllr J R F Mason wished it recorded the he cast his vote against resolution (1) above.”

**NOTE:** The report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on this matter is set out at Item 11 on the Council Agenda.

**(b) Minute 59(4) – RELATING TO CORPORATE RESOURCES  
SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTE 449 - LABURNHAM GROVE  
PLAYSPACE**

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Standing Order 18(6), a requisition has been received in the names of Councillors R E Vingoe, R S Allen and Mrs J Helson requiring that the above Minute be referred to Full Council for decision.

A copy of the appropriate Committee Minute is set out below. To assist Members, a copy of the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee Minute and associated report is set out at Appendix 1.

**“Laburnham Grove Play Space**

**Resolved**

- (1) That if Hockley Parish Council wish to acquire ownership of the site, the lease will need to be signed by 31 March 2002 or the District Council will not be able to assist with their requests.
- (2) That if Hockley Parish Council does not wish to take ownership of the site, the District Council will again review the use of this area.”

R J Honey

Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)

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For further information please contact John Bostock on:-

Tel:- 3900

E-Mail:- [john.bostock@rochford.gov.uk](mailto:john.bostock@rochford.gov.uk)

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**APPENDIX 1****Corporate Resources Sub-Committee 449 – Laburnham Grove Playspace**

Sub-Committee Minute 449 reads as follows:-

**“LABURNHAM GROVE PLAYSPLACE**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which sought Members' views in response to a proposal received from Hockley Parish Council prior to their taking ownership of the playspace.

Members noted that during a review of Council land assets, the option of disposing of Laburnum Grove playspace had been considered. Following a public consultation exercise, the Council had received strong representations from the local community for the area to remain as a playspace. Hockley Parish Council had agreed in principle to take ownership of the site and it had been resolved at the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 7 December 2000 to transfer the land.

A request had been received from the Parish Council to assist in providing remedies that would help to alleviate any nuisance to neighbouring residents prior to the transfer taking place. District Council officers had developed outline estimates of the types of works proposed. The Parish Council had funds of £6,000 available and were asking the District Council to meet the balance of £13,000. Currently there was no budget provision for this.

Members noted that the lease had been with the Parish Council for almost 12 months awaiting signing. The report identified an additional list of requests from the Parish Council, including a request to make arrangements for the closure and locking of the site. The estimated cost of this to the District Council would be in the region of £9,800 per annum, for which there was no budgetary provision.

Members noted that even if the Council's Contractor were able to engage an operative, it would be unlikely that they would agree to the person being responsible for evicting people from the area prior to lockup.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P J Morgan it was:-

**Recommended**

- (1) That if Hockley Parish Council wish to acquire ownership of the site, the least will need to be signed by 31 March 2002, but the District Council will not be able to assist with their requests.
- (2) That if Hockley Parish Council does not wish to take ownership of the site, the District Council would again review the use of this area.