

## **East Area Committee – 10 March 2011**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **10 March 2011** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Vice-Chairman: Cllr J P Cottis

Cllr Mrs T J Capon

Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr T E Goodwin

Cllr K J Gordon

Cllr C G Seagers

Cllr M J Steptoe

Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Cllr Mrs P Shaw

Cllr Mrs L Van Houten

Cllr Mrs S Gordon

Cllr P A Capon

Ms N Szpigelman

Ms M McCutcheon

- Ashingdon Parish Council
- Canewdon Parish Council
- Rochford Parish Council
- Stambridge Parish Council
- Essex County Council
- Essex County Council

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

Y Woodward

S Worthington

- Head of Finance
- Committee Administrator

## **73 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr N Wallace (Canewdon Parish Council), Cllr Mrs K Perring (Great Wakering Parish Council), Mr B Summerfield, Cllr D Whittingham (Paglesham Parish Council) and Cllr J Bond (Rochford Parish Council).

### **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2011 were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the community forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

## **74 COMMUNITY FORUM**

A question raised by Mr Efde, of Great Wakering, relating to the inclusion of flood risk details on maps would be dealt with outside the meeting as officers present were unable to provide him with an answer.

In response to a question from Mr Bowker, of Rochford, relating to future arrangements for community forums, the Leader of the Council confirmed that there will be two community forums, east and west, both of which will meet twice per annum and will be chaired by the Leader of the Council. The Council should be able to save some money as this is a reduction in the number of these meetings. Health, Police, County Council and Town and Parish Council representatives will be invited to attend and it was hoped that any questions asked at the community forums will be answered on the day, wherever possible. He urged residents not to save up questions for the meetings but to telephone their Ward Councillors or Council officers if issues arose in between scheduled meetings.

Responding to a supplementary question relating to publicity for the new community forums, the Leader of the Council advised that these will be publicised in the local papers and advertised locally, as appropriate.

Ms Szpigelman advised, in response to a question from Mr Lucas-Gill, that the installation of barbed wire on fencing in the vicinity of Warners Bridge going down the hill towards Rochford was being investigated by County Highways.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session.

### **75 SPOTLIGHT ISSUE**

The Committee welcomed Ms N Szpigelman and Ms M McCutcheon to the meeting to provide an update on highways matters in the East Area of the District.

Ms McCutcheon advised that County Highways was receiving lots of calls relating to pot holes. Since the beginning of January 'seek and fix gangs' have been out and about dealing with pot holes that have been reported, according to priority. The cost of repairing them is £117 per pot hole and approximately 221 pot holes have been repaired to date within the District.

This week work is being carried out on pot holes in Leslie Road, Sutton Road and Eastwood Road.

In response to questions the following was noted:-

- Deep pot holes are initially treated by means of a temporary repair, or 'make safe', until a more permanent repair can be made. 'Make safe' repairs are also carried out on pot holes in locations that are scheduled for re-surfacing. Category one repairs are carried out within 24 hours.
- Highways officers will inspect two large pot holes outside Barclays Bank in West Street, Rochford and that stretch of road generally, following reports of elderly people falling over in this location; they will also look at drainage issues in that location, with respect to water pooling in the vicinity of the

‘speed table’.

- Highways officers will inspect Church Road, Barling, following reports of mud being spread onto the carriageway from the grass verge.
- Highways officers will inspect reported pot holes outside Cupid’s Country Club in Great Wakering.
- The red tarmac area in Stambridge Road on the entrance to Stambridge advising motorists to drive slowly will not receive an anti-skid surface, but there will be ‘dragon teeth’ installed. This will be done as soon as patching work is done on the carriage way.
- Trees had not been planted at the gateways in Stambridge as residents, when consulted, had not wanted trees in the identified locations. Highways Officers would liaise with the Parish Council on this issue to establish correct locations for tree planting.
- Highways officers will advise Cllr P A Capon whether or not Somerset Avenue, Rochford is included in the road re-surfacing programme.
- Highways officers confirmed that dog signs that were removed along public footpath no. 14 would be replaced, if not found.
- Pot holes in Barrow Hall Road, Barling would be inspected by Highways officers.
- County Highways was currently concentrating on bigger pot holes; smaller ones can also be reported to them, as they will be added to a list for addressing once the larger ones have been repaired.
- A pot hole in Southend Road, Great Wakering, turning right into Barling Road will be inspected by Highways officers.
- Highways officers will liaise directly with Ward Councillors about the problem in Barling Road where some gardens have been extended to the extent that there is no foot path in places, making it difficult for wheelchairs and prams.
- Highways officers will contact Cllr Seagers outside the meeting with respect to footpath signage for public foot path no. 12.
- Any future highways-related queries should be referred to either Ms Szpigelman or Ms McCutcheon.
- It is possible to report highways-related problems via the County Council website; each report is given a unique identification number.

- Highways officers would advise the Committee and Mr K Salt outside the meeting of specific minimum standards criteria for repair works to road surfaces.
- Quantity surveyors carry out sample inspections of road repair works; repair works are only signed off if completed to an acceptable standard.
- The issue of vehicles travelling too fast from East Street into North Street, Rochford, where pedestrian visibility is poor, relates to dangerous driving and is therefore not a Highways, but rather a Police matter.

### 76 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area Update.

#### **H32/08 – Funding for Sutton Ford Bridge Scheme (Minutes 257(2)/08, 31(02)/09, 213/09 and 296/10)**

Ms Szpigelman advised that it was not possible for the Compulsory Purchase Order to be completed before the Department for Transport put all CPOs on hold. However, CPOs are no longer on hold. It was probable that funding would not be available for this scheme in 2011/12.

Members made particular reference to a statement made by the Leader of Essex County Council in February 2011 indicating that the County Council was pursuing the Compulsory Purchase Order for this scheme. The landowner, however, claims not to have had contact with the County Council during the past three and a half years. Concern was expressed that a serious accident was inevitable in this location, if no action is taken.

#### **H8/09 – Cagefield Road, Stambridge (Minutes 145/09, 225/10 and 293/10)**

It was emphasised that the two triangle verges referred to in the update as locations for tree planting were not the locations previously agreed with Parish Councillors; residents did not want trees at the triangle verges at each end of the road, but rather along the length of the road, to prevent car parking along the verges. It was noted that there would be merit in County Highways officers liaising with the Parish Council with respect to correct locations for tree planting.

#### **H21/09 – Footpath Scheme at Poynters Lane, Great Wakering (Minutes 247/09 and 296/10)**

It was noted that clearing of vegetation had already commenced; the footpath works would therefore begin once this was completed.

### **H1/10 – West Street, Rochford (Minutes 153/10 and 296/10)**

The no entry sign at the bottom of West Street, Rochford had been re-painted and line markings also re-painted.

### **H4/10 – Blocked Drains in Ashingdon Road in the Vicinity of Dalys Road to St Teresa's School (Minutes 225/10 and 296/10)**

Highways officers advised, in response to concern raised about water collecting on the highway opposite the school entry gate to the mini-roundabout, that the drainage had been checked in this location and was working properly; it was anticipated that the scheduled re-surfacing work should resolve the problem. The work should be done in May and would be timed to coincide with school holidays or would be carried out as night works in order to minimise disruption for the school.

Members observed that Ashingdon Road had been re-surfaced in that location in the past two years or so, as had Sutton Road; it did raise the question as to whether the quality of work completed was adequate.

### **H5/10 – Cars Parked on Verges along Southend Road in the vicinity of Warners Bridge (Minute 7/11)**

It was noted that Cllr Mrs Lucas-Gill should be contacted by County Highways officers to arrange a time to go and look at the relevant stretch of highway.

### **H7/11 – Road Surface Flooding in Havengore Close (Minute 7/11)**

It was generally the responsibility of the solicitor to notify new house buyers whether or not the road outside their new property is unadopted. It was, however, noted that this was something that should be included in the new residents' packs for the District.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

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