



**Rochford District
Council**

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1999

January - December

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**Rochford District
Council**

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

1999

July (Part 2)

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee

At a Meeting held on 15th July 1999 Present: Councillors A. Hosking (Vice Chairman in the Chair), R. Adams, R.S. Allen, D.E. Barnes, J.M. Dickson, Mrs. J.E. Ford, K. Gibbs, Mrs. J.M. Giles, Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn, J.E. Grey, C.C. Langlands, R.A. Parson, Mrs. M. Vince, Mrs. M.J. Webster and D.A. Weir

Apologies: Councillors V.H. Leach, (Chairman), G.C. Angus, D.M. Ford and D.R. Helson.

Substitutes: Councillors P.A. Beckers, R.E. Vingoe and Mrs. M.A. Weir.

Visiting: Councillors T. Livings and P.F.A. Webster

303. MINUTES

A Member raised a point in respect of how the 12 to 15 taxi rank spaces could be achieved in the Rayleigh Town Centre Scheme given the decision taken at Council on 22nd June to include disabled parking within the Boots Lagoon area. The Head of Financial Services advised that he would write to all Members accordingly. During the discussion, the delay in the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Order was raised by Members as disappointing.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd June were approved as a correct record, subject to Minute 201 "Rayleigh Town Centre Proposed Variation to Existing Waiting Restrictions", final paragraph being amended to show the Resolution was moved from the Chair, and were signed by the Vice-Chairman.

304. MEMBERS INTERESTS

Councillor R.S. Allen declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item "Great Wakering Landfill Site" (Minute 311) by virtue of being a Barling Parish Councillor.

Councillors A. Hosking and R.E. Vingoe each declared non-pecuniary interests in the item "Waste Management Licence Consultation" (Minute 313) by virtue of knowledge of the site owner.

305. URGENCY SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee noted the Minutes of the Urgency Sub-Committee held on 22nd June 1998 that had considered a report of the Head of Planning Services which provided Members with details of a submission to Essex County Council's Planning Committee. Members had before them a response letter from Essex County Council detailing their decision. It was noted that the Resolution passed by the Urgency Sub-Committee had been actioned by Essex County Council and that a Stop Notice and other suggested actions were being taken against the owner of the site.

306. SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Committee considered the appended Sub-Committee Minutes and the Recommendations contained therein.

(i) Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Party -14th June 1999

Minute 23 - Waste Management Licence Consultation

Resolved

(1) That Officers investigate whether monitoring data relating to KP^{plus} released from Anglian Water to the Environment Agency and could be passed to Rochford District Council on a regular basis.

(2) That the waste management licence be not issued by the Environment Agency until crop testing results and the results from the stockpile samples from Stambridge were known. (HHHCC)

(ii) Planning Policy Sub-Committee - 24th June 1999.

(iii) Transportation Sub-Committee - 29th June 1999.

Minute 113 - Dial-a-Ride Service Review

Resolved

(1) That the Terms of Reference and action plan as outlined in the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management be agreed.

(2) That the Service Order and Transport Study be noted.

(3) That Councillors Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn and R.A. Pearson be nominated to attend future Review Team Meetings and that the Finance & General Purposes Committee agree such attendance attracts Members Attendance Allowance.

(4) That notice be given to South East Essex Dial-a-Ride to possibly terminate the contract. Furthermore, that Officers investigate a scheme to enable the use of disabled taxis for qualifying persons with the voucher scheme already provided. The funding at present given to Dial-a-Ride to be transferred to the new taxi voucher scheme. (HRHM)

307. OUTSTANDING ISSUES

Members were satisfied that all necessary action had been taken.

Minutes 556/98 (HCPI), 500/98 (HCPI), 326/98 (HCPI) and 110/99 (HLCS) were carried forward.

308. AYLESFORD NEWSPRINT

Members welcomed Mr Matthew Hoare from Aylesford Newsprint who had been invited to attend the Meeting to give a brief presentation on the work carried out by Aylesford Newsprint on the recycling of newspapers and magazines. With the aid of viewfoils, the Committee were advised of the history to the Aylesford Newsprint site, the current throughput of the plant including details of a proposal to increase the size of the plant, the current market for the finished product, which was the only newsprint made from 100% recycled fibre at the present time, and the details of the collection system for the Rochford District.

In answer to Members questions, the Committee were advised of the following:-

- the market for the paper was global, with current clients outside the UK including the Far East and the USA.

- Due to operational difficulties, the contractors collecting the larger paper banks for Rochford District had been changed. The issue of overflowing bins was a situation which the company were working to resolve.

- It was unlikely that the company would need to import waste paper for recycling as at the present time, there was an oversupply situation.

- the company were committed to longer term contracts tailored to individual collectors needs.

- The building of the new plant at a cost of £250M would be subject to the decision by the Company's Board of Directors in the Autumn.

- The recycling process did not include bleaching of the end product, indeed, the small percentage of fibres which could not be recycled were used in a combined heat/electricity generator for the existing plant. The ash then produced was currently being looked at with a view to it being used in concrete block production. Water returned to the river after going through the company's processes was cleaner than when it was extracted.

- Magazines and newspapers could be recycled along with telephone directories, catalogues and travel brochures, although "Yellow Pages" could not be recycled by the company.

- Of the three current newsprint recycling companies within the UK, Aylsford were the only company to produce a 100% recycled product, although the other companies were working on their practices and procedures with a view to a 100% recycled product themselves.

In summing up, Mr Hoare advised the Committee that if it was Members wish, they were more than welcome to visit the plant, in a group of no more than 40 by prior arrangement. In response to a request, Mr Hoare stated he would send on copies of his viewfoils in order for them to be distributed to Members. Members thanked Mr Hoare for his presentation and he then left the Meeting.

309. A130 PROPOSALS

The Committee welcomed Mr Ron Owen from Essex County Council who had been invited to attend the Meeting to update Members on the progress to date in respect of the A130. Members were advised of the following points by Mr Owen:-

- The delays in the implementation of the A130 scheme were due to lack of finance. The north section had all planning permissions and consents necessary although in respect of the southern section, the Secretary of State had notified Essex County Council in February 1999 that he did not wish to call in the application for planning permission and that the Authority could determine its own consent.

- The scheme was the same as agreed in 1996/7 and contained elements to address concerns in respect of landscape appearance, noise etc.

- The Secretary of State objections had not yet been received in respect of the southern stage of the scheme. It was anticipated there would be a Public Inquiry in the Autumn with a decision being made after a year.

- Essex County Council was pursuing finance through PFI.

- The contracting arrangements and the staged payment method being used with the contract were outlined to Members.

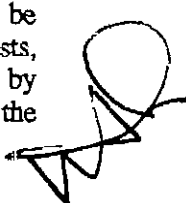
In response to Members questions, the Committee were advised that:-

- There would be no dilution of environmental mitigation measures in the overall scheme.

- There would be no access roads along the southern section of the new A130 from the Rettendon Turnpike to south of the A127.

- There were currently protesters camped at the north section of the proposed A130 although Essex County Council had made efforts to reduce the environmental impact of the scheme.

In summing up, Mr Owen advised the Committee that the new A130 would not be providing access to any sites along its southern section. In reply to Members requests, Mr Owen stated that he would make available copies of any information requested by Members. The Committee thanked Mr Owen for his presentation and he then left the Meeting.



310. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Notice of Motion standing in the names of Councillors Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn and Mrs. M.S. Vince was referred by Council on 22nd June 1999 to this Committee for consideration.

"The Land Adjacent to Oxford Parade, Ashington Road, Rochford formally held under licence by Rochford District Council from the Squiers (Farmers) Estate be left in abeyance until the use of this land be reviewed and included as part of a strategic area for parking in the District".

It was noted that a full report on the land adjacent to Oxford Parade would be included in the Head of Revenue and Housing Management's Review of Car Parking and Strategy report which would be submitted to the Transportation Sub-Committee on 9th September 1999 and on a show of hands, it was

Resolved

That consideration of the Motion be deferred pending the outcome of the review outlined above. (HRHM)

311. GREAT WAKERING LANDFILL SITE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy & Initiatives which sought Members views on the future use of Great Wakering landfill site. Members concurred with the suggested response to Essex County Council in that a park or open space to benefit the local community was this Council's preferred option, and that arrangements should be made to discuss the situation further with Southend, the County Council, and Barling and Great Wakering Parish Councils with the aim of putting together a package of proposals for such a scheme.

Resolved

(1) That Essex County Council be advised that the Council's preferred option for the site as outlined above.

(2) That arrangements be made for Officer discussions involving Essex County Council, Southend Borough Council, Barling Parish Council and Great Wakering Parish Council and Rochford District Council to discuss the preparation of a suitable scheme for the site together with costings.

(3) That a report be made back to this Committee once the scheme has been prepared in outline, with costs as indicated above. (HCPT)

312. PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS - TRANSPORTATION

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive which sought Members agreement to a review of the partnership arrangements in respect of transportation matters. In noting the current working arrangements between Essex County Council and the District Council with the involvement from the Parish Town Councils as appropriate, Members agreed to the proposed view as outlined in the report and on a show of hands, it was

Resolved

That this Committee agree to the approach of the County Council with a view to them participating in a joint report on reviewing the partnership working arrangements in respect of transportation; such a report to be prepared by District and County Officers for consideration by the Structural and Procedural Review Working Group as part of their overall consideration of the modernisation agenda (CEX)

313. **A130 PROPOSALS**

Members referred back to the presentation given by the County Council Officer in respect of the A130 and requested that a report be made to the next Transportation & Environmental Services Committee, given the concerns expressed by Members in respect of possible access from the old A130 to any proposed waste management site.

314. **WASTE MANAGEMENT LICENCE CONSULTATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care which advised Members of a consultation from the Environment Agency seeking this Authority's observations on an application for a waste management licence in respect of land at Cottis Yard, Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochford. Members noted the details of the draft licence appended to the report and that the matter had been admitted on to the Agenda as urgent given the response deadline of 30th July 1999. In answer to Members questions, Officers advised the Committee that the planning permission and licence would work together with neither taking preference - all conditions for both the planning permission and the licence would be enforceable.

In addition to the Officers recommendation, Members wished to add the following points:-

- No medium density fibreboard to be accepted on the site.
- The concrete crushing guidelines as stipulated in the planning permission were to be enforced.
- No Sunday working.

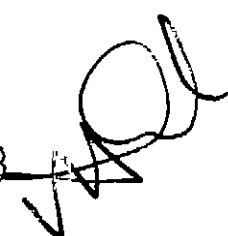
On a Motion put by Councillor R.S. Allen and seconded by R.A. Pearson, it was

Resolved

That the Environment Agency be advised that the Council would wish to see a licence requirement imposed that any putrescible waste which has the potential to cause environmental nuisance is removed within 24 hours from arrival at the site and that the response include both the points outlined above and any other discrepancies between the licence and the planning permission that were found by Officers. (HHHCC)

The Meeting closed at 9.30pm

minsjul15

693 

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environmental Health Sub-Committee

At a Meeting held on 16th July 1999. Present: Councillors D.M. Ford, Mrs. J.E. Ford, J.E. Grey, A. Hosking, C.C. Langlands, V.H. Leach, Mrs. M.S. Vince and Mrs. M.J. Webster.

Apologies: Councillors B.R. Aylmng, G.C. Angus, P.A. Beckers and K.A. Gibbs.

Substitutes: Councillors D.E. Barnes, C.I. Black, C.R. Morgan and P.F.A. Webster.

Visiting: Councillor R.S. Allen.

66. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor A. Hosking was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee for this Municipal Year.

67. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 16th March 1999 were approved as a correct record.

68. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members noted the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference

69. ESSEX AND SOUTHEND WASTE PLAN - UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives providing an update on the discussions of the Essex Waste Consortium Officers with Essex County Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council about revisions to the Essex Waste Plan and details of the current timetable and arrangements for the Local Plan Inquiry. The report had been submitted to this Meeting by the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee.

Prior to detailed debate there was a short meeting recess to enable Members to consider the latest advice document received from Counsel on the Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan and the Consortium position on the policy on incinerators. On reconvening, a number of recommendations were moved by Councillor V.H. Leach and seconded by Councillor A. Hosking.

During debate Officers advised/confirmed that:-

- The Finance & General Purposes Committee would have to give consideration to the financial element of proposals and any expenditure would need to be met from balances in the first instance.
- In addition to costs which could be directly associated with the appointment of Counsel, the Council may also need to provide sufficient financial resource for aspects such as environment and traffic movement studies.
- At this stage it was not being suggested that there should be financial input from Parish Councils
- The County Council may well wish to present some environmental impact information to the Inquiry. However, the Consortium may choose not to accept County figures and require alternative evidence
- Any planning application submitted by the County Council would involve Rochford District Council as a consultee. Given the likely scale of any application, consultation would be extensive. There would be no right of appeal by the District on a final decision

- They would pass on to the Consortium the general message that the inclusion of exceptions within policy clauses should be minimised whenever possible.

During debate it was agreed that it would be appropriate to ensure the wording of the Council's case was as strong as possible.

In terms of specific principles some concern was expressed about proposed policy W2A. Members wished to see it strengthened to prevent the possibility of waste being transported to the District as early as possible. The Sub-Committee also agreed that Policy W8D should be expanded to look at the recovery of gas from existing landfill sites. It would clearly be of value to ensure that the suggestions of Counsel on wording were included within the relevant Clause. Given the experience and understanding of a number of Members, it was felt that Officers should endeavour to identify the detail of current waste contract arrangements.

An amendment to proposed recommendation (1) was moved by Councillor P.F.A. Webster and seconded by Councillor D.E. Barnes. The amendment and motion were won on a show of hands and it was:-

RECOMMENDED

(1) That, subject to amendments agreed under (3) below, the full text of the alternative policies for the draft Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan (Waste Consortium document G7/2), prepared by the Waste Consortium, be adopted as this Council's position on changes required to the policies of the Waste Plan.

(2) That the amendments made to the Draft Waste Local Plan at the meeting of Essex County Council's Planning Committee on 25th June 1999 be noted, and that this Council place on record its total disapproval that the County Council and Southend Borough Council have not made more far reaching revisions to the Waste Local Plan to reflect the Consortium's policy document G7/2 and the principles of the 'Working Together' statement.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree, in conjunction with the Waste Consortium, further changes to the Waste Local Plan taking into account the above suggestions with regard to Policies W2A and W8D and Counsel's opinion dated 15th July 1999, where such changes do not undermine the Council or Consortium's fundamental objections to the Plan prior to the Public Inquiry scheduled to commence on 26th October 1999.

(4) That, in instances where decisions may need to be taken that fall outside the remit of (3) above, Members accept that such decisions will be referred to an Urgency Sub-Committee of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee.

(5) That the previously stated objection to the inclusion of a major waste management site at West Rayleigh be reaffirmed to the County Council and Southend Borough Council.

(6) That an Urgency Sub-Committee of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee be convened to agree recommendations (1) to (5) above and refer a request to Finance and General Purposes Committee that up to £50,000 be made available from balances for Barrister and other expert witness costs relating to the Inquiry (HCPI)

70. WASTE PLAN INQUIRY - LATEST CORRESPONDENCE FROM COUNTY COUNCIL TO RESIDENTS

NOTE: The Chairman admitted this item of business as urgent in view of the timescale involved

A Member referred to the latest letter submitted to all residents by the County Council and outlining the mechanism by which Waste Plan Inquiry representation could be made. There was concern that the content of the letter was somewhat confusing.

The Sub-Committee agreed that it would be of value for the District Council to communicate with local residents via the media with a view to confirming that the District Council was appointing professional representation to support its case at the Inquiry and clarifying the appeal route open to individuals. It was recognised that notice boards across the District could also be used to convey the same information

Reference was made to indications that a request would need to be submitted to the Inquiry Inspector for he/she to visit specific locations, such as Rayleigh Town Centre and Rawreth, during the Inquiry process.

RECOMMENDED

(1) That a Press Release be issued to all local newspapers confirming that the District Council is appointing professional representation to support its case at the Inquiry and clarifying the appeal route open to individuals (copies of the same information to be placed on notice boards across the District).

(2) That the Inquiry Inspector be invited to visit specific locations, including Rayleigh Town Centre and Rawreth, during the Inquiry process (HEPI)

The meeting closed at 9 20p.m.

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Transportation & Environmental Services Urgency Sub-Committee

At a Meeting held on 16th July 1999. Present: Councillors D.M Ford, A Hosking and V.H. Leach

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor V.H Leach was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

Members considered the recommendations from the meeting of the Environmental Health Sub-Committee held on 16th July 1999.

Essex and Southend Waste Plan - Update

Resolved

(1) That, subject to amendments agreed under (3) below, the full text of the alternative policies for the draft Essex and Southend Waste Local Plan (Waste Consortium document G7/2), prepared by the Waste Consortium, be adopted as this Council's position on changes required to the policies of the Waste Plan

(2) That the amendments made to the Draft Waste Local Plan at the meeting of Essex County Council's Planning Committee on 25th June 1999 be noted, and that this Council place on record its total disapproval that the County Council and Southend Borough Council have not made more far reaching revisions to the Waste Local Plan to reflect the Consortium's policy document G7/2 and the principles of the 'Working Together' statement.

(3) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to agree, in conjunction with the Waste Consortium, further changes to the Waste Local Plan taking into account the above suggestions with regard to Policies W2A and W8D and Counsel's opinion dated 15th July 1999, where such changes do not undermine the Council or Consortium's fundamental objections to the Plan prior to the Public Inquiry scheduled to commence on 26th October 1999.

(4) That, in instances where decisions may need to be taken that fall outside the remit of (3) above, Members accept that such decisions will be referred to an Urgency Sub-Committee of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee.

(5) That the previously stated objection to the inclusion of a major waste management site at West Rayleigh be reaffirmed to the County Council and Southend Borough Council

(6) That an Urgency Sub-Committee of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee be convened to agree recommendations (1) to (5) above and refer a request to Finance and General Purposes Committee that up to £50,000 be made available from balances for Barrister and other expert witness costs relating to the Inquiry (HCPI)

Waste Plan Inquiry - Latest Correspondence from County Council to Residents

Resolved

(1) That a Press Release be issued to all local newspapers confirming that the District Council is appointing professional representation to support its case at the Inquiry and clarifying the appeal route open to individuals (copies of the same information to be placed on notice boards across the District)

(2) That the Inquiry Inspector be invited to visit specific locations, including Rayleigh Town Centre and Rawreth, during the Inquiry process. (HEPI)

The meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Chairman.

Date.

TRAENVSUB/mmsjul16

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee

At a Meeting held on 20th July 1999. Present: Councillors C.R. Morgan (Chairman), R. Adams, T.G. Cutmore, D.F. Flack, G. Fox, Mrs J.M. Giles, D.R. Helson, Mrs. J. Helson, V.H. Leach, Mrs. S.J. Lemon, T. Livings, G.A. Mockford, Mrs. W.M. Stevenson, R.E. Vingoe, P.F.A. Webster, D.A. Weir and Mrs. M.A. Weir.

Apologies. Councillors D.E. Barnes, Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn and V.D. Hutchings.

Substitutes: Councillors P.A. Beckers and N. Harris

315 MINUTES

Resolved

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th June 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of the appointees to the Rawreth Village Hall Management Committee (Councillor P.A. Beckers), Rochford District Police and Community Consultative Group (Councillor Mrs. J. Helson), Rochford Hundred Association of Parish Councils (Councillor V.D. Hutchings) and Rural Community Council of Essex (Councillor A. Hosking) under Minute 242.

316. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The interests recorded in the Minutes to be received and considered were taken as read.

The following Councillors each declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on Draft Essex School Organisation Plan 1999/2004 by virtue of their role as School Governors:-

Councillors G. Fox, Mrs. J.M. Giles, Mrs. J. Helson, V.H. Leach, Mrs. S.J. Lemon, T. Livings, Mrs. W.M. Stevenson, R.E. Vingoe and Mrs. M.A. Weir.

Councillors D.R. Helson and Mrs. W.M. Stevenson each declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on supply of Committee Agenda and Minutes by virtue of honorary membership of the South East Essex Chamber of Commerce and membership of the Rayleigh Chamber of Commerce respectively.

Councillors D.A. Weir and Mrs. M.A. Weir each declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item on the Community Facility - St Marks Field, Rochford by virtue of their roles as Members of Rochford Parish Council.

317 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee was satisfied that all necessary action had been taken. Minutes 326/97 and 135/99 were carried forward.

318. RECOMMENDATIONS OF PARENT COMMITTEES

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Parent Committees

Committee Date

TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES

7th July 1999

Minute 276 - Employment of Legal Counsel

On reaching Minute 276 the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) reported that, at a meeting held on 16th July 1999, the Urgency Sub-Committee of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee had agreed to request that the

Finance & General Purposes Committee allocate the sum of up to £50,000 for payment of Legal Counsel and other expert witness costs associated with the forthcoming Waste Local Plan Inquiry

In support of this request a Member emphasised the need for expert representation during the forthcoming Inquiry, particularly given the importance of effectively addressing the questions of incineration and air borne pollution.

During debate some concern was expressed that, at the current time, residents within the District were not in possession of all the relevant information on this issue. Other Members referred to the Council's clear policy against incineration. Comment was made of the influence the market place could have on recycling levels and to changes which the County Council had already made to waste proposals following actions of the Waste Consortium.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs. J. Helson and seconded by Councillor V.H. Leach that the Council arrange a roadshow to visit two or three locations over the summer to explain the advantages/disadvantages of what is proposed and the Council's position in respect of those proposals.

During discussion of the Motion reference was made to the importance that any roadshow should present as rounded a picture as possible of the current situation, including likely costs of various options. The Chief Executive advised that it was incumbent upon the Council to ensure that any roadshow was as unbiased as possible and detailed the options both for and against.

The Motion was agreed on a show of hands and it was:-

RECOMMENDED

(1) That, subject to the agreement of Chelmsford Borough Council, this Council approach Mr. A Porten QC to represent Rochford District at the forthcoming Waste Plan Inquiry

(2) That the sum of up to £50,000 be set aside from balances for the payment of Legal Counsel and other expert witness costs relating to the Waste Plan Inquiry

(3) That arrangements be made for a roadshow to visit two or three locations within the District over the summer to explain the content of the Waste Plan, the advantages/disadvantages of what is proposed and the Council's position in respect of those proposals (CD(F&ES)/HLS)

NOTE: Pursuant to Standing Order 24(4) Councillor G Fox requested that his vote against the above resolution be recorded.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

13th July 1999

Minute 290(iv) - Iron Railings - 66-72 Hatfield Road

In considering Minute 290(iv), a Member commented that when dealing with petitions it was important for the Council to be mindful of implications for existing work programmes. The Chief Executive advised that it would be appropriate for any authority relating to minor work approval to be delegated to the appropriate Corporate Director.

RECOMMENDED

(1) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) to approve requests for minor works up to a total value of 1% of the Repairs and Maintenance Budget of the Housing Revenue Account and that the Member Budget Monitoring Working Group be requested to consider and agree any necessary limits that should apply to such delegation.

700 

(2) That the Member Budget Monitoring Working Group be asked to consider which items of expenditure should in future be regarded as minor works to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account Repairs and Maintenance Budget. (HRHM)

Minute 302 - Caravan Site Licensing - Ombudsman Enquiry

Resolved

That a future meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee consider the financial implications of a local settlement in respect of the Local Government Ombudsman's findings and a decision then be made on the most appropriate way forward (HHHCC)

TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 15th July 1999

Minute 306(iii) - Minutes of the Transportation Sub-Committee -29th June 1999 (Minute 113) "Dial a Ride Service Review"

Resolved

That attendance at future Dial a Ride Review Team meetings be approved for the payment of Member Attendance Allowance. (HRHM)

319. MINUTES OF WORKING GROUPS/SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee considered Working Group/Sub-Committee Minutes (appended to the signed copy of these Minutes) and recommendations contained therein

**MEMBER BUDGET MONITORING
WORKING GROUP**

1st, 8th and 14th July 1999

Minute 11 - Clements Hall Roof

Resolved

That the £50,000 provision for repair to Clements Hall roof be released and the works tendered in accordance with contract standing orders (HLCS)

Minute 12 - Building Condition Survey

Resolved

(1) That the need to undertake a comprehensive building survey at a total guide price of £33,000 and covering each of the following building categories (subject to specific exclusions detailed in the report) be agreed:-

- (i) Leisure Centres
- (ii) Community facilities
- (iii) Public buildings/offices
- (iv) Pavilions
- (v) Buildings which are Council owned but leased to other organisations

The cost to be met from balances

(2) That the use of external consultants to carry out this survey be agreed.

(3) That Officers report to a future meeting of the Group detailing proposals for -

- (i) The ongoing review of Council buildings
- (ii) The situation with regard to the condition of the Council's housing/sheltered housing stock. (HLCS)

701 

Minute 13 - Subscriptions

Responding to Member questions, the Chief Executive indicated that the Council's Regeneration Officer should be able to review the possibility of closer involvement with "Market Towns" during the summer recess.

Resolved

(1) That the Council no longer subscribe to the following organisations:-

- (i) Essex Arts Forum (unless Officers determine that there is a need)
- (ii) Society of Information Technology Management (copies of Society documentation to be acquired as appropriate)

(2) That, subject to those identified under Minute 26 below, Council subscribe to the remaining organisations detailed in the report during 1999/2000

(3) That Officers investigate the possibility of closer involvement with "Market Towns" (the organisation which promotes small market towns).

Minute 15 - Acquisition of Portable Projection Equipment

Resolved

(1) That the portable projection equipment specified in the report be purchased from Comdis Ltd. at a cost of £6,045 00, excluding VAT

(2) That Officers report back at the earliest opportunity on the acquisition of equipment to improve Planning Committee presentations. (HAMS)

Minute 16 - I.T Services - Facilities Management Contract -Renewal Timetable

Resolved

(1) That the timetable for the renewal of the Information Technology Services Facilities Management contract be approved.

(2) That the scope for the consultancy service be approved.

(3) That the consultancy service is put out to tender and the estimated costs identified (HAMS)

Minute 19 - Asset Review - Buildings for Leisure Facilities

Resolved

That the following leisure facility buildings be included in the Asset Review.-

Rayleigh

Castle Hall, Castle Road
Parks Sports Centre, Rawreth Lane
Mill Hall Complex

Hawkevell

Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Clements Hall Way

Rochford

Freight House, West Street

Great Wakering

Sports Centre, High Street. (HLS)

Minute 20 - Corporate Plan

Resolved

That progress to date on the Corporate Plan be noted and that all Members of the Council be consulted on its contents in the forthcoming recess with a view to detailed consideration being given to its final form during the first cycle of meetings after recess (CE)

Minute 21 - Statutory and Discretionary Services

Resolved

(1) That a copy of the report be circulated to all Members of the Council, with further review in due course.

(2) That, where practicable, the service categories be detailed against the Council's budget expenditure in time for the next budget round (CD(F&ES))

Minute 22 - Single Capital Allocation for Housing

Resolved

That there be a moratorium on 1999/2000 approvals in respect of General Private Sector Renewal Grants pending the development of a policy of no further expenditure (CD(F&ES))

Minute 23 - Leasing Finance

Resolved

(1) That the financial appraisal of leasing opportunities continue to be carried out in respect of equipment purchases and the most cost effective method of procurement be used

(2) That the policy of utilising leasing for reasons other than costs be kept under review during the budget cycle. (CD(F&ES))

Minute 26 - Subscriptions - Further Information

The Committee concurred with the view of the Chief Executive that it would be appropriate to defer a decision with regard of the Essex Economic Partnership pending a presentation from the Chief Executive of that organisation to a forthcoming meeting of the Member Budget Monitoring Group

Resolved

(1) That the Council subscribe to the following organisations/projects during 1999/2000:-

- (i) Rochford Economic Profile Research
- (ii) South East Essex Economic Strategy

(2) That the Council does not subscribe to the following organisations:-

- (i) East of England Investment Agency
- (ii) Urban Environment Today
- (iii) Essex Brussels Office
- (iv) East of England - Local Government Conference

(3) That a decision with regard to subscription to the Essex Economic Partnership be deferred pending a presentation by the Chief Executive of that organisation to a forthcoming meeting of the Member Budget Monitoring Working Group (CE)

Minute 247 - Meeting with Chambers of Trade

The Committee concurred with a view of a Member that it would be of value if a further report relating to Rayleigh Chamber's proposals for a pavement vehicle included the possibility of introducing local bylaws to facilitate the proposal. With regard to tree planting in Hockley, the value of ensuring all interested parties were kept informed of proposals was recognised

Resolved

- (1) That the requests relating to trade refuse and cardboard collection put forward by the Hockley Traders Association be noted for future consideration when appropriate
- (2) That consideration of the Hockley Traders Association request for tree planting be deferred pending more details being reported to a future meeting of the Sub-Committee,
- (3) That £1,000 be earmarked as a contribution towards the Rayleigh Chamber's proposals for a pavement vehicle subject to:-
 - (i) The scheme meeting the necessary legal requirements
 - (ii) A three monthly review.
 - (iii) The service being available for use by all residents wishing to visit Rayleigh Town Centre.
 - (iv) A further report to the Transportation Sub-Committee (including the position with regard to Bylaws). (CD(F&ES))

Minute 248 - South East Essex Economic Strategy

Resolved

- (1) That the contents of the final draft of the South East Essex Economic Strategy be endorsed.
- (2) That arrangements for partner development and implementation as set out in the Head of Service's report, including the provision of a secondee from the Essex Economic Partnership, be pursued.
- (3) That arrangements be made formally to launch the strategy at a business event to be held in September 1999
- (4) That the additional expenditure of £1,000 be met in the first instance from the contingency provision. (HCPI)

Minute 249 - Essex Wildlife Trust - Funding

Resolved

That £1,500 be allocated to the Essex Wildlife Trust for the Bio diversity Project. (HCPI)

Minute 250 - Members' Training

Members expressed concern that, given the importance of this matter, only fourteen Members had so far returned questionnaires.

Resolved

That a structured training and development programme be produced for this year focusing initially on community consultation; crime and disorder, housing and policy formulation. (CE)

Minute 251 - Application for Additional Revenue Grant - Southend Emergency Night Shelter

Resolved

That, reluctantly, no grant be made to Southend Action Group for the Homeless on the grounds that it would not be sufficient to enable the shelter to continue to operate (HFS)

Minute 253 - Shops - 172-174 Rochford Garden Way, Rochford

Resolved

(1) That the Council provides polycarbonate security glazing to 172 Rochford Garden Way at no cost to the tenant and also to 174 Rochford Garden Way to replace the existing steel roller shutter in order to deter vandalism, to enhance the appearance of the area and to protect the Council's interest as well as that of the tenants.

(2) That the Head of Legal Services be authorised to enter into negotiations with the tenants of 172 Rochford Garden Way regarding their occupancy of 174 Rochford Garden Way and, if appropriate, complete a lease on the basis outlined in the report with suitable amendments to the existing lease.

(3) That in the event that the tenants of 172 Rochford Garden Way do not wish to take up the occupancy of 174 Rochford Garden Way, the lease of both premises be amended to permit operation on the basis that use must be beneficial to the area and agreed by the Council in writing, and the Head of Legal Services be authorised to place 174 Rochford Garden Way on the open market (HLS)

Minute 254 - Millennium Working

In response to Member questions, the Chief Executive confirmed that consultation rather than negotiation with Unison was a more accurate reflection of what was envisaged on proposals for out of hours and emergency planning cover. In terms of Millennium compliance, work was reasonably well advanced.

Resolved

(1) That the Council agree to the level of staff coverage contained in the Chief Executive's report with regard to out of hours and emergency planning, with a one-off special standby payment of £200 being offered to those who participate, to cover the four days, 31st December 1999 to 3rd January 2000, together with the call-out payment arrangements as outlined

(2) That the considerations of the payment arrangements for sheltered housing wardens be deferred with a report back to the September Meeting.

(3) That (1) above be the subject of consultation with Unison (CE)

Minute 255 - Replacement for Print Room High Volume Copier

Resolved

(1) That two digital copiers/printers be purchased from CBS, with the additional networking options and network points installed, at a total cost of £27,410.

(2) That one of the purchased digital copiers/printers be installed in the Print Room and one installed in the Word Processing Unit to facilitate more efficient production of Committee papers and other high volume work.

(3) That the existing copier be retained for use as a back-up copier providing contingency capacity

(4) That the savings of £12,500 made on the original budget provision of £40,000 be released to the Capital Programme. (HAMS)

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DRAFT ESSEX SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 1999 - 2004

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy & Initiatives seeking Member comments on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan prepared by Essex County Council and intended to cover the period 1999-2004. Comments on the draft plan were required by 31st July 1999.

During detailed debate, Members considered that, at this stage, the County should be appraised of the following views/comments -

- There is a desire that the opportunity should be taken to address the real needs of children within the District, their abilities and potential, and there is genuine concern that the plan as set out does not really help in this respect. There are few, if any, specific proposals. The plan adopts a 'wait and see/keep under review' approach. There are no proposals as to whether new schools are required, which schools are to be expanded and how, which schools are to be closed, if any, and so on.

- Proposals exclude the schooling relationship with the Southend-on-Sea Borough (in terms of pupil movement between Local Authority areas) and did not deal with a strategy for sixth form provision (there being a perceived drain between Essex and Southend-on-Sea).

- There should be clear indication of the percentage and arrangements for special educational needs children within the District and an indication of future plans in respect of their needs and provision.

- The problems of predicting the availability of places given the operation of parental choice and, in effect, the existence of a market place.

- There is particular concern about the continued use of demountables to address capacity problems. In addition, it is felt that the shape, size and layout of many school sites will not accommodate additional class provision without the loss of other facilities on site.

- In specific areas, such as Ashingdon, Hockley and parts of Rayleigh, schools are already over-subscribed against a background of continuing development over forthcoming years. There is concern that this issues will not be addressed.

- There is concern that proposals do not resolve the position in West Rayleigh, given that a site for future school provision has for many years been allocated in the Local Plan. In addition, there is no further light thrown on the situation regarding Park School and its role in the post 16 education debate.

The Committee concurred with the view of the Chief Executive that a representative from the County Learning Services Directorate should be invited to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Partnership Sub-Committee (Essex Links) on education provision in the District. (HCPI)

RECOMMENDED

(1) That the above views/comments on the Draft Essex School Organisation Plan 1999/2004 be submitted to the County Council.

(2) That a representative from the County Learning Services Directorate be invited to make a presentation on education provision in the District to a future meeting of the Partnership Sub-Committee (Essex Links). (CE)

321. **INVITATION TO THE CASE FOR A BETTER ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FOR DISTRICT COUNCILS**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on a request which had been received from the Society of District Council Treasurers (SDCT) seeking support for making a case to Government for a better deal for Shire Districts as part of the three year fundamental Review of Local Government Finance

Resolved

(1) That the Council subscribe to the SDCT in respect of the Review of Local Government Finance in the sum of £900 in the current Financial Year and £900 in 2000/2001.

(2) That the subscription be funded from the contingency provision and that provision be made in the Draft Revenue Estimates for 2000/2001 (CD(F&ES)).

322. **COMMUNITY FACILITY - ST MARK'S FIELD, ROCHFORD**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing Health and Community Care on the appointment of representatives to meet with Rochford Parish Councillors and Springboard Housing Association to progress construction of a suitable Community Hall at St Mark's Field, Rochford

During debate, some Members expressed concern at delays which had occurred over the years in progressing this matter. Reference was made to the value of being mindful of the Council's Crime & Disorder Strategy in formulating site proposals.

Resolved

That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee and the Ward Councillors for Rochford Roche and Rochford St Andrews be appointed to meet with Rochford Parish Council and Springboard Housing Association as soon as practicable to progress construction of a suitable community meeting hall at St Mark's Field, to consider future financial and management arrangements for the building and to report back (HHHCC)

323. **SUPPLY OF COMMITTEE AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative & Member Services reviewing the current policy of charging for copies of Agenda and Minutes and recommending changes to that policy

During debate, some Members expressed concern at the quality of media reporting of Council business. Whilst a case could be made for supply of free Agendas and Minutes, this should not be seen as a replacement to reporter attendance at Council Meetings and the need for fair and balanced reporting. In recognising that the Council aimed for both openness and partnership in its work, a Member commented on the potential value of introducing arrangements for Members to meet media representatives to discuss Council business.

In response to Member questions, the Head of Administrative & Member Services confirmed that a Council website (as contained within the Corporate Plan) could be an ideal medium for introducing wider availability of Agendas and Minutes

Resolved

(1) That, with immediate effect, copies of Agendas and Minutes be provided free of charge to all local media organisations.



(2) That Copies of Agendas and Minutes be provided free of charge to the South East Chamber of Trade and the local Chambers of Commerce

(3) That the policy of charging individual members of the public and commercial organisations for the supply of copies of Committee Agenda and Minutes be continued, but with immediate effect the charges be as follows, save where annual subscriptions have been prepaid (the increase to take effect from the renewal date for those subscriptions):-

Item	Per Annum (£)	Per Meeting (£)
Council	72 78	12 13
Committee Agenda and Agenda for the Corporate Resources, Transportation and Planning Sub-Committees (each Committee or Sub-Committee)	150 30	25 05
Other Sub-Committees (each Sub-Committee)	81.90	13 65

(4) That the current policy of providing copies of Agenda free of charge to other Local Authorities and organisations with whom the Council works in partnership, be continued. (HAMS)

324. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services on residual Outside Body issues.

During debate, the former Chairman of the Community Safety Sub-Committee (Councillor Mrs. J. Helson) informed the meeting that it would be more appropriate for the current Chairman to be the Council's appointee on the Drugs Reference Group and the Police Community Consultative Group Councillor Mrs. Helson therefore relinquished her previous appointment to these bodies

Resolved

(1) That appointments be made to Outside Bodies as follows -

Organisation	Appointee
Rochford Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme	Councillor C C Langlands
Executive Committee, South Essex Relate	Councillor R.A Pearson
Rochford District Voluntary Care User Group, St Lukes Place Centre	Councillor Mrs M.S Vince
Rochford Youth Service Local Strategy Group	Councillor C C Langlands
South Essex Central Joint Consultative Committee	Councillor Mrs. M.J Webster

(2) That the Chairman of the Corporate Resources Sub-Committee be appointed as this



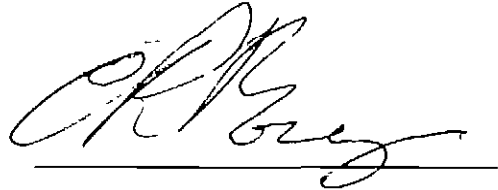
Council's representative on the Drugs Reference Group and the Police Community Consultative Group. (HAMS)

325. **MILLENNIUM BEACON CELEBRATIONS**

Resolved

That the report of the Head of Leisure & Client Services on Millennium Beacon celebrations be referred to Full Council for decision. (HL&CS)

The Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. R. Gray', written over a horizontal line.

Chairman

Date

ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Partnership Sub-Committee

At a Meeting held on 21st July 1999. Present: Councillors R.S. Allen, P. A. Beckers, T G Cutmore, G. Fox, G A Mockford and Mrs. M.S. Vince.

Representing Essex County Council: Councillor R.H. Boyd.

Representing Town and Parish Councils: Mrs. H.M. Allen (Barling Magna Parish Council), R. Attridge (Rochford Parish Council), Mrs. M. Beckers (Rawreth Parish Council), S. Byford (Canewdon Parish Council), Mrs. M. Guyett (Hockley Parish Council), Mrs M Liles (Clerk - Rayleigh Town Council), Mrs. D. Lucas (Rawreth Parish Council), Mrs. P.M.V. Pearse (Rayleigh Town Council), I.J. Rooke (Hawkewell Parish Council), L. Salmon (Clerk - Barling Magna Parish Council), J. Smith (Canewdon Parish Council) and Mrs. L.A. Vingoe (Hockley Parish Council).

Apologies: County Councillor K. Bobbin, Town Councillor C. Lumley and Parish Councillors M. Ewers, Mrs. A. Fox and P.D. Stebbing

Some Members in attendance served at more than one tier.

75. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved

That Councillor G. Fox be appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

76. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting of 25th March 1999 were agreed as a correct record, subject to an amendment to the details of attendance to show that Mrs. J.V. Rigby is the Clerk of Stambridge Parish Council rather than Ashingdon Parish Council, as stated

77. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

A declaration of a non pecuniary interest in the report concerning the Draft Essex School Organisation Plan (Minute 79) was received from Councillor Mrs. M.S. Vince and other Members who were School Governors.

78. MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION AND EVENTS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services which advised Members of proposed Millennium celebration events to be staged by the Rayleigh Town Council and Parish Councils in the District. It was noted that the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives had, last Autumn, requested the Clerks of the Town and Parish Councils to provide details of any proposals they had for the Millennium celebrations and any Millennium events throughout the year 2000. To date, ten responses had been received, and the Sub-Committee examined details of the specific proposals. To enable the Council to make the necessary arrangements for the Parish Councils' proposed events, which could include the need for additional litter clearance, road closure orders, entertainment licences and alternative use of car parking space, it was agreed that it was essential to receive the information requested from those Parishes that had not yet submitted details. The representatives from Barling Magna, Hockley and Canewdon Parish Councils, Rayleigh Town Council and the Rochford Hundred Association of Local Councils provided the Sub-Committee with oral summaries of the initiatives that their organisations were proposing to undertake.

It was reported that the District Council, whilst not proposing a specific event or celebration, was involved in discussions with the voluntary sector to promote a Millennium Beacon event, further details of which would be considered by Members in due course

In reply to a Member question, Ms. L. Cam, Principal Strategy Officer, Essex County Council, outlined a range of measures to be implemented by the County Council for emergency planning purposes. Two plans had been prepared. the Essex County Council Millennium Contingency Plan and the Essex Millennium Contingency Plan. The former would examine the staffing of resource centres; transport and evacuation arrangements and the provision of key staff; and the supply of emergency resources such as satellite telephones. The latter would be a County-wide plan, linking with similar initiatives at the regional scale and would seek to ensure the safety of Essex residents and the dissemination of relevant information to the public. From September, joint seminars with the District Councils, the public utilities and media would be held, followed by a full-scale mock up and distribution of information pamphlets

Ms. Cam also undertook to provide Members with a written summary of proposed celebratory initiatives involving the Essex Millennium Fund, a £1million endowment, the interest from which would enable the establishment of an ongoing series of annual awards. The summary is attached as an appendix to these minutes. Five specific projects were also to be arranged by the County Council to celebrate the County's history over the last millennium and to look forward to progress over the next century

RECOMMENDED

That those Parishes yet to respond are advised to do so as soon as possible, to enable Officers of the Council to aim to plan ahead for the additional demands on service. (HL&CS)

79. DRAFT ESSEX SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLAN 1999-2004

The Sub-Committee received and noted the report of the Chief Executive concerning the Draft Essex School Organisation Plan 1999-2004, produced by Essex County Council Learning Services Directorate, which had been sent to District Councils and all Parish Councils for consultation. Comments were required to be submitted to the County Council by the end of the month. This Council had considered its response at the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 20th July 1999, and the Chief Executive informed the Sub-Committee of the main points that had arisen during discussion, as outlined below:-

- There was concern that the Plan did not identify solutions to the problems identified, although it was recognised that its primary purpose was to guide, and set out the context for, future policies and initiatives.
- The widespread use of relocatable classrooms was considered unsatisfactory.
- It was noted with concern that there were no schools for children with special educational needs within the District.
- It was imperative that pupil forecasts reflected all forthcoming housing developments within the District; Members were encouraged to submit comments on the forecasts based on their local knowledge.
- The interaction with the Unitary Authorities, in particular Southend, would be a key factor determining the location and availability of secondary school places
- The nature of Post-16 education with the District would need to be addressed, which would include consideration of the future of the former Park School and its use by SEEVIC.

A number of District and Parish Councillors expressed concern about the tight timescale for the submission of comments, and it was suggested that this could be mentioned in their submissions.

The Sub-Committee was informed that the County Council had also produced a strategy for the provision of education for children with special needs, for which views were required by the end of September. Comments on the strategy could be submitted direct

to the Learning Services Directorate or via the local County Councillors. Members agreed that the Sub-Committee should consider this issue, in view of its importance, at its next meeting on 21st September, to include a presentation by County Council Education Officers. It was also suggested that it would be useful for Headteachers from local primary and secondary schools to be invited to that meeting.

The Sub-Committee concluded the discussion by agreeing that the primary objective was for the County, District and Parish Councils to work together to achieve the provision of a high standard of education in modern, purpose-built accommodation.

80. PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Sub-Committee received and noted the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services which provided preliminary details of a forthcoming review of County and District Councils' electoral arrangements by the Local Government Commission for England. The review's purpose would be to ensure that the number of electors represented by each Councillor on an authority is, as nearly as possible, the same, and the Commission would have the power to recommend a number of changes including revisions to Town and Parish Council electoral arrangements where proposals are put forward

Members were informed that guidance on the conduct of the review in Essex was likely to become available in September/October and details would be reported to the first meeting of the Sub-Committee after that time. It was suggested that Town and Parish Councils may at this stage wish to consider the need for any change to their electoral arrangements in order that those seeking revisions could make an early submission to the Commission at the start of the review. It was anticipated that the draft proposals would be distributed for consultation by mid May 2000 and that final publication would take place by November. As part of the consultation process, a presentation for local authorities would be organised by the Commission.

81. TOPIC AREAS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Sub-Committee agreed that it would be of value to cover the following areas:-

Next Meeting

The draft strategy for the provision of education for children with special educational needs, to include a presentation by Essex County Council. In view of the importance of this issue it was agreed that it should be the sole item on the agenda.

Future Meetings

- i) Periodic Electoral Review - update following receipt of further guidance.
- ii). Transportation Policy, in particular to consider the funding arrangements between the County and District Councils. It was agreed that consideration of the bus service provision, previously identified as a potential item for the Sub-Committee (Minute 74) could most appropriately be given at the Local Area Transportation Panel
- iii). Primary Care Group
- iv). Work which could be undertaken at a local level to contribute to recycling initiatives.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

Chairman

Date:

21.9.99
712

To members of the Rochford Partnership Sub Committee

1. Essex County Council And The Millennium: Summary Of Initiatives

The County Council has endorsed a number of projects whereby the Council will be marking the start of the next Millennium. Brief details are as follows:

2. A Millennium Foundation

The Essex County Council Millennium Foundation will be the name given to an arrangement whereby grants (Foundation Awards) will be made each year to individuals or groups who successfully apply. The Awards will be available within certain categories, some or all of which are likely to change each year. There will need to be an overriding requirement that there is an "Essex benefit".

The Foundation will be established by a Trust to which the Council will donate a sum of £1m. The annual interest will finance the awards. The Trust will be administered by Trustees drawn from the membership of the Council across the three major political groups. No further information about the Foundation Awards or the application process is available at this stage

3. Essex County Council Professorship In The Future of British Governance

The County Council has agreed to contribute a substantial amount over 3 years towards funding at the University of Essex of the Essex County Council Professorship in the Future of British Governance. The main duties will be to undertake and disseminate research into some of the specific consequences of the current constitutional changes. The postholder will be expected to address the overriding question of what kind of constitutional structure the UK will have and ought to have.

4. Essex Past, Present and Future

A number of linked initiatives have been approved as part of the Council's contribution to the celebration of the start of the new Millennium which will provide the opportunity:

- to look back at key aspects of the history of the County over the last 1000 years;
- to mark current life-styles at "a moment in time"; and
- to look forward to life in the Essex of the future.

The initiatives comprise.

- a substantial travelling exhibition telling the story of the development of the County over the past 1000 years;
- a programme of seminars on themed topics about the future of the County – "Essex in the 21st Century";
- a programme of lectures about the history of the County at the new Essex Record Office;
- a book and exhibition "Splendid and Permanent Pageant": Pictures of the Essex Past; and
- a Schools Competition 'Essex in the 21st Century'

All the above initiatives are being co-ordinated by the County Planning Dept at County Hall in Chelmsford.



5. Other Initiatives and Grants

The County Council has also agreed

- a grant to the Essex History Fair for a Millennium History Fair at Cressing Temple (nr Braintree);
- extra financial support to the Cressing Temple Festival in the Millennium year;
- Financial support for an Oral History project by the Essex Sound Archive; and
- A grant of £20,000 to the Essex Millennium Festival Fund - to be administered under the aegis of the Essex Community Foundation, 52a Moulsham Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0JA, tel 01245 355947. Funds to be made available for projects which in the main involve young people, the environment or the third world.
- An application has also been made to the national Millennium Festival Fund for a grant towards a project for recording local history. This will involve local people making a photographic record of their community - both the physical and social environment.

6. Summary

There are many different projects and initiatives which involve the County Council. The information provided in this summary sheet is not exhaustive by any means - it merely provides some information about projects which have been reported to committee over the last six months or so.

Should further information be required, please contact the co-ordinating dept or organisation.

Prepared for the Rochford Partnership Sub Committee following the meeting on 21 July.

Linda Cain 01245 430395

Corporate Strategy Unit

Essex County Council

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ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council

At a Meeting held on 27th July 1999. Present: Councillors D.R. Helson (Chairman), R. Adams, R.S. Allen, G.C. Angus, B.R. Ayling, D.E. Barnes, P.A. Beckers, T.G. Cutmore, J.M. Dickson, D.F. Flack, D.M. Ford, Mrs. J.E. Ford, G. Fox, Mrs. J.M. Giles, J.E. Grey, Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn, Mrs. J. Hall, Mrs. E.M. Hart, Mrs. J. Helson, Mrs. A.R. Hutchings, V.D. Hutchings, C.C. Langlands, V.H. Leach, Mrs. S.J. Lemon, T. Livings, C.R. Morgan, R.A. Pearson, P.D. Stebbing, Mrs. W.M. Stevenson, Mrs. M.S. Vince, R.E. Vingoe, Mrs. M.J. Webster, P.F.A. Webster, D.A. Weir and Mrs. M.A. Weir.

Apologies: Councillors C.I. Black, K.A. Gibbs, N. Harris, A. Hosking and G.A. Mockford.

326. MINUTES

Resolved that the Minutes of the Meeting of 22nd June 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the word "skills" being replaced with "schools" in Minute 256.

327. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The interests recorded in the Minutes to be received and considered by Council were taken as read.

(i) Councillor G.C. Angus declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 298 of the Community Services Committee.

(ii) Councillors D.E. Barnes and Mrs. J. Helson declared an interest in items involving Rayleigh Town Council by virtue of being Town Councillors and in Minute 298 of the Community Services Committee by virtue of bowls club membership. They left the Meeting during consideration of Minute 298.

(iii) Councillor D.R. Helson declared an interest in Minute 298 of the Community Services Committee by virtue of bowls club membership and left the Meeting during consideration of that item.

328. CHAIRMANS' ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman was pleased to announce that Stephen Heading had commenced work with the Authority as the new Head of Planning Services.

The Chairman had attended a wide variety of functions including:-

- The Silver Jubilee celebration at St. Theresa's School, Rochford
- The "Concert on the Lawn" through the Rotary Club of Rayleigh Mill.
- Hosting a presentation by Essex County's Trading Standards on the proof of age 16 plus scheme.
- A Gala Dinner and Concert in aid of the Leukaemia Unit Appeal.

The Vice-Chairman had also attended a number of events, including Crucial Crew held at Belchamps, the Rochford Sports Council Festival Finals Day and the Schools Festival.

Following his announcements, the Chairman was pleased to receive presentations from Mr H Amies of Gideons International, who presented a Bible, and Mr P. Jones of The

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Salvation Army who presented the Council with its Award for the Salvation Army Clothing Bank Recycling Scheme.

329. COMMITTEE MINUTES

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.

Committee	Date	Minute No.
AUDIT SERVICES	6th July 1999	264 - 272
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	7th July 1999	273 - 276

Minute 274 - Waste Strategy - Ecologika Draft Reports

Pursuant to Standing Order 18(6), a requisition had been received in the names of Councillors G. Fox, P.D. Stebbing and Mrs. M.A. Weir requiring that Minute 274 be referred to Full Council for decision.

An amendment was moved by Councillor G. Fox and seconded by Councillor P. D. Stebbing that the Recommendation of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee be revised to read:-

"(1) That this Council puts forward the report from Ecologika as a possible way forward for dealing with Rochford's and the County's waste. In doing so, this Council recognises the need for full evaluation of the proposals or any part/s of them that is/are used in dealing with the waste mentioned above.

(2) That the Environmental Health Sub-Committee be requested to examine in detail the implications of the suggestions and recommendations in the Ecologika report, this examination to include an evaluation of the environmental, health and monetary impacts of the proposals.

(3) That this Council urges Essex County Council to evaluate the environmental, health and monetary impacts of any ideas that it might pursue dealing with waste."

During debate, a Member wished to emphasise the relatively new nature of the recycling industry and difficulties which professionals in that industry had on agreeing the advantages and disadvantages of various waste strategies. It was interesting to note that some European Countries allowed higher emission levels than the United Kingdom. Reference was also made to the difficulties which the District had encountered during 1997 in endeavouring to identify possible waste disposal sites for the County. Comment was made on the amount of work so far undertaken by Members over a period of years to assist the District's approach and the need for certain decisions to now be made. Comment was also made that the existing recommendation of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee gave ample scope for consideration of all appropriate aspects of this subject.

The amendment was lost on a show of hands. On a Motion moved by Councillor V.H. Leach and seconded by D.E. Barnes, it was:-

Resolved

That the Environmental Health Sub-Committee be requested to examine in detail the implications of the suggestions and recommendations in the Ecologika report. (HHHCC)

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Minute 291 - Travellers in Essex

Pursuant to Standing Order 18(6) a requisition had been received in the names of Councillors P.F.A. Webster, R.A. Adams and C.C. Langlands requiring that Minute 291 be referred to Full Council for decision.

Councillor Webster confirmed that the Members requesting Minute referral had done so in view of particular concern about specific recommendations in the report of the Essex Chief Executives' Association Travellers in Essex Working Party. Namely Recommendation 7 (that Local Authorities should give the need to provide accommodation for gypsies the same priority as has been given to housing for non-gypsies), Recommendation 9 (the setting up of an Essex Gypsy Site Fund of £200,000 for a five year period) and Recommendation 19 (the identification of suitable small sites for use as short-term stopping places).

During debate, a Member commented on direct concerns which he had received from residents on the recommendations. Other Members felt that travellers were in a "no win" situation and that there was value in introducing control mechanisms to remove uncertainty. It was in the interests of all Authorities within the County to reach common agreement on this subject. A Member indicated that the Housing Allocation Points System would no doubt be applied as appropriate and commented that by far the largest element of any funding would probably come from the Government.

In response to a Member question, the Head of Legal Services confirmed that it was unlawful to discriminate on grounds of ethnic origin or race.

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 24(2), a recorded vote was taken on the Recommendation of the Community Services Committee as follows:-

For(26)

Councillors R.S. Allen, G.C. Angus,
B.R. Ayling, D.E. Barnes, P.A. Beckers, J.M. Dickson,
D.F. Flack, D.M. Ford, Mrs. J.E. Ford, G. Fox,
Mrs. J.M. Giles, Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn, Mrs. J. Hall,
D.R. Helson, Mrs. J. Helson, Mrs. A.R. Hutchings,
V.D. Hutchings, V.H. Leach, Mrs. S.J. Lemon,
C.R. Morgan, P.D. Stebbing, Mrs. W.M. Stevenson,
Mrs. M.S. Vince, R.E. Vingoe, D.A. Weir and
Mrs. M.A. Weir.

Against(9)

Councillors R.S. Adams, T.G. Cutmore, J.E. Grey,
Mrs. E.M. Hart, C.C. Langlands, T. Livings,
R.A. Pearson, Mrs. M.J. Webster and P.F.A. Webster.

The Recommendation was declared carried and it was:-

Resolved

(1) That the comments in the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives (attached as appendix to the signed copy of these Minutes) form the basis of the Council's response to the Essex Chief Executives' Association on the Travellers in Essex report.

(2) That arrangements be made for a meeting with District and County Officers, including the Gypsy Liaison Officer, to discuss possible sites for the provision of a Short Term Stopping Place for Travellers in the District, with the provision of Local Plan Policy H28 being used as a basis for discussions.

(3) That details of the discussions be reported back to Members at an appropriate Committee later in the year. (TP) (HCPI)

Minute 297 - Update on Progress of Refurbishment of Public Conveniences

Pursuant to Standing Order 18(6), a requisition had been received in the names of Councillors P.F.A. Webster, T. Cutmore and J.E. Grey requiring that Minute 297 be referred to Full Council for decision.

During debate a number of Members expressed concern at the high financial provision allocated for refurbishment. Given that the need to ensure appropriate furniture and maintenance was a key element Council agreed with the view of a Member that, for the purposes of comparison, it would be appropriate to invite tenders on the basis of a low cost option and the proposals set out in the report to the Community Services Committee.

In responding to Member questions the Chief Executive advised that Officers would review the possibilities with regard to the introduction of signage to public toilets within the District.

On a Motion moved by Councillor Mrs. J. Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs. S.J. Lemon it was:-

Resolved

That tenders be sought for public convenience refurbishment on both the basis of the proposals set out in the report to the Community Services Committee and on a reduced specification with lower cost capable of introducing appropriate ramp access and partitions, replacement of sanitary ware and provision of baby changing facilities. (HLCS)

Minute 298 - King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh - Proposed Lease of the Bowling Green

NOTE: The Vice-Chairman was in the Chair for this item.

The Community Services Committee had referred the report on this matter to Full Council.

Prior to the commencement of debate, the Vice-Chairman referred Members to the latest correspondence received from the National Playing Fields Association, Rayleigh Bowls and Women's Bowling Club.

Responding to Member questions, the Head of Legal Services advised that, whilst the National Playing Fields Association had stated that it could not support the inclusion of the car park within the proposed lease, it had indicated that it may be possible to consider some form of licence arrangement for particular occasions or events.

On a motion moved by Councillor Mrs. S.J. Lemon and seconded by Councillor Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn it was:-

Resolved

(1) That the Head of Legal Services enters into negotiations with Rayleigh Bowls Club, as outlined in the report, and completes a lease of the Bowling Green at King George's Playing Field, Rayleigh, excluding the car parking area, for a 30 year term and on such other terms and conditions as are agreed.

(2) That all interested parties have continued dialogue to try and resolve the issue of usage of the car park. (16425)(HLS)

6/19/16

Committee	Date	Minute Nos.
TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	15th July 1999	303-314
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES	20th July 1999	315-325

Minute 318 - Recommendations of Transportation & Environmental Services Committee - Employment of Legal Counsel (Minute 276)

The Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) confirmed that this item was before Council under the requirements of Financial Standing Order 7.7.

In response to Member questions regarding the possibility of introducing a Motion relating to Counsel's Brief, the Head of Legal Services advised that the Council had submitted its objections and formulated a Brief for the Waste Plan Inquiry and that it would not be appropriate to revisit this aspect.

Resolved

(1) That, subject to the agreement of Chelmsford Borough Council, this Council approach Mr. A. Porten QC to represent Rochford District at the forthcoming Waste Plan Inquiry.

(2) That the sum of up to £50,000 be set aside from balances for the payment of legal Counsel and other expert witness costs relating to the Waste Plan Inquiry.

(3) That arrangements be made for a roadshow to visit two or three locations within the District over the summer to explain the content of the Waste Plan, the advantages/disadvantages of what is proposed and the Council's position in respect of those proposals. (CD(F&ES)/HLS)

Minute 318 - Recommendations of Community Services Committee -Iron Railings 66 - 72 Hatfield Road (Minute 290(iv))

On a Motion moved by Councillor D.E. Barnes and seconded by Councillor Mrs. H.L.A. Glynn is was:-

Resolved

(1) That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) to approve requests for minor works up to a total value of 1% of the Repairs and Maintenance Budget of the Housing Revenue Account and that the Member Budget Monitoring Working Group be requested to consider and agree any necessary limit that should apply to such delegation.

(2) That the Member Budget Monitoring Working Group be asked to consider which items of expenditure should in future be regarded as minor works to be funded from the Housing Revenue Account Repairs and Maintenance Budget. (HRHM)

Minute 320 - Draft Essex School Organisation Plan 1999/2004

It was noted that this Minute should have included reference to the Committee's recommendation that the Government be asked to include school buildings within the requirements of the Factories Act 1961. In response to Member questions the Chief Executive confirmed that he would investigate whether the timing of proposals had included consultation with school governing bodies and advise all Members accordingly

Resolved

(1) That the views/comments on the draft Essex School Organisation Plan 1999/2004, detailed in Minute 320, be submitted to the County Council.

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(2) That a representative from the County Learning Services Directorate be invited to make a presentation on education provision in the District to a future meeting of the Partnership Sub-Committee (Essex Links).

(3) That the Government be asked to include school buildings within the requirements of the Factories Act 1961. (CE)

Minute 325 - Millennium Beacon Celebrations

The report of the Head of Leisure and Client Services on Millennium Beacon celebrations had been referred to Full Council for decision.

During debate Members felt that it would be appropriate for the District Council to arrange erection of the Beacon as a contribution towards the Millennium. It would no doubt be of value for events such as Christmas Carol concerts and other ceremonies. A Member also felt that it would be preferable to remove the term "Millennium" from references to the Beacon.

In response to Member questions the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) advised on insurance aspects associated with the Beacon.

On a motion moved by Councillor Mrs. A.R. Hutchings and seconded by Councillor Mrs. M.A. Weir it was:-

Resolved

That the Council fund purchasing and erection of a Millennium Beacon at the Mill Hall site, Rayleigh for a sum of up to £3,500. (HLCS)

Minute 330 - Minutes of the Meeting of the Mill Hall Working Party: 22nd July 1999

Council considered the appended Minutes and the recommendations contained therein.

Minute 36 - Business Plans

Resolved

That option 4, new option 5 and possible option 6 be referred to the Member Budget Monitoring Work Group for consideration of the financial aspects of the schemes and for a recommendation to then be made on the most appropriate option to be taken (CD(F&ES))

Minute 37 - Mill Hall Archaeological Finds

Resolved

That ownership of the shards of pottery excavated during the Mill Hall dig be retained and that the manner of exhibition be agreed at a later date. (HCPT)

Minute 38 - Plan of Action for Implementation of the Mill Hall Refurbishment

Members noted that, if the plan of action was approved, work could start during November 1999. In response to Member questions, the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) indicated that proposals did not currently include air conditioning but it would be possible to report further on this aspect if Council so wished.

Resolved

(1) That the revised layout to the Mill Hall improvements be agreed.

(2) That the Mill Hall works be carried out prior to the public convenience refurbishment as a matter of priority.

(3) That the cost as indicated be agreed with the additional £5,000 to be funded from savings.

(4) That the outline method of carrying out the works be agreed.

(5) That a further report be submitted on the costs which could be associated with introducing air conditioning within refurbishment plans. (HLCS)

330. **FINAL ACCOUNTS 1998/99**

Council considered the report of the Head of Financial Services on the final accounts for 1998/99.

In presenting his report, the Head of Financial Services indicated that the external auditors were due to commence work on 9th August and that any adjustment reports would be submitted as appropriate. Further reports would also follow identifying revenue budget adjustments above £5,000 and longer term projections in accordance with the Council's Budget Strategy. As information became available, Members would be advised of the detail of the additional disclosure requirement 'Related Party Transactions'.

Resolved

That the Statement of Accounts 1998/99 be approved. (HFS)

331. **RAYLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL - MILLENNIUM EVENTS**

Council considered the joint report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management and the Head of Leisure and Client Services on a request from Rayleigh Town Council for use of part of the Websters Way Car Park and King George V Playing Field in order to organise events to commemorate the Millennium. The Chief Executive advised that, following report production, the Town Council had requested use of the Council's Car Park at the Civic Suite, Rayleigh for events on Saturday 29th April, Sunday 30th April and Monday 1st May 2000.

Resolved

That Rayleigh Town Council be authorised to use part of the Websters Way Car Park, King George V Playing Field and the Car Park at the Council's Civic Suite, Rayleigh for Millennium events detailed in the report on the following dates:-

Websters Way Car Park/King George V Playing Field

Thursday 27th April 2000

Friday 28th April 2000

Saturday 29th April 2000

Sunday 30th April 2000

Monday 1st May 2000

Tuesday 2nd May 2000

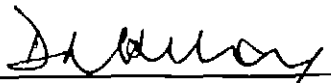
Civic Suite Car Park, Rayleigh

Saturday 29th April 2000

Sunday 30th April 2000

Monday 1st May 2000 (HRHM,HLCS)

The Meeting closed at 10.28pm


Chairman 721

Date: 18 October 1999

Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee

At a Meeting held on 29th July 1999. Present: Councillors G. Fox, V H. Leach and C.R. Morgan.

Non-Members attending: Councillors D.E. Barnes, Mrs. J. Helson and P.F A. Webster.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Resolved

That Councillor C R. Morgan be appointed as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved

That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government the items Act 1972, the public be excluded from the Meeting for the item of business set out below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

3. CIRCA LEISURE

The Sub-Committee considered the confidential report of the Chief Executive which updated Members on the way forward in connection with the Circa Leisure Contract, given the recent notification from the Circa Group that it was in the advanced stages of negotiating a merger with another company. The absolute confidentiality of this matter was emphasised, due to the Stock Exchange Regulations on Insider Trading under which any trading as a result of the information provided would be regarded as a criminal offence.

The Chief Executive and Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) provided Members with further details on the following areas:

- The outcome of discussions with the Chief Executive of Circa Leisure concerning possible financial contributions from Circa towards the repair and maintenance of Clements Hall, in exchange for the Council's agreement to an extension of the existing contract.
- The views of the Compulsory Competitive Tendering Panel which had considered the matter at its Meeting immediately preceding the Sub-Committee. These are outlined in more detail in the Minutes of that Meeting.
- The financial and business background of the company involved in the merger with the Circa Group; enquiries had established its strong commercial credentials.

In subsequent discussion, the Sub-Committee generally concurred with the views of the Compulsory Competitive Tendering Panel that the future of the leisure contract should be considered at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council, to be held as soon as statutorily possible. In addition, it was agreed that the Chief Executive should continue discussions with Circa Leisure to achieve the most favourable outcome for the Council as possible, and a number of possible negotiating stances were suggested. Members were advised, however, of the need to have regard to the possibility that the proposed financial contribution(s) from Circa Leisure could be withdrawn at any stage during the negotiating process. Whilst it would, in theory, be possible for the Council to terminate the contract if the merger was to proceed, in practice, this was not seen as advisable

Resolved

(1) That an Extraordinary Meeting of Council be convened at the earliest opportunity to consider the future of the Leisure Contract.

(2) That the Chief Executive informs Circa Leisure that no decision can be made on its offers of a financial contribution towards the repair of Clements Hall until after the Meeting and continues to negotiate with Circa Leisure to achieve the optimum settlement for the Council. (CE)

The Meeting closed at 6.10pm.



Chairman

9-9-99

Date

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