

Council - 25 February 2003

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **25 February 2003** when there were present:

Cllr R S Allen (Chairman)
Cllr R A Amner (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Mrs L Barber	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs M D McCarthy
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr G A Mockford
Cllr P A Capon	Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr Mrs T J Capon	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr D F L Flack	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr K A Gibbs	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr T E Goodwin	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr C A Hungate	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr Mrs L Hungate	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr C C Langlands	Cllr Mrs M A Weir
Cllr T Livings	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins
Cllr C J Lumley	
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R G S Choppen, A J Humphries, Mrs E Marlow, Mrs M A Starke and M G B Starke.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
R Crofts	-	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
J Bourne	-	Leisure and Contracts Manager
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

Dr M Gogarty	-	Director of Public Health and Modernisation, Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust
C Bentley	-	Operations Manager, Holmes Place Leisure Management

88 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

89 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor S P Smith declared a personal interest in the item on Park Sports Centre proposals by virtue of employment at Sweyne Park School, which was mentioned in the report.

90 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM CHAIRMAN

The Chairman was pleased to welcome Councillor Elaine Spittlehouse of the Corporation of the District of Summerland, British Columbia, who was at the meeting to observe the working of the Local Authority. Councillor Spittlehouse had been born in Rochford, emigrating to Canada in 1981.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman had attended a number of engagements. Specific reference was made to a recent meeting with Group Leaders to determine the final places in the Citizen of the Year Award, the results of which would be announced at the forthcoming Civic Banquet. Reference was also made to the success of the recent Quiz Night in aid of the Chairman's Charity.

91 ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park

The Chief Executive was pleased to advise Members that concerns raised by the Civil Aviation Authority with regard to the inclusion of a lake at Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park on bird management issues had been overcome with the approval of a bird management strategy. All parties were satisfied with the solution which was in the form of a management agreement. However, one aspect still to be agreed was the need for independent arbitration if there was a disagreement between the Council and the Airport at any time in the future on solutions to problems of increasing numbers of birds. The candidate most likely to be acceptable to both sides was the Civil Aviation Authority.

Authority to determine the planning consent subject to conditions was delegated to the Head of Planning Services in October 2002. This strategy must now be included as an additional condition. Work on the lake had been awaiting resolution of the issue and, with the weather improving, contractors were anxious to commence construction without

delay. The Chief Executive, with the agreement of the Chairman, was therefore requesting the Council, as a matter of urgency, to add the requirement for a bird management strategy to the schedule of conditions attached to the delegation from Planning Services Committee in order that the matter may be determined.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon it was:-

Resolved

That a condition requiring a bird management strategy be added to the Heads of Condition referred to in the delegated planning approval for Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park as contained in Minute 518/02 (HPS)

92 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

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

Committee	Date	Minute No
(1) Community Services	7 January 2003	1 - 6
(2) Policy & Finance	14 January 2003	7 - 14

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (Minute 10/03)

Council considered the report of the Policy & Finance Committee on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel relating to Member allowances.

It was noted that two of the figures identified for the current allowances scheme within the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) needed revision. The basic allowance paid to the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group should have been shown as £57.00. The total cost for year (all Members claiming) should have been shown as £65,298.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to provision for advisers to Committee meetings to receive travel expenses on the same basis as Councillors, no change be made to the type of allowances paid by the Authority.
- (2) That the allowance amounts be revised to the suggested maximums set out at Appendix 5 of the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services). (CD(F&ES))

	Committee	Date	Minute No
(3)	Community Overview & Scrutiny	16 January 2003	15 - 18
(4)	Environment Overview & Scrutiny	21 January 2003	19 - 26
(5)	Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	22 January 2003	27 - 29
(6)	Planning Services	23 January 2003	30 - 34
(7)	Standards	30 January 2003	37 - 40
(8)	Environmental Services	5 February 2003	41 - 49
(9)	Policy & Finance	6 February 2003	50 - 55
(10)	Community Overview & Scrutiny	11 February 2003	56 - 63
(11)	Environment Overview & Scrutiny	12 February 2003	64 - 72
(12)	Finance & Procedures Overview & Scrutiny	13 February 2003	73 - 76
(13)	Appeals & Licensing	14 February 2003	77 - 79
(14)	Planning Services	20 February 2003	83 - 87

93 PRIMARY CARE TRUST LOCAL DELIVERY PLAN

Council welcomed Dr Mike Gogarty to the meeting. Dr Gogarty was in attendance to give a presentation on the Castle Point and Rochford Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan.

Council noted that a key objective of the Plan was the use of resources to achieve improvements in health/health services provided to the population. Dr Gogarty's presentation covered the following areas in detail:-

- The Local Delivery Plan focus
- Work in place/the current position
- Board and Executive objectives
- Key issues for the future
- Consultation so far undertaken/matters raised by the Community Health Council.

During the presentation and in response to Member questions, Dr Gogarty advised that:-

- Capital expenditure for major build projects came from the centre. Ongoing costs such as staffing were met from revenue budgets of the Primary Care Trusts. The vast majority of NHS resources were allocated to primary Care Trusts.
- The Trust would consider investigating the possibility of any connection between aromatic hydrocarbons and an increased risk of cancer in the Canvey area. A number of years ago, a review had failed to identify any connection between respiratory problems and living at that location. A major problem is that with the small numbers involved, epidemiological correlations are difficult to prove.
- The last few years had seen an increase in focus on mental health problems. Primary care mental health teams had been introduced in Rochford and Rayleigh and were proving very helpful.
- Notwithstanding the level of resources available, it was likely that there would always be a role for public contribution in the provision of much needed equipment.
- The Trust recognised that there were problems with chiropody and a need for additional chiropodists. It was hoped that expansion of the toenail cutting services would assist. Inpatients in hospital should have access to appropriate nail-cutting facilities. The concerns of Members on this service area would be forwarded to the Primary Care Trust.
- General practitioners and Pharmacists were aware of the differential costs between National Health Service and Private Prescriptions. Any profit element associated with some NHS prescriptions was re-invested in the NHS.
- The Community Health Council had highlighted the issue of appropriate cleanliness in hospitals. There was a need to continue to review this area very closely, including the question of re-infection rates.
- The quoted target of 48 hours for an appointment with a primary care professional was a maximum figure as was the 4 hours quoted for waiting times in accident and emergency centres.
- The Trust recognised that current transport and parking arrangements associated with hospitals were unsustainable. Work was under way to increase outreach services in the community.
- It was medically difficult to show that clusters of multiple sclerosis in a particular location were not pure chance/spurious.

- Much work needed to be undertaken to improve the use of information technology, particularly between Health Service organisations. There was increased investment and examples of good practice. For example, the Datacom system associated with coronary heart disease.
- It was accepted that communication between professionals, such as General Practitioners and Consultants, needed to improve. However, the balance was shifting and General Practitioners were having more say over the way Consultant services are provided.
- Priority was being given to addressing the treatment of strokes, with plans to develop an acute stroke facility by the end of the next year at the latest. There were also plans to appoint a dedicated stroke consultant.
- It could be recognised that the Community Health Councils undertook valuable work, which should be continued by the new organisations that will replace them.
- The retention of medical staff, particularly from overseas, was an issue. There needed to be a clear recruitment strategy with appropriate support and education. The Trust was working hard to develop recruitment and intended to make more in-roads over the next few months.
- Whilst precise locations had yet to be identified, an overriding objective was to develop community services.
- It was acknowledged that there needed to be improved integration on the provision/sharing of information between Doctors, Dentists, Pharmacists and Opticians. There were, however, issues of patient confidentiality.

The Chairman thanked Dr Gogarty for his attendance.

94 PARK SPORTS CENTRE PROPOSALS

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on the various suggested facilities for the new Park Sports Centre. The report had been originally submitted to the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 February. The Overview and Scrutiny had agreed that it should be referred to Full Council for consideration.

During debate, reference was made to the long term nature of the sports centre project and to the value of remaining mindful that demand for types of leisure activity can change over time. Reference was also

made to the importance of being open to all sources of possible funding. It was noted that the site was subject to outline planning permission.

In terms of available options within the report, option 1 looked broadly suitable. It was observed that the provision of a café could prove more attractive than a vending area, particularly to the various generations within families. A café could be sustainable if allied to an indoor bowls facility.

There was agreement that a skate-board facility would be appropriate. It would be of value to give detailed consideration to the precise nature of the facility given that there were various types of skate-board activity. Reference was made to undertaking consultation with existing residents who would be within a hundred and fifty yards of any proposed facility. Reference was also made to the possibility that there should be communication with local bus companies on an extension to service times to help young people access any facility.

It was recognised that detailed costings would be required in advance of any final decisions on the precise sports centre facilities.

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that:-

- To avoid liability for injury, skateboard equipment needed to be designed to proper standards and kept in good condition.
- The proposals for netball and tennis courts included flood lighting
- Once the Council had identified potential preferred options, it would be possible to bring forward more precise costings. Correct timing of the next stage planning application should enable work to commence on site by no later than the end of 2004/early 2005.
- The outline planning permission for the whole site included four acres of miscellaneous provision. There was a possibility that some form of food/drink facilities might come forward within proposals for that part of the site.

On a motion, moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore, it was:-

Resolved

That further detailed work be undertaken on provision of the following facilities at the proposed Park Sports Centre:-

- Four Court Sports Hall

- Four Squash Courts
- Aerobics Studio
- Health and Fitness Gym
- Healthy Living Centre
- Creche
- Outdoor Netball Courts (which could also be used for tennis) with appropriate floodlighting
- Café
- Indoor Bowl Centre (including the possibility for extending use to include tennis)
- Skateboard facility with appropriate floodlighting
- Reception and Changing Areas. (CD(F&ES))

95 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the nomination of representatives to attend one of this year's Royal Garden Parties to be held in July.

On a motion, moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr P A Capon, it was:-

Resolved

That Councillors Mrs R Brown and Mrs M S Vince, plus one guest each, be nominated to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties to be held in July. (CE)

The Meeting closed at 9.19pm

Chairman _____

Date _____