

East Area Committee – 9 June 2010

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **9 June 2010** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr J P Cottis
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	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
Cllr N Wallace	-	Canewdon Parish Council
Cllr K Perring	-	Great Wakering Parish Council
Cllr J Bond	-	Rochford Parish Council
Cllr P A Capon	-	Stambridge Parish Council
Cllr R A Pearson	-	Essex County Council
P Bennett	-	Essex Fire and Rescue Service

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
M Power	-	Committee Administrator

152 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Cllr J P Cottis was appointed Vice-Chairman.

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

153 COMMUNITY FORUM

Questions were raised during the Community Forum, as follows:-

- Residents from Great Wakering raised their concern about the state of repair of the alley off Whitehall Lane, Great Wakering, between Hunt Roche estate agents and the Co-operative shop, the large proportion of which belongs to the Co-operative Group. The alley was full of large potholes and there were also issues of drains flooding and leaking guttering. There was no lighting in the area and no warning signage. It

was noted that the proportion of the land owned by the Council was maintained to a high standard. Residents reported that accidents had occurred to pedestrians due to the poor state of repair of the alley. A resident passed around photos that showed the effects of flooding in the alley. Details of the issues would be passed to the County Highways Engineer by Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins.

Residents added that vehicle access to the High Street was dangerous. The road surface had not been designed to cope with the heavy goods vehicles that made deliveries to the shops in the High Street. The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation would be advised of the situation.

There were also issues around illegal parking in the lay-by by people using the White Hart pub and the Co-operative food shop, which could be referred to the Police.

- A Paglesham Parish Councillor asked what progress had been made regarding non-compliance with the enforcement notices on the owners of the three houseboats that were being used as residences on the River Roach in Paglesham. It was requested that an enforcement notice be issued to another houseboat in this area, which had neither planning permission nor a houseboat licence from Crouch Harbour Authority. The Council's Head of Planning & Transportation would contact the Parish Councillor direct regarding these issues.
- The Supervisor for the weekly Tuesday market held in Market Square, Rochford advised that there were issues around enforcement of parking restrictions in Market Square from 7am to 5pm on Tuesdays. It was also requested that signage in respect of these parking restrictions be improved.
- A request was received to investigate instances of vehicles travelling the wrong way up West Street, Rochford, which is a one-way street. The 'No Entry' sign at the bottom of West Street was worn out and the signs on the buildings were not plain to see.
- Concern was expressed at the apparent failure of the Environment Agency (EA) to respond to questions raised by residents and Councillors at the recent EA drop-in meetings around flooding issues in the District. The Environment Agency had been unable to answer certain questions at the meeting and had not provided responses since. This is an area of importance for the District and Rochford District Council should contact the EA for a response to the questions raised.
- The District Councillor for Barling and Sutton would investigate and report back on the claim that the wall by the Suttons Boat Yard and Marina had been repaired with condemned material.

At this point the Committee reconvened into formal session

154 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES

(1) Update on fire cover within the Rochford District

An update on fire cover within the Rochford District was provided by Station Officer Peter Bennett, Retained Group manager for Essex Fire and Rescue Service, Southend and Rochford Community Command.

In response to questions, the following was noted:-

- All residents were eligible for a free Home Fire Safety visit, which will be carried out by a Home Fire Safety technician. The visit would cover the necessary fire requirements specific to the house and would include, if required, free fitting of up to two smoke alarms in the house. Residents could call 01702 614433 to make an appointment for a visit.
- In respect of the RSPB scheme on Wallasea Island, which involved a 24-hour unloading operation of spoil from the Crossrail project, it was confirmed that provision of fire/rescue services in this area would be provided in a timely manner. Specific issues would be risk assessed and a procedure put in place to deal with any specific risks. Station Officer Bennett advised that he would contact the RSPB to discuss the situation.
- It was confirmed that there were no future plans to re-open the Castle Road, Rayleigh Fire Station as the fire station at Rayleigh Weir was now the main station in the area.
- In response to a question from a resident, the Chairman of the Essex Resilience Forum, Gordon Hunter would be asked to provide a written response direct to the resident about issues surrounding the Council's obligations under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

155 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area update.

H21/09 Footpath scheme at Poynters Lane, Great Wakering from Wakering Road to Cupids Corner

The Essex County Council Community Initiative Fund (CIF) Panel was considering the bid from Great Wakering Parish Council in light of whether the bid met the necessary CIF criteria. There was concern expressed at the meeting around whether the land for the scheme could be acquired from the Ministry of Defence within the remaining budget.

H23/09 Footway in the vicinity of the Co-op/estate agent/dress shop, Great Wakering

The County Highways Engineer would be approached direct by the Foulness and Great Wakering Ward Councillor regarding the poor state of repair of the

footway. It was noted that, as this is not Essex County Council land, County Highways can only approach the Co-op on behalf of the residents, but cannot enforce any works.

H24/09 Car parking blocking access for refuse or emergency vehicles in certain areas in Canewdon

Canewdon Parish Council has now provided details to Essex County Council of specific sites where there are issues of car parking blocking access for refuse or emergency vehicles.

25/09 Bus stop to be moved to outside the Village Hall, Canewdon

Residents had been consulted and were happy that the bus stop be moved from opposite Pylon Cottages, Canewdon to outside the Village Hall.

H26/09 Lighting along Hall Road

Responsibility for street lighting along Hall Road is divided between Rochford Parish Council and Essex County Council. Rochford Parish Council had taken the decision to switch off the lights as they felt they did not have sufficient funds to maintain the lights to the necessary standard and provide the new power supply required. District Councillors for the Rochford ward would give their support to Rochford Parish Council in pursuing this matter with Essex County Council.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Chairman

Date

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