

Council – 21 April 2015

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **21 April 2015** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr M R Carter	Cllr Mrs J E McPherson
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr R R Dray	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr J H Gibson	Cllr T E Mountain
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr J D Griffin	Cllr Mrs C E Roe
Cllr J Hayter	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr N J Hookway	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs D Hoy	Cllr Mrs M H Spencer
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr D J Sperring
Cllr J L Lawmon	Cllr M J Steptoe
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill	Cllr I H Ward
Cllr M Maddocks	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J C Burton, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, M Hoy and Mrs C A Weston.

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Dave	- Chief Executive
S Scrutton	- Director
J Bostock	- Assistant Director, Democratic Services
N Hayward	- Senior Planner
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

82 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

83 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman was pleased to receive a Bible, presented by Mr Gareth Evans on behalf of Gideons International.

The Chairman reported on the various civic and other events she had attended since the last Council meeting, including a performance by the choir and orchestra at Kingsdown School, who will be performing at a Mencap evening at the Palladium on 21 June; the Festival of Youth, celebrating fifteen years of the Jack Petchey Foundation; presenting Arts Awards certificate at Rochford Primary School; the induction service for the new Senior Minister of

Rayleigh Baptist Church, Rev. Scott Williamson; and visits to resource bases for hearing impaired pupils at Glebe Primary School and Sweyne Park School. She thanked all those who had helped to make the Rochford Civic Dinner on 20 March and the Tour of Rochford District on 15 April such a success, the latter of which had been attended by the new High Sheriff of Essex and the Chairman of Essex County Council.

84 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council received the Minutes of Executive and Committee meetings held between the period 14 February to 10 April 2015.

85 REPORT FROM THE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Annual Report

Council considered the report of the Review Committee providing details of its work during 2014/15.

Resolved

That the Review Committee annual report for 2014/15 be received. (ADLS)

86 REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS

Pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny procedure 15(f), Council received a report on decisions that had been taken as a matter of urgency and not subject to call in.

87 REPORT OF THE LEADER ON THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE

Council received the following report from the Leader of the Council on the work of the Executive:-

“This is the tenth and final Council meeting for the 2014/15 municipal year and I would like to welcome all Members.

Since my last Leader’s speech into Council, the Executive has met on three occasions, during which the awarding of a Material Recovery Facilities contract was agreed and Performance and Project reports for the period January to March 2015 were noted.

Other matters that my colleagues and I on the Executive have been dealing with include:-

- Approval of the Council’s Open Spaces Strategy, to ensure that our open spaces support the enhancement of health and well-being of our residents and communities; and

- Approval of a new Photographic and Filming Protocol, providing guidance on the use of images taken or used for publicity purposes, within Data Protection Act and safeguarding regulations.

Our joint working ventures continue and the Love Essex litter campaign, run with other local authorities and businesses, has won the Keep Britain Tidy 'Diamond Jubilee Partnership Award'.

Also, our Planning Policy Team has been short-listed for the Royal Town Planning Institute's 2015 Awards for Planning Excellence – Local Authority Planning Team of the Year. We wish them the best of luck for the awards announcement on 6 July 2015.

As always, I will be happy to take any questions from Members in respect of the work of the Executive and I am sure my Executive colleagues will be happy to contribute where appropriate."

88 RAYLEIGH AREA ACTION PLAN

Council considered the report of the Director seeking Members' approval of the Schedule of Modifications to the Rayleigh Area Action Plan (RAAP) Pre-Submission Document (November 2013) for consultation as part of the examination process.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning thanked officers for all their work on this plan and moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, that the schedule of modifications to the Rayleigh Area Action Plan pre-submission document be accepted for consultation.

He advised, in response to a Member concern relating to the omission from figure 8 on page 12.14 of the report of potential for traffic improvements at the top of the High Street, in the vicinity of the Hockley Road/Websters Way junction, that County Highways has undertaken traffic flow modelling of the high road in Rayleigh, a report of which is awaited. There was a general consensus that there would be merit in Council receiving a presentation on this forthcoming report.

Particular reference was made of the support given by retailers to the potential rationalisation of the taxi rank detailed on figure 8 mentioned above, which would result in more pedestrian space in the high street.

The Chairman of the Local Highways Panel (LHP), responding to a Member question relating to LHP funding for highway improvements in this part of the high street, confirmed that no decisions had yet been taken in respect of schemes that had been identified by the LHP as worthy of funding.

Resolved

- (1) That the Schedule of Modifications to the RAAP Pre-Submission Document (November 2013) be accepted for consultation as part of the examination process for a period of no less than six weeks.
- (2) That following this consultation, the representations received will be sent to the Planning Inspector to be considered before he finalises his report on the soundness of the RAAP.
- (3) That a presentation be made to Full Council on the County Highways report on traffic flow in Rayleigh High Street, once available. (Director)

89 ADOPTION OF THE ROCHFORD TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN

Council considered the report of the Director seeking Members' approval to adopt the Rochford Town Centre Area Action Plan as a Development Plan Document forming part of the Development Plan for Rochford District.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning thanked officers for all their work on this plan and moved a Motion, seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore, that the Rochford Area Action Plan be adopted.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, in response to a Member question relating to the nature of consultation, outlined in paragraph 3.10 of the report, confirmed that the Council had followed the statutory consultation process, in full. The Director also emphasised that arrangements for pre-submission consultation were advertised on the Council website, and were communicated to all relevant external organisations, to all those who had previously expressed an interest, to the Chambers of Trade and Parish Councils, as well as being reported by local media.

While some concern was expressed about the plan promoting cafés and restaurants in Market Square, Rochford, given the lack of disposable income in Rochford and associated decrease in local trade, and the possibility that this could attract more visitors to Rochford, which could be difficult to police, the view was also expressed that the Police maintain that a flourishing night life can deter anti-social behaviour as there are more people around. In addition, any café culture will take time to develop. It was also noted that this plan, like the Rayleigh plan, also proposes a reduction in the number of taxi ranks. No modifications had been made to the centre of Rochford for approximately 20 years.

Resolved

That the Rochford Area Action Plan be adopted. (Director)

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Chairman

Date

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