

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **24 April 2001** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson  
Cllr Mrs S J Lemon

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman

Cllr R Adams  
Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr C I Black  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr P A Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr D F Flack  
Cllr Mrs J E Ford  
Cllr G Fox  
Cllr Mrs J M Giles  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr Mrs J Hall  
Cllr D R Helson  
Cllr Mrs J Helson  
Cllr A Hosking  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr C C Langlands  
Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr T Livings  
Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr G A Mockford  
Cllr C R Morgan  
Cllr P J Morgan  
Cllr R A Pearson  
Cllr Mrs L Phillips  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr P D Stebbing  
Cllr R E Vingoe  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr P F A Webster  
Cllr D A Weir  
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

## **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	Chief Executive
R J Honey	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Clarkson	Head of Revenue & Housing Management
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
A Smith	Head of Administrative & Member Services
Mrs M Martin	Committee Administrator
Ms S Worthington	Committee Administrator

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D M Ford, M G B Starke and R F Powell.

## **167 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllrs Mrs R Brown and Mrs J Hall declared an interest in the item on 'Repairs to Brick Wall Adjacent to Public Conveniences - Back Lane, Rochford' by virtue of being Members of the Management Committee of the Rayleigh & Rochford Citizens Advice Bureau.

## **168 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2001 and both meetings held on 20 March 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**169 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman extended thanks to those who had attended the Rock and Roll Night held recently at the Mill Hall, Rayleigh.

The Chief Executive encouraged Members to sponsor him for his involvement in a fund-raising venture during that week when he would be undertaking a refuse collection round with the Council's Contractor.

**170 PETITION**

Pursuant to Standing Order 11, a petition was presented to Council relating to Recycling and Rubbish in Wakering, and also the £3 charge imposed by Southend on Sea Borough Council for non-residents using Southend Civic Amenity Sites.

On a Motion moved by Councillor R S Allen and seconded by Councillor R E Vingoe, it was agreed that Standing Order 11(6) be suspended and that consideration be given to the petition.

During debate, Members noted:-

- the arbitrary manner in which Southend Borough Council had taken the decision
- that Southend had failed to respond to requests for joint action
- that in the past there had always been co-operation between the neighbouring authorities
- that Southend's action would also affect Castle Point Borough Council.

On a Motion moved by Cllr R S Allen and seconded by Cllr R Vingoe and amendments moved by Cllr G Fox, seconded by Councillor Mrs J E Ford and Councillor Mrs J Helson, seconded by Councillor V H Leach it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That whilst the Council's officers have tried to discuss this issue with Southend Borough Council and to provide a Members' meeting which on three occasions they have failed to attend, this Council formally requests Southend Borough Council to meet within the next three weeks.
- (2) That this Council requests Essex County Council to install a ticket machine at Castle Road, Rayleigh and issue Essex

windscreen discs to residents of Rochford and Castle Point. Any non residents who use Castle Road to be charged an entrance fee of £6 to cover return fees incurred at Southend Civic sites and to cover administration and staffing costs or a fee to be agreed by Essex County Council which Southend Borough Council may refund to its residents if it wishes.

- (3) That as Essex County Council has not stated for how long it will return the £3 charge to Rochford residents, it should therefore discuss with Rochford District Council whether it will open and if so, where, a Civic Amenity site for the south/eastern part of Rochford district.
- (4) That should the District Council fail to get a satisfactory response to the above, the County Council should provide an alternative Civic Amenity site within the District.
- (5) That Essex County Council and other Districts Councils invite Southend Borough Council to come out of the Waste Consortium. (HHHCC)

## **171 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

The Proper Officer had received notice of the following question from Councillor V H Leach to be asked of the Chairman of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee under Standing Order 10(1):

“Given that this Council will be legally obliged to recycle 18% of its municipal household waste by 2005/06 could the relevant officer tell me, based upon the growth rate since inception and current percentage rate of recycling in the Hawkwell trial area, how many properties in the Rochford District on an annual incremental basis would need to recycle their household waste to achieve the statutory recycling figures imposed by central government to avoid possible sanctions or financial penalties should this authority fail to reach those targets.”

In the absence of the Chairman of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee, Cllr Mrs J E Ford, the Vice Chairman of that Committee responded as follows:-

### **"PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

In March 2001, the Government issued guidance on Municipal Waste Management Strategies. As announced in the “Waste Strategy 2000” policy statement published in May 2000, the Government has now set statutory performance standards for household waste recycling and composting for 2003/4 and 2005/6.

The Local Government (Best Value) Performance Indicators and Performance Standards Order 2001 has been published. The standards apply to the total of the Best Value indicators dealing with recycling and composting undertaken by this Council. Home composting is excluded, as is any recycling undertaken by Essex County Council at the Castle Road site.

For Rochford, the 1998/99 total recycling and composting rate and the statutory performance standards for future years are:-

<u>1998/99</u> <u>Recycling Rate %</u>	<u>2003/04</u> <u>Standard %</u>	<u>2005/06</u> <u>Standard %</u>
4	10	18

### **EXPANSION OF KERBSIDE RECYCLING**

Council has agreed an expansion of kerbside recycling to 5217 properties during the current financial year, although a concurrent report to this meeting suggests that Members may wish to look again at the collection round to be included in Rayleigh, as a way of addressing the issues raised in the petition about removal of recycling facilities at St John Fisher Playing Field.

Based on the experience of the Hawkwell/Ashingdon trial, it is anticipated that the expansion of the scheme to 5200 properties will result in a recycling rate of approximately 4%, during the current year. In a full year, a recycling rate of approximately 6.5% is expected from the 5200 properties. To both of these must be added a further estimated 3% from the recycling banks situated around the District. In a full year, therefore, it is anticipated that a combined recycling rate of 9.5% might be achieved under the scheme which has already been approved.

To achieve the 2005/06 standard of 18%, it is estimated that a total of approximately 13,500 properties will need to be on kerbside collections by April 2005. This takes account of an anticipated reduction in usage of bank sites as an increasing number of properties participate in kerbside collection of recyclables."

### **172 ESSEX POLICE BEST VALUE STRUCTURAL REVIEW**

Council received a presentation from Mr Anthony Peel, the Chairman of the Police Authority.

Mr Peel reported that under the Best Value Structural Review, three options had been presented to the Partners for consultation:-

- 1) to preserve the status quo

- 2) Basic Command Units (BCU) comprising one or three local authorities
- 3) Basic Command Units comprising two local authorities each.

In response to Member questions, the following points were confirmed:-

- a final decision had not yet been made and that all the comments from consultation would be considered.
- the Review involves line management restructuring and as such would not affect the general public; consultation had only been with stakeholders.
- a final decision would be announced on 4 June 2001.
- over 20% of the total budget for Essex Police comes from Council Tax.
- the public do not elect Members of the Police Authority
- response times would not alter if the District's police resources transfers to Southend; assistance from other Divisions can always be called upon when necessary.

The Chief Executive advised that Castle Point had requested that a joint Member level meeting be held to discuss the current issues relating to this Best Value Review. The Chief Executive also confirmed that he would be writing to the local Divisional Police Superintendent to thank him for the recent update that he gave in respect of the overall Best Value Structural Review Process.

Mr Peel confirmed that he would convey the views of the Members to the Police Authority.

On a Motion moved by Cllr V H Leach and seconded by Mrs J Helson it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That a meeting to discuss the Essex Police Best Value Structural Review with Castle Point Borough Council be arranged.
- (2) That Group Leaders or their nominees attend the meeting. (CEX)

**173 MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

**Resolved**

- (1) That, subject to any amendments below, the Minutes of Committees be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.

- (2) That the common seal of the Council be affixed to any document necessary to give effect to decisions taken or approved by the Council in these Minutes.

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>
(1) Appeals Panel	6 March 2001	92A - 92B
(2) Planning Services	8 March 2001	93-98
(3) Transportation & Environmental Services	22 March 2001	104 - 127
(4) Community Services	27 March 2001	128 -136

**Minute 131 - Petition - Recycling Bins at St John Fisher Playing Field**

The Community Services Committee had referred this item to Full Council for consideration concerning the petition which had been presented to the meeting of the Community Services Committee on 27 March 2001 requesting the return of recycling facilities to the St John Fisher Playing Field site.

Members noted that:-

- public consultation had taken place prior to the decision to keep the banks in their existing location
- the number of signatories reflected evidence of a change of culture towards recycling
- adding this area to the kerbside recycling scheme would address the complaints from residents relating to vandalism and noise.

On a Motion moved by Cllr G Fox and seconded by Mrs M A Weir it was:-

**Resolved**

That Rayleigh round 7, Mondays, be added to the expansion of the kerbside recycling scheme. (CD(F&ES))

**Minute 132(2) - Minute 99 - Leisure Sub-Committee - 13 March 2001 - Audio Video Equipment, Mill Hall**

The Community Services Committee had referred this item to Full Council for consideration in relation to the operation and management of the audio video equipment recently installed in Mill Hall.

Members welcomed the report and the opportunities that would exist to provide film shows, either through a film club, which would not be open to the public, or through public screenings.

Members noted that the equipment would be maintained and replaced by the leisure contractor. Members agreed a reduction of 50p on cinema

admission fees for an introductory period. Members also agreed that it would be beneficial to specify an evening rate hire charge.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the recommended maximum hire charges are agreed with the addition of an evening rate of £50 from 7 pm onwards.
- (2) That the suggested cinema admission fees, be agreed with a reduction of 50p to the cinema admission fees for an introductory period of three months. (CD(F&ES))

**Minute 135 - Repairs to Brick Wall adjacent to Public Conveniences Back Lane, Rochford**

This item had been referred to Full Council by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn.

Members agreed the need to retain the trees and to preserve the site. On a Motion moved by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn and seconded by Councillor V H Leach it was:-

**Resolved**

That this item be referred back to the Community Services Committee to enable further consultation to take place. (CD(F&ES))

(5) Audit Services	29 March 2001	137 - 140
(6) Planning Services	5 April 2001	141 - 148
(7) Finance & General Purposes Committee	12 April 2001	149 - 166

**Minute 152 - Minute 400 - Corporate Resources Sub-Committee - 3 April 2001- Information Systems/Information Technology Strategy**

**Resolved**

To note the IS/IT Strategy, incorporating the Council's implementing electronic government statement (attached at the signed copy to the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee), and to agree that it form the basis for a bid for Central Government funding for the introduction of electronic service delivery. (HAMS)

**Minute 406 - Corporate Resources Sub-Committee - 3 April 2001 - Small Business Rate Relief – Foot and Mouth Disease**

**Note:** Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

Members noted that no reply had been received to the representations to the Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions which had been copied to the Local Government Association and the local Members of Parliament, seeking the inclusion of Rochford District Council to the list of authorities in the Eastern Region covered by the rural aid package.

#### **174 MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

##### **(1) - Structural & Procedural Review Sub- Committee - 10 April 2001**

##### **Minute 76 - Modernising Local Government - Review of the District Council's Decision Making Structure**

###### **Resolved**

That the Corporate Management Board should commence preparation of a constitution for the Council at the earliest opportunity. (CD(LPA))

##### **Minute 77 - A Model Code of Conduct for Members**

###### **Resolved**

- (1) That the suggested draft response to the draft Model Code of Conduct for Members (as attached to the signed copy of these Minutes) be approved subject to incorporation of the amendments outlined above.
- (2) That the Council consider incorporating any major points of substance raised by Town and Parish Councils within this Authority's response to the draft Code. (HAMS)

##### **(2) - Partnership Sub-Committee - 19 April 2001**

##### **Minute 110 - Review of District Council Electoral Arrangements**

###### **Resolved**

That the District Council make representations to the Secretary of State for the date of implementation of consequential changes to parish electoral arrangements to be deferred to the first ordinary elections of each Council in or after May 2002. (HAMS)

##### **Minute 112 - A Model Code of Conduct for Councillors**

###### **Resolved**



That the District Council include in its response:

Question 5 - Further guidance should be provided for those parish councillors that serve on the District Council, particularly in respect of how such councillors should deal with consultations on planning applications when these are considered by the Parish Council.

Question 8 - Further guidance should be provided on the definition of "friendship" as parish councillors will inevitably count many local people as friends. As presently drafted, the Code could require frequent declarations of interest thereby preventing councillors from contributing to the decisions of the Parish Council. (HAMS)

## **175 NOTICE OF MOTION**

### **(1) From Councillor Mrs J Helson**

The Proper Officer reported that the following Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor Mrs J Helson with a request that, pursuant to Standing Order 9(11) it be dealt with by Council on the night.

"That the Council asks Officers to report back early in the new Municipal Year with options as to how the Authority should lobby Central Government on the question of recycling, both in terms of whether additional funding could be made available via specific Government grants for this initiative and whether, in the light of the recent public consultation responses received, the Council could consider implementing this initiative through the Council Tax process".

The Motion was lost on a show of hands.

## **176 CORPORATE PLAN**

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought Members' approval for the updated version of the Corporate Plan.

During debate, Members agreed the following amendments:-

page 10 - insert 'a minimum of' in relation to the cost savings to be achieved on the Leisure Services contract

page 12 - include reference to "community services" in relation to the further development of the Council's web site

page 13 - expand the current target to include "two-thirds of Councillors to be contactable electronically by June 2002"

page 16 - include a reference to the Council's initiative on CCTV in sheltered housing schemes in paragraph 23

page 22 - include a reference to the Council's position in connection with the County Council's Waste Plan and particularly its opposition to incineration

page 23 - include reference to Central Government's performance standards in relation to recycling and composting

page 26 - include a reference under (i) to the promotion of the District's local Chambers of Trade and the industrial estates

page 33 - substitute 'all' for 'some' in the reference to sheltered housing schemes.

In addition, it was noted that a number of page references would need to be amended.

**Resolved**

That, subject to the above amendments, the updated version of the Corporate Plan be approved. (CEx)

**177 ESSEX & SOUTHEND WASTE LOCAL PLAN - PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS**

Council considered the report of the Head of Planning Services which considered the modifications proposed to the draft Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan following consideration of the Inspector's Report by Essex County Council and Southend Borough Council, the Waste Planning Authorities.

Members concurred with the concerns raised in the report, but considered that the Council should strengthen its response in respect of the principle of incinerators and requested that copies of the Council's objection be made available for general public inspection and reference.

Members also questioned the lack of any mention of the need for a waste management site within the administrative area of Southend Borough Council. On a Motion moved by Councillor R S Allen and seconded by Councillor G Fox it was:-

**Resolved**

- (1) That the comments in the report form the basis of the Council's response to the Schedule of Modifications to the Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan, with further emphasis being given to the Council's anti-incineration stance.

- (2) That if Southend Borough Council refuse to name any waste management sites, within its District this Council should seek legal advice as to whether Southend Borough Council should be removed from the Essex Waste Advisory Committee for failing to meet the "working together" agreement. (HPS)

**178 DIAL-A-RIDE - OPTIONS FOR SERVICE REVISION**

Council considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which asked Members to consider the future of the Dial-a-Ride Service in Rochford District following notice given to South East Essex Dial-a-Ride (SEEDAR) of its provisional withdrawal from 31 March 2002.

Members agreed that a Dial-a-Ride Working Group comprising four Members be formed to consider the existing service and to look at ways of providing a more user friendly service across the district. The Head of Revenue and Housing Management confirmed that the lease on our vehicle expires in June 2002.

**Resolved**

- (1) That a Dial-a-Ride Working Group consisting of four Members be formed to report in to Council on 24 July 2001 on whether Rochford should remain in the SEEDAR scheme.
- (2) That Southend on Sea Borough Council be informed accordingly. (HRHM)

The meeting closed at 10.55 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

