

The Executive – 20 June 2012

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **20 June 2012** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr T G Cutmore
Vice Chairman: Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr Mrs G A Lucas-Gill
Cllr M Maddocks

Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr M J Steptoe

VISITING

Cllr J D Griffin.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs J E McPherson.

OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren - Chief Executive
A Bugeja - Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward - Head of Finance
S Fowler - Head of Information and Customer Services
R Evans - Head of Environmental Services
J Bostock - Member Services Manager

120 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

121 PERFORMANCE REPORT ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 2012

The Executive reviewed the Performance Report on Key Performance Indicators.

Resolved

That the progress against key performance indicators for the fourth quarter of 2011/12, as set out in the report, be received.

122 PERFORMANCE REPORT ON KEY PROJECTS FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO MARCH 2012

The Executive reviewed the Performance Report on Key Projects.

It was noted that the Shop at My Local website was being rebranded and was to be relaunched. Notwithstanding this there had been an increase in website

hits and the number of shops involved. The scheme was provided through events such as the farmers markets.

Resolved

That the progress against key projects for the fourth quarter of 2011/12, as set out in the report, be received.

123 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS MADE BY FULL COUNCIL/THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive reviewed the Progress on Decisions schedule.

It was noted that reports on the position with regard to council tax benefits and the detail of the bid associated with funding of the weekly collection of residual waste from low raise and multi-residential accommodation would be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive.

Resolved

That the progress on decisions made by Full Council/The Executive, as set out in the schedule, be received.

124 CUSTOMER FEEDBACK UPDATE AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION STATISTICS 2011/12

The Executive considered the report of the Head Information and Customer Services on customer feedback and freedom of information statistics for 2011/12.

Members concurred with the observation of the Leader that the high number of compliments received was pleasing and should be the subject of a news release. The various sources of freedom of information requests was noted.

Resolved

That the customer feedback and freedom of information statistics for 2011/12, as set out in the report, be noted. A news release to be issued on the high number of compliments received. (HICS)

125 OPEN SPACES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on the use of this year's budget allocation.

Resolved

That this year's budget allocation is used to match fund a BMX track at Grove Woods, to resurface damaged footpaths and to top up match funding for the Canewdon Skateboard Park. (HES)

126 HOCKLEY WOODS CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on improvements to the Hockley Woods car park.

The view of the local Ward Members that a high quality more resilient tetragrid product would be preferable to the use of self-binding gravel as car park surface material was endorsed.

Recommended to Council

That the scheme of improvements be made to the Hockley Woods car park with adjustments made to the capital programme, as identified in the report, to facilitate the introduction of a resilient tetragrid product as surface material. (HES)

127 PLAY SPACES REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME 2012/13

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on the use of this year's budget allocation.

Resolved

That this year's budget allocation is used to provide new gates for play areas across the district; to make provision for new safety surfacing; to begin the rollout of new signage in accordance with industry best practice and to replace equipment at Canewdon public open space. (HES)

128 PET MEMORIAL AREA, CHERRY ORCHARD COUNTRY PARK

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on the construction of a pet memorial area within Cherry Orchard Country Park.

It was recognised that, given the variety of possibilities, the Portfolio Holder for the Environment in consultation with other Members, would need to give detailed consideration to the precise nature of memorial arrangements.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to noting that the Portfolio Holder for Environment, in consultation with other Members, will be giving detailed consideration to the precise nature of memorial arrangements, a pet memorial area be constructed within Cherry Orchard Country Park as detailed in the report.
- (2) That a capital allocation of £25,000 be included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. (HES)

129 THE QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE 2012

The Executive considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services on the nomination of three sites for the Queen Elizabeth II Field Challenge 2012.

Resolved

That the three sites identified in the report currently leased to Hawkwell Parish Council be nominated for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge 2012, on the basis of a non-charitable Deed of Dedication. (HES)

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved

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

130 PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE NEW GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Environmental Services setting out the recommendations of the Member Advisory Group with regard to the procurement of a new grounds maintenance contract.

Resolved

- (1) That the Council undertake its own restrictive tender process.
- (2) That alternative arrangements be made for delivery of the matters identified in paragraph 2.5 of the exempt report.
- (3) That, subject to available resources being found within the existing Grounds Maintenance budget, the new posts identified in paragraph 2.6 of the exempt report be included within the Open Spaces Team.
- (4) That officers further research the matters identified in paragraph 2.7 of the exempt report in order to reduce revenue costs. (HES)

131 BUSINESS RATES WRITE-OFF

The Executive considered the exempt report of the Head of Community Services on the writing off of outstanding business rates in relation to a premises in Rochford that had ceased trading.

Resolved

That the outstanding Business Rates in relation to the premises in Rochford identified in the exempt report, connected to a company which has ceased trading, be written off. (HCS)

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

Chairman

Date

If you would like these minutes in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.