

## **Council – 12 December 2006**

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Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **12 December 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr R A Amner	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr Mrs P Aves	Cllr D Merrick
Cllr C I Black	Cllr Mrs J A Mockford
Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher	Cllr P K Savill
Cllr J P Cottis	Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr S P Smith
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr D G Stansby
Cllr K J Gordon	Cllr Mrs M A Starke
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr K H Hudson	Cllr J Thomass
Cllr T Livings	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr C J Lumley	Cllr Mrs C A Weston
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley	Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, T E Goodwin, Mrs S A Harper, A J Humphries, C A Hungate, Mrs L Hungate and R A Oatham.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Internal Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Corporate Director (External Services)
S Scrutton	-	Head of Planning and Transportation
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

### **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, RAYLEIGH**

The Reverend Mike Lodge of Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh was in attendance to officiate for prayers and provide some detail on Holy Trinity and its activity. The Rayleigh Team Ministry covered three churches: Grove Wood (which meets at Grove Junior School), St Michael's and Holy Trinity. A great deal of history could be associated with Holy Trinity, the first Church having been established on the site in 1110 and older parts of the present building having been introduced soon after 1380.

The focus of church activity was around Christ's messages of love, salvation and hope. The last three months had seen a re-evaluation of the Church's purpose in terms of relationships with God, the church/local community and the wider world. A

key way forward is working closely with as many community groups as possible, including District and Town Councils in terms of their own aims and objectives.

### **438 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **439 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor T Livings declared a personal interest in the item on Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling by virtue of being a Member of the Salvation Army, which as an organisation had been one of the major objectors to the introduction of the associated gambling legislation. Councillor Mrs C A Weston declared a personal interest in the same item by virtue of employment with a company that contracts cleaners to betting premises.

### **440 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE**

The Chairman made specific mention of a number of individuals:-

- Former District Councillor Maureen Vince was thanked for all her hard work as Chairman of the Joint Transfer Steering Group set up to consider the methodology associated with the large scale voluntary transfer of housing.
- Congratulations were extended to former County and District Councillor Richard Boyd, Chief Executive of Disability Essex, who had received a Judges Award for achievement by a RADAR member at the People of the Year Human Rights Awards.
- Former District Councillor John Gibson was congratulated on his involvement with the successful appeal for the purchase of a pinpoint machine and the obtaining of other advanced technical equipment for Southend Hospital.
- Helen Collins, who was leaving the Authority, was thanked for all her contributions as Civic and Public Relations Officer.

Members joined the Chairman in extending thanks to Helen Collins for all her work. Each Chairman had been notably well served and Helen had been very effective and efficient and an ambassador in her own right.

The Chief Executive advised that the police had now cancelled a planned “neighbourhood policing review” to be held at Rayleigh Police Station in view of the short notice given. A re-arranged event is likely to be scheduled for the New Year.

### 441 COMMITTEE MINUTES AND REPORTS

Council received the minutes and considered the reports of Committees/ referrals as follows:-

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(1) Policy, Finance and Strategic Performance	7 November 2006	376-381
(2) Environmental Services	14 November 2006	382-390
(3) Leisure, Tourism and Heritage	16 November 2006	391-398

#### (a) Declarations of Interest (Minute 392/06)

It was noted that Councillor J P Cottis had declared a personal interest in the item on Holmes Place Progress Report by virtue of being a user of the Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Hawkwell, not the Rayleigh Leisure Centre.

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(4) Licensing	20 November 2006	399-401

#### (a) Consultation on the Draft Statement of Licensing Principles for Gambling

Council considered the report of the Licensing Committee on the Draft Statement of Licensing Principals for Gambling.

In presenting this item, the Corporate Director (External Services) advised that Appendix 2 of the Committee's report reflected exactly the amendments to the draft policy being recommended by the Licensing Committee.

Responding to questions from a Member relating to travelling fairs, the Corporate Director (External Services) advised that officers would confirm whether it is the case that a licence is required for the land on which a fair is held.

#### Resolved

- (1) That, after the Licensing Committee's consideration of Appendix D to the officer's report, premises licences be not issued in respect of casinos.
- (2) That, subject to the inclusion of the amendments set out at Appendix 2 of the Licensing Committee's report, the Statement of Licensing Policy (Gambling Act 2005) be approved.

- (3) That the Head of Environmental Services be authorised to incorporate any inconsequential changes on an ongoing basis, under advice to Members of the Licensing Committee. (CD(ES))

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(5) Review	21 November 2006	402-403
(6) Planning Policy and Transportation	28 November 2006	404-411
(7) Development Control	30 November 2006	412-415
(8) Review	5 December 2006	416-420
(9) Policy, Finance and Strategic Performance	7 December 2006	421-432

### **(a) Members Roles'**

Council considered the report of the Policy, Finance and Strategic Performance Committee on introduction of the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council and key activities relating to Members' roles.

Responding to questions, the Chief Executive advised that:-

- It would be possible to indicate that key activities are indicative rather than compulsory.
- There would be no consequences associated with not introducing key activities. However, clarification of the type of activities associated with a role could assist prospective and new Councillors in developing an understanding of roles, as well as the general public.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council be introduced with effect from the 2007/08 Municipal Year.
- (2) That the Members' roles, as outlined in the Appendix to the officer report to the Committee, be agreed for inclusion in the Constitution and other relevant publications with effect from the 2007/08 Municipal Year, subject to:-
- Inclusion of the sub-heading 'key activities' under all main headings and an indication that the activities are indicative rather than compulsory.
  - Provision for the role of Deputy Group Leader, the wording for which will be 'to support the Group Leader in his/her duties and to deputise when necessary and appropriate'. (CE)

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(10) Appeals	8 December 2006	433-435
(11) Appeals	11 December 2006	436-437

### 442 SETTING THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2007/08

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on determining the tax base for each individual Parish or Town Council area within the District.

It was noted that officers were reviewing the wording of publications associated with Council Tax with a view to ensuring that they are as interesting/easily understandable as possible.

#### Resolved

- (1) That the method of calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2007/08 be agreed.
- (2) That pursuant to the officer report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by the Rochford District Council as its Council Tax Base for the year 2007/2008 shall be in the following parts:-

ASHINGDON	1217.16	
BARLING MAGNA	626.16	
CANEWDON	547.53	
FOULNESS ISLAND	66.50	
GREAT WAKERING	1965.28	
HAWKWELL	4498.42	
HOCKLEY	3790.99	
HULLBRIDGE	2350.16	
PAGLESHAM	103.44	
RAWRETH	428.89	
RAYLEIGH	12035.11	
ROCHFORD	2937.93	
STAMBRIDGE	230.65	
SUTTON	53.41	
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	30851.63	CD(ES)

### 443 PARKING CHARGES

Council considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation on the current arrangements relating to parking charges and suggesting Members consider a small increase in charges for 2007/08.

During discussion a Member observed that the outcome of the planning appeal associated with the Rayleigh supermarket site could have implications

for car parking. A Member made specific reference to the Approach Car Park, Rayleigh, which was in their Ward and could be seen as a location that is used for commuter parking. Observation had identified that approximately thirty spaces were vacant each day. If they were used, this would equate to a sum of approximately £25,000 per annum. Some commuters were choosing to park in side roads, which could be irritating to residents and had caused access problems for refuse collection vehicles and, in one instance, an ambulance. Railtrack was currently charging £4.00 for its own car park, which was better sited for commuters.

Another Member referred to information that indicated Railtrack would be increasing its parking charges with effect from 2 January 2007. Reference was also made to the fact that the Authority was now working to a balanced five-year budget strategy and income would be lost if there was not a relatively modest increase in car parking charges. Any increase would not be implemented until July 2007 and charges would not then be reviewed until 2009. Account should also be taken of the value of free parking on Saturday afternoons to local shops and to the possibility that the handy-man, care and repair, elderly gardening and graffiti removal services together with the cleaner, greener environment project could be at risk if there was no increase.

It was observed that there could be no guarantee that the retention of existing charges at the Approach Car Park would increase usage by commuters and that the last Comprehensive Performance Assessment process had identified the merit of reviewing car park charges on a regular basis.

Responding to questions, the Head of Planning and Transportation advised that car park payment machines were capable of adjustment to suit a number of permutations.

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved by Councillor T G Cutmore and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn. An amendment that the proposed revised charges be introduced subject to deferment of a decision in respect of the Approach Car Park, Rayleigh was lost on a show of hands and it was:-

### **Resolved**

- (1) That a scheme of revised parking charges based on the structure set out at the Appendix to these minutes be implemented with effect from July 2007.
- (2) That free parking be retained on Saturday afternoons. (HPT)

Note: Councillor C I Black wished to be recorded as voting against the above decision.

Councillor C J Lumley wished to be recorded as abstaining from the above decision.

**444 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR THE ROCHFORD DISTRICT**

Council considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation on adoption of the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The SCI document had been considered in detail at a number of meetings and previously agreed for submission to the Planning Inspectorate. The Statement had been developed within the statutory process associated with the Local Development Framework, which had identified that it would be in place in January 2007. Non adoption of the Statement would mean that the Authority would have to go through the statutory processes (including consultation) again. Such an approach would have implications for achieving core strategy and other development plan documentation.
- It would be possible to produce a short explanatory leaflet of up to four sides to aid public understanding of the Statement. It would also be possible to provide contact telephone details on both the Statement and associated explanatory leaflet. A mechanism could be set up to ensure that Members are consulted on the draft leaflet, which would be published in conjunction with the Statement.
- The planning delivery grant is designed to reward each plan within the Local Development Framework that is on target.
- It should be possible to include explanatory captions with the pictures in the Statement document.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Statement of Community Involvement for the Rochford District be amended as recommended by the Planning Inspectorate, subject to:-
  - The inclusion of explanatory captions with the pictures in the Statement.
  - The provision of an easily understood short explanatory leaflet (the draft of which is to be approved in consultation with Members) and the inclusion of telephone contact points on both the leaflet and the Statement.
- (2) That the amended Statement of Community Involvement be adopted by the Council and put into use as the Adopted Rochford District Statement of Community Involvement 2006. (HPT)

Prior to the close of the meeting the Chairman wished all Members a Happy Christmas and New Year. The Salvation Army had invited all Members to attend its Christmas Eve celebrations at the Citadel, Rayleigh.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....



**APPENDIX**

**Car Park Charges for 2007/08**

	<b>2006/07 £</b>	<b>2007/08 £</b>
<b>Old Ship Lane</b>		
- up to 1 hour	0.50	0.60
- up to 2 hours	1.00	1.20
<b>Websters Way/Mill Hall</b>		
- up to 1 hour	0.50	0.60
- up to 2 hours	1.00	1.20
- up to 3 hours	1.50	1.80
- up to 4 hours	2.00	2.40
<b>Mixed</b>		
- up to 1 hour	0.50	0.60
- up to 2 hours	1.00	1.20
- up to 3 hours	1.50	1.80
- up to 4 hours	2.00	2.40
- up to 5 hours	2.50	3.00
- All day	3.50	4.00
- Weekly	16.50	Delete
<b>Approach</b>		
- Day ticket	3.50	4.00
<b>Season tickets</b>		
- Quarterly	175.00	220.00
- Annual	580.00	720.00
<b>Admin Fee for refund of season ticket</b>	25.00	30.00