

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 17 June 2003

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **17 June 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr C A Hungate (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Cllr C I Black
Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr K H Hudson

Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr D A Weir

VISITING MEMBERS

Cllrs Mrs T J Capon, C R Morgan, D G Stansby and Mrs M J Webster.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T E Goodwin and P K Savill.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs P A Capon and T G Cutmore.

OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
G Woolhouse	- Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
A Bugeja	- Head of Legal Services
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICER PRESENT

K Bristow	- District Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
-----------	---

ALSO ATTENDING

P Gibbs	Anglian Water Services
J Mitchell	Anglian Water Services
A Bates	Stambridge Parish Council
T Coulson	Stambridge Parish Council
D Flynn	Stambridge Parish Council
C Hayes	Stambridge Parish Council
J Hayes	Stambridge Parish Council
D Smith	Sludgewatch

272 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2003 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

273 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr P A Capon declared a personal interest in item 6 by virtue of living in Stambridge and Cllr Mrs T J Capon also declared a personal interest in item 6 by virtue of living in Stambridge and being a Member of Stambridge Parish Council.

274 ANGLIAN WATER SERVICES – LIAISON ISSUES

The Committee welcomed representatives from Anglian Water Services who had been invited back to discuss a project plan and timetable of action for the Rochford Sewage Treatment Works.

Odour Controls at Rochford Sewage Treatment Works

The representatives from Anglian Water confirmed that a recent technical evaluation with respect to building a sludge treatment plant in Southend on Sea had not uncovered any obstacles and that capital funding had been agreed in principle. As a result, a preliminary planning meeting had been held with Officers from Southend on Sea Borough Council. It would not be possible to give the Committee an indication of timescale for ceasing use of Rochford Sewage Treatment Works for the treatment of Southend sewage because the project was dependent on the outcome of the planning process.

All odour control units had now been installed at the Rochford Sewage Treatment Works and were fully functional.

Members expressed concern that no timetable or project plan was forthcoming, despite Anglian Water representatives having agreed in March to supply both at this meeting. On a motion moved by Cllr C A Hungate and seconded by Mrs R Brown it was:-

Resolved

That the Anglian Water representatives be invited to attend a meeting of this Committee on 21 October to update Members on the Southend planning application and to provide a timetable for ceasing use of Rochford Sewage Treatment Works for the treatment of Southend sewage. (HHHCC).

Members believed it would be beneficial for representatives of Stambridge Parish Council and Sludgewatch to also attend the October meeting of this Committee.

On a motion moved by Cllr T G Cutmore and seconded by Cllr C A Hungate it was further:-

Resolved

That representatives from Stambridge Parish Council and Sludgewatch be invited to attend a meeting of this Committee on 21 October. (HHHCC)

Surface Water Flooding Problems

Responding to a Member enquiry, Anglian Water representatives confirmed that modifications to the manholes had now been completed at the Tower Caravan Park, Hullbridge, and work would soon commence aimed at addressing problems at the Esplanade.

Members were also informed that, with respect to the flooding problems associated with the Kimberley Road pumping station in Barling, provision for an alternative pumping station had been made in Anglian Water's capital plan. Negotiations were being undertaken with the associated landowner.

The Anglian Water representatives agreed to provide Members with an update on these issues at the October meeting.

275 OVERALL WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive outlining the 2003/2004 work programme for this Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Resolved

That this Committee resolves to note the progress made over the past 12 months and agree its 2003/2004 work programme as now set out in Appendix 2, including the work programmes of its Sub-Committees. (CE)

276 MAGNOLIA ROAD, HAWKWELL – REPORT ON CURRENT SITUATION

The Committee considered the report of the Area Manager, Highways & Transportation referring Members to sources of information and discussions that had taken place regarding the above location and putting forward a recommendation following the matters discussed at the Committee meeting of 17 April 2003.

It was the consensus of the Committee that, as the informal consultation on the various options for Magnolia Road had proved inconclusive, with no unanimous support for any of the options, no action should be taken to restrict vehicular movements in Magnolia Road.

On a motion moved by Cllr P A Capon and seconded by Cllr Mrs R Brown, it was:-

Recommended to Environmental Services Committee

That no action be taken by the Highway Authority to restrict vehicular movements in Magnolia Road as it is a private street. (County Highways)

277 OUR ENVIRONMENT BEST VALUE REVIEW – TERMS OF REFERENCE AND WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing details of the terms of reference and proposed work programme for the 'Our Environment' Best Value Review.

Resolved

That the terms of reference and arrangements for the 'Our Environment' Best Value Review, as set out in the report, be agreed. (HPS)

278 SERAS 2

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Members' views on the second edition of a consultation paper, "The Future Development of Air Transport in the United Kingdom: South East", commonly referred to as SERAS 2.

It was the consensus of the Committee that no further comment should be made in respect of the consultation and that this Council should offer its support to Huntingdonshire District Council in objecting to any airport development at Alconbury, given that there did not appear to be any significant differences between the Alconbury and Southend Airport facilities.

Recommended to Environmental Services Committee

- (1) That no further comment be made with respect to the SERAS 2 consultation.
- (2) That this Council offers support to Huntingdonshire District Council in objecting to any airport development at Alconbury. (HPS)

279 VILLAGE AND TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION SCHEMES

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking clarification from Members with respect to a financial issue regarding the Hullbridge and Hockley regeneration schemes.

Members were perturbed by the increase in estimated costs for these

schemes and, although not suggesting any impropriety, sought clarification of the reasons behind this.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the contract for work carried out on the enhancement schemes, Officers confirmed that the schemes had been conducted in partnership between this Council and Essex County Council under Contract 2000. Members were concerned about the difficulties associated with monitoring this type of contract and considered that there would be merit in inviting the County Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Cllr R Bass, to a meeting of this Committee to answer questions relating to these contracts.

On a motion moved by Cllr P F A Webster and seconded by Cllr T G Cutmore it was:-

Recommended to Environmental Services Committee

That the schemes at Hullbridge and Hockley are completed and that up to £5,000 be allocated from within the capital programme to achieve this.
(CD(F&ES))

It was further:-

Resolved

- (1) That a report be considered at the next meeting of this Committee summarising sources of income and expenditure for the Hockley and Hullbridge enhancement schemes.
- (2) That a further report be considered by this Committee on how this Council can financially monitor Essex County Council contracts, how to identify problems and what improvements might be made.
- (3) That the County Portfolio Holder for Transportation, Cllr R Bass, be invited to a meeting of this Committee to answer questions relating to Contract 2000. (CD(F&ES))

280 KERBSIDE RECYCLING EXPANSION UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) providing Members with details of this year's 'minor' expansion of the kerbside recycling scheme.

Responding to a Member enquiry it was confirmed that the blue boxes to be ordered would be the same as those currently used by this Council.

In response to a Member concern expressed about the merit of continuing to empty green bins throughout the winter when garden waste could potentially

Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 17 June 2003

be scarce Officers confirmed that monitoring would occur and that residents would be consulted on any alternative collection arrangements.

Resolved

That Members note the content of this report, with particular respect to the extra households to be included, and the implementation programme that has been planned. (CD(F&ES))

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Chairman

Date