

## **Council –28 October 2004**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **28 October 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown (Chairman)  
Cllr P F A Webster (Vice-Chairman)

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

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs L A Butcher, J R F Mason and Mrs C A Weston.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

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

A Member referred to the recent death of Mr Michael Shelley, resident of Rochford, who had been a regular presence in the public gallery at Council Meetings for at least ten years. Council agreed that Mr Shelley would be missed.

### **455 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 July 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 456 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN

The Chairman was pleased to present the Rochford Heritage, Design and Conservation Awards 2004. The Awards had been established to enable the Council to recognise developments and schemes that were of high quality and that made a positive contribution to the appearance and character of the District.

The Awards were as follows:-

<u>Scheme/Development</u>	<u>Award</u>
Three new terraced houses in East Street, Rochford	Commended
Renovation of Flats in Rochford Garden Way, Rochford	Commended
New flats built at 18 Ashingdon Road, Rochford	Highly Commended
New Atrium at Barling Magna Primary School	Highly Commended
New Business Centre at Crouchmans' Yard, Great Wakering	Joint Winner
Guidewoods, Woodland Lodge, Hockley Woods, Hockley	Joint Winner

Council agreed that it was pleasing to be able to reward schemes that could make such a real difference to the community.

The Chairman had attended several events including :-

- Awards ceremonies at schools and colleges.
- Schemes for wayward youngsters, including Southend Fire Service "Firebreak", which introduced discipline and team working.
- The South East Essex Chamber of Trade dinner celebrating 100 years of existence.
- Sir Teddy Taylor's Freedom of the Southend Borough Award.
- The NHS Partnership Annual General Meeting.
- The celebration of fundraising by two cancer sufferers which had benefited the Essex Air Ambulance and the Broomfield Colostomy Unit.

### 457 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

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

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(1) Planning Services	26 August 2004	364 – 367
(2) Appeals and Licensing	31 August 2004	368 – 370

### **(a) Licensing Act 2003 – nomination of Members for training purposes**

Council considered the report of the Appeals and Licensing Committee on the nomination of Members to serve on the Committee for the purpose of Member Training.

#### **Resolved**

That the nomination of nine additional Members to serve on the Appeals and Licensing Committee for the purpose of Member training on the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 be endorsed.

(3) Community Services	1 September 2004	371 – 379
(4) Environmental Services	2 September 2004	380 - 383
(5) Policy and Finance	7 September 2004	384 – 388
(6) Community Overview and Scrutiny	9 September 2004	389 – 393
(7) Environment Overview and Scrutiny	14 September 2004	394 – 398
(8) Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny	16 September 2004	399 - 404

### **(a) Closure of Accounts 2003/04**

Council considered the report of the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee on budget amendments and amendments to the accounts.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the budget amendments identified in the report be agreed.
- (2) That the amendments to the accounts identified within the report be agreed. (HFS)

### **(b) Capital Strategy**

Council considered the report of the Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Capital Strategy.

#### **Resolved**

That the Strategy be agreed. (HFS)

(9) Appeals and Licensing	17 September 2004	405 - 407
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(10) Planning Services	23 September 2004	408 - 410
(11) Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny	29 September 2004	411 - 412
(12) Community Services	30 September 2004	413 - 423

### **(a) Museums in Essex Service**

Council considered the report of the Community Services Committee on the appointment of a representative to join the board of the Museums in Essex Service.

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor Mrs M J Webster be nominated as this Council's appointee to join the board of the Museums in Essex Service. (HAMS)

### **(b) Rochford Sports Council**

Council considered the report of the Community Services Committee on the appointment of a representative to join the Rochford Sports Council.

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor R A Amner be nominated as this Council's appointee to Rochford Sports Council. (HAMS)

(13) Environmental Services	12 October 2004	424 - 431
(14) Policy and Finance	14 October 2004	432 - 438

### **(a) Special Interest Group for Fourth Option Authorities**

Council considered the report of the Policy and Finance Committee on a proposal to set up a Fourth Option Special Interest Group, with the Leader of the Council acting as the Council's representative.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That this Council supports the proposal to set up a fourth option special interest group within the Local Government Association and write to Wear Valley District Council requesting that they prepare a written proposal for consideration and subsequent submission to the Local Government Association.
- (2) That the Leader of the Council be nominated to act as this Council's representative on the Fourth Option Special Interest Group if and when such a body is formed. (CE)

### **(b) Scheme of Delegation to Officers**

Council considered the report of the Policy & Finance Committee on amendments to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

#### **Resolved**

That the Scheme of Delegation to Officers be amended in accordance with the report submitted to the Committee, subject to:-

- (1) Removal of the word “materially” from the fourth category in Appendix 1 relating to shop fronts.
- (2) Adoption of the suggested proposal for dealing with controversial issues or matters of significant community concern. (CD(LPA))

(15) Environment Overview and Scrutiny	19 October 2004	439 - 443
(16) Community Overview and Scrutiny	20 October 2004	444 – 446
(17) Planning Services	21 October 2004	447 – 450
(18) Finance and Procedures Overview and Scrutiny	26 October 2004	451 - 454

### **458 MOTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **(1) From Councillors Mrs M J Webster and C A Hungate**

The Proper Officer reported on a Motion received from the above named Councillors pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, relating to the establishment of a Sub-Committee to make recommendations on ways to celebrate St. George's Day in 2005.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Mrs M J Webster observed that St. George's Day had not been celebrated in an appropriate manner for a number of years. It fell on a Saturday in 2005 and celebrations could take a number of forms, such as the ringing of church bells, musical events and tea parties.

During discussion, reference was made to the role that the Council could play in engendering a feeling of pride within the District. Reference was also made to the possibility that invitations to be involved could be extended to the Parish/ Town Councils and that Members of the proposed Sub-Committee could take an active role on the day.

Council agreed a Motion, moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor P A Capon, on the make-up of the proposed Sub-Committee and it was:-

### Resolved

That a Sub-Committee of 5 Members (3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Non-Group Member) be established to make recommendations on ways to celebrate St. George's Day in 2005. (HAMS)

### (2) From Councillors Mrs M J Webster and P F A Webster.

The Proper Officer reported on a Motion received from the above named Councillors pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12, relating to approval by the East of England Regional Planning Panel for 478,000 new dwellings to be built by 2021.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor P F A Webster observed that, assuming that Essex was in a position whereby it had no choice but to accept the proposed new dwellings, it should be demanded that appropriate ancillary requirements are introduced at the same time. A key concern was that, once building is introduced to the green belt, the belt can never be recovered. Issues could also be associated with the number of dwellings that are likely to be made available to persons that have not been residents of the country for at least five years. Councillor Mrs M J Webster referred to a concern that decisions on dwelling provision are being made at regional level, rather than local level by local representatives.

During debate, the Leader of the Council observed that the inability of the District and County to be able to influence decisions that should be made more locally pointed to a regional government outlook. Particular concern could be associated with the fact that the current Regional Economic Strategy, which identified that new dwelling proposals should be "jobs led", did not accord with the housing proposals. The number of new dwellings proposed would point to 21% of all new jobs up to 2021 being in the East of England. The figure was more likely to be 12%.

A Member commented that an element of affordable housing could assist young residents wishing to remain in the District.

Council agreed an amendment, moved by Councillor P A Capon and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore, relating to the inclusion of reference to all forms of power supply.

On a requisition pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 16.4, a recorded vote was taken on the motion as follows:-

**For (35)** Cllrs R A Amner, C I Black, Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, R G S Choppen, T G Cutmore, K A Gibbs, Mrs H L A Glynn, T E Goodwin, K J Gordon, J E Grey, Mrs S A Harper, K H Hudson, A J Humphries, C A Hungate, Mrs L Hungate, T Livings, C J Lumley, Mrs J R Lumley, D Merrick,

R A Oatham, J M Pullen, P R Robinson, P K Savill, C G Seagers,  
S P Smith, D G Stansby, Mrs M A Starke, M G B Starke,  
J Thomass, Mrs M S Vince, Mrs M J Webster, P F A Webster,  
Mrs B J Wilkins

**Against (0)**  
**Abstentions (0)**

### **Resolved**

That Rochford District Council is totally opposed to the approval by the East of England Regional Planning Panel of 478,000 new dwellings to be built by 2021.

The proposal puts unsustainable pressure on the green belt of Rochford and Essex who have neither the roads, schools, hospitals, G.Ps, water or all forms of power supply to support this level of increase in housing provision.

This Council welcomes the action of Essex authorities, who will be voting against these proposals at the Regional Assembly Meeting in November.

### **(2) From Councillors C I Black, R A Oatham and Mrs M S Vince.**

The Proper Officer reported on a Motion received from the above named Councillors pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12 relating to bus services along Rawreth Lane.

In presenting the Motion, Councillor R A Oatham referred to the last meeting of the Council's Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee at which the Primary Care Trust had indicated that it was considering the construction of a satellite health facility at the Park School site and that the lack of public transport had been identified as an issue. The Motion was not about diverting bus services from elsewhere, but the introduction of further appropriate provision.

During debate, a Member observed that a forthcoming meeting between Councillors and representatives of the First Bus Group could be a useful forum for raising the subject. Reference was made to the likelihood that a strong business case could be made for improved facilities. There was also comment on how bus service provision could often be seen as an emotive subject and how it should not always be automatically assumed that the introduction of a subsidised bus service can best meet local needs. It was observed that, in the case of Rawreth Lane, a bus service to a medical facility was likely to be of value to a number of sections of the community, including the young, the unwell and the elderly.

### Resolved

That this Council presses for improved bus services along Rawreth Lane in view of the expected house building, leisure centre, new school building, new medical facilities and new shops. (CE)

### 459 STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL PLANNING

Council considered the report of the Head of Financial Services on the information currently available in respect of the grant settlement and capping issues for 2005/06.

The Leader of the Council observed that, based on information provided to date, the Government appeared to have little understanding that the majority of additional expenditure could be associated with the need to address Government requirements. The report pointed to the value of as many Members as possible attending the forthcoming Budget Away Day.

### Resolved

That Officers provide updated information when available and make the information within the report available at the Member Budget Strategy Away Day on 13 November 2004. (HFS)

### 460 LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC BID

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the Olympic Bid being prepared on behalf of London for 2012.

During debate, the following observations were made:-

- A successful Olympics could bring an immense sense of national pride and kudos. A number of benefits could no doubt be associated with the feel-good factor, both socially and economically. There would also be opportunities for inward investment, particularly if the District's leisure/ tourism projects were in place.
- It could be seen as appropriate to be cautious about financial elements. Set-up costs were likely to be considerable and the experience of other countries pointed to a possibility that these could outweigh benefits. Rochford District and its surrounding areas were already faced with a number of unsustainable demands without those that might be associated with the Olympics.
- Notwithstanding that all can see the benefits associated with sport, very little is yet known about actual costs for a London Olympics. Thames Gateway had issued a statement that a public sector funding package for the London Olympics of up to £2.375 billion had already been agreed. The Minister of Sport had recently recognised that, in terms of cost, visits



to countries that have already held an Olympics pointed to the likelihood that, in broad terms, costs could double from first estimates.

- A view could be taken that the high expenditure associated with achieving the Olympic Games could be redirected to meet, say, known infrastructure needs or the needs of groups in need of investment in public services.
- Great numbers of people visiting London from other countries could put great strain on the rail infrastructure.
- At the conclusion of any Olympics, there would remain a need to finance the various new facilities. This could result in local authorities being faced with financial burden and the type of issues associated with, say, the Millennium Dome.
- Support in principle would not involve the Council making financial commitment.
- Future national events, such as a change in Government, could have an impact on the finances associated with an Olympic bid.
- As an enterprising country, it could be of value for the Government to investigate possibilities for the bid to be self-supporting. The savings required through Gershon did not sit well with likely expenditure associated with the Olympics.
- Any country hosting the Olympics would become the centre of world attention and would need to have sufficient funding available to address security aspects.

Council agreed a motion, moved by Councillor M G B Starke and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn, and it was:-

### **Resolved**

That at this stage the Council supports in principle the London 2012 Olympic bid. (CE)

## **461 HIGHWAYS LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT**

It was noted that a copy of the draft Local Service Agreement had yet to be received from the County Council. Consideration of this item would, therefore, be deferred until December which may enable the draft agreement to be considered first by the Environmental Services Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....