

## Leisure, Tourism & Heritage Committee – 3 October 2006

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Leisure, Tourism & Heritage Committee** held on **3 October 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs T J Capon  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr P R Robinson

Cllr J P Cottis  
Cllr T E Goodwin  
Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr Mrs M A Starke  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner, C J Lumley, J R F Mason and C G Seagers.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

D Timson	- Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
G Dawson	- Senior Monitoring Officer/Parks Officer
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator
J O'Brien	- Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

M Jarvis - Regional Manager, Serviceteam Limited

### **327 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **328 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr P R Robinson declared a personal interest in the item on Pooles Lane Recreation Ground – proposed additional equipment by virtue of being a Parish Council Member.

### **329 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

The Committee received the Schedule relating to Progress on Decisions:-

#### **(1) The Playspace Rolling programme (Minute 200/06)**

It was noted that this item should have been given 'amber' status on the schedule.

### (2) **Bird Watching – Tourism Potential (Minute 263/06)**

It was noted that a meeting with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is scheduled for 2 November 2006. Parish/Town Councils will be Consulted as part of the process. The Essex Wildlife Trust will also be consulted.

### **330 SERVICETEAM – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

The Committee received the report from Serviceteam Limited on the progress of the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

In association with this item Mr Jarvis advised that as of Friday 29 September 2006, Serviceteam Limited was a wholly owned subsidiary of Veolia Environmental Services. Rochford District Council would be in receipt of written notification of the sale by the end of the week. Re-assurance was given that Rochford District Council would see no change in the service offered.

In responding to questions, Mr Jarvis/officers advised that:-

- The quantity of grass cuttings, in general, is very high. The spring season is particularly challenging, and resource intensive. If the contract required grass cuttings to be gathered up for collection, then subsequently the service costs could increase significantly.
- With regard to football pitch hire, as part of the contract, Serviceteam retain all the income from related bookings. Charges are considered by the Council when it reviews overall fees and charges for Council Services. Rochford's pitch prices are generally cheaper to play football than both Basildon and Southend.
- As Green Waste is predominately produced from parks and not households, there are no recycling credits to be gained. Where possible, this type of waste is separated out to compost. Whilst this is clearly the preferred environmentally friendly option, it is also cheaper than land fill.
- Veolia Environmental Services run a training school with NVQ trainers, and where possible courses will now be offered accordingly.

The Committee concurred with the observation of a Member that it would be of value to include an item in Rochford District Matters on grass cuttings.

### **Resolved**

That the content of the progress report and answers provided by Serviceteam's Regional Manager in relation to the grounds maintenance contract be noted. (CD(ES))

### 331 PLAYSPLACE ROLLING PROGRAMME 2007/08 - REVISION

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) which proposed a revision in the playspace rolling programme for 2007/08, to bring forward Seaview Drive playspace and defer Boston Avenue.

In responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- There is a small playspace between Morrins Close and Glebe Close that is not on land within the Housing Revenue Account, and therefore not part of the land transfer process that would be associated with the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing (LSVT).
- The Hartford Close playspace, which is in a good condition, could potentially be transferred as part of LSVT.
- The detail of land that will form part of the LSVT process will be included in future Committee reports.

The Committee recognised that it would be appropriate for Members to be kept informed of the land transfer aspects of the LSVT process, particularly given that the perpetuity of playspaces will need protecting as appropriate.

#### **Resolved**

That the revision in the playspace rolling programme for 2007/08, to bring forward Seaview Drive Playspace and defer Boston Avenue until the outcome of the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing Stock process is complete be agreed, subject to Members being kept informed of the land transfer aspects of the process. (CD(ES))

### 332 POOLES LANE RECREATION GROUND – PROPOSED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on additional equipment at the Pooles Lane Recreation Ground.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that it was pleasing to see co-operation of this nature between a Parish and the District Council.

#### **Resolved**

That the use of Rochford District Council land for the installation of two picnic benches adjacent to the Pooles Lane playspace on the recreation ground be agreed. Works to be funded by Hullbridge Parish Council and via secured grants, and the maintenance and ownership to be the responsibility of Hullbridge Parish Council. (CD(ES))

### EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

#### Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business on the grounds that exempt information as disclosed in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

### 333 RAYLEIGH WINDMILL TERMS OF LICENCE – RAYLEIGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on changes to the licence fee for the Licence Agreement with Rayleigh Historical Society at the Windmill site.

In presenting the report and responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The term 'lease' should be replaced with licence.
- Where problems had arisen at recent Management Committee meetings, these had been the subject of correspondence with the Historical Society and the National Trust.
- Given that there would be a need to report back on this subject, a future report can include reference to Management Committee arrangements as appropriate.

Members felt that, whilst it is important to work in effective partnership with the Historical Society, from the Council's perspective it would be appropriate for the licence fee previously agreed to be retained and for an additional condition relating to the archiving of materials to be introduced.

The Windmill is a meaningful part of the Council's activity and great pride is taken in it as a landmark. The latest edition of Essex Museum News had featured the Windmill on the back page, and 'National Treasures' had included a front page article on the green award that the Windmill had won.

#### Resolved

That there be no change in the licence fee agreed by the Community Services Committee at its meeting on 1 December 2005 (Minute 483/05). The Rayleigh Historical Society to give its decision by 25 December 2006, and to also be asked to agree to the following condition on the licence in the first year: 'that the Grant Funding obtained in April 2005 is taken up and the Archiving of the Historical Society's materials commences by January 2007'. (CD(ES))

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The meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....