

## **Transportation & Environmental Services (Special Meeting)**

### **25 May 2000**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Committee (Special Meeting)** held on **25 May 2000** when there were present:

D M Ford – Chairman

Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs J E Ford  
Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr C C Langlands  
Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr R A Pearson  
Cllr. M G B Starke  
Cllr P D Stebbing  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr D A Weir

#### **VISITING MEMBERS**

Cllr G Fox

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R Adams, Mrs J M Giles, D R Helson, Mrs L I V Phillips and S P Smith.

#### **SUBSTITUTES**

Cllr Mrs J Hall

#### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

D Brown	-	Environmental Protection Manager
M Goodman	-	Solicitor
Mrs M Martin	-	Committee Administrator

#### **165 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2000 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to revision to show that the motion under Minute 98(i) was seconded by Cllr D M Ford.

#### **166 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received its Terms of Reference.

**167 STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS**

The Meeting had been called by the Chairman of the Committee in view of concerns about recent leakage at the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works.

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care on whether to arrange a deputation to the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher MP, about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site. The Committee was shown a video recording of pump leakage which had occurred on the evening of Friday 19 May 2000 and subsequent clean up operations during Saturday 20 May 2000.

Prior to debate Members noted that, whilst Anglian Water had been invited to send a representative, no-one had been available. Mr Ripton of the Environment Agency was in attendance.

In addressing the Committee Mr Ripton indicated that-

- The Environment Agency was disappointed Anglian Water had not operated within the terms of its operating licence and may consider legal action on this aspect.
- Investigations had indicated that the pipe which connected the pump to the Stambridge storage tank had become disconnected.
- It was an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for waste to go on to public land.
- Bacteria and organisms would have been present during the leakage, although permanent damage was unlikely. The material in question should not be allowed to get out of control.
- Since the recent incident Anglian Water had done all that had been requested of them by the Environment Agency, including arrangements for the diversion of pipes, provision of bunding and the fitting of alarms/enhancement of the security system.

Responding to Member questions, Mr Ripton indicated that the plant at Stambridge continued to operate. There was no justification for stopping the processing activity, subject to the fault having been rectified and security arrangements enhanced at appropriate. Water samples were taken from the site the day after the spillage.

During debate a Member referred to a recent public meeting at which Anglian Water had been very contrite in explaining the background to

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the occurrence and proposals which had been and would be introduced to resolve problems.

Comment was made on the potential value of hearing the views of other persons/organisations involved with the locality and a motion was moved by Cllr P D Stebbing and seconded by Cllr J E Grey that the meeting be adjourned for five minutes to enable the Committee to ascertain the views of the public in the chamber. An amendment was moved by Cllr A Hosking and seconded by Cllr V H Leach that the meeting be adjourned until full reports have been received from both the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, at which point witnesses could be invited to present their views to the Committee. The amendment was lost on a show of hands. The original motion was agreed and the meeting was adjourned for a five minute period.

On reconvening the Committee agreed a motion moved by Cllr Hosking and seconded by Cllr V H Leach together with an amendment moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr A Hosking and it was:-

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That a letter be sent to Dr. Michael Clark MP setting out the District Council's concerns and asking that these be communicated to Mr Michael Meacher MP, Minister for the Environment. The letter to include the detail of recent occurrences and the expectation that action be taken by the Environment Agency and Anglian Water.
- (2) That the proposal to pursue a deputation to the Minister for the Environment be held in abeyance until responses have been received from both Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. (HHHCC)

The Meeting commenced at 5.30pm and closed at 6.55pm

Chairman

Date