

Council – 21 October 2014

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **21 October 2014** when there were present:-

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

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs C I Black, P A Capon, Mrs T J Capon, Mrs A V Hale, J Hayter, B T Hazlewood, M Maddocks, Mrs C M Mason, J R F Mason, Mrs J A Mockford and I H Ward.

OFFICERS PRESENT

A Dave – Chief Executive
A Bugeja – Head of Legal, Estates and Member Services
Y Woodward – Head of Finance
R Evans – Head of Environmental Services
L Bliss – Senior Corporate Communications Officer
J Bostock – Member Services Manager

It was noted that agenda item 14, Homelessness Reviews, had been withdrawn.

217 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2014 and the Extraordinary Meetings held on 4 September and 30 September 2014 were approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman, subject to the renaming of Ward 2 under Resolution (3) of Minute 175 of the Minutes of 4 September to read 'Roche South and Roche North'.

218 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman extended congratulations on behalf of the Council to Rayleigh Town Council for having been awarded Council of the Year by the Essex Association of Local Councils and to Vanessa Byford from Rayleigh for having received the main award at the recent Southend Hospital Heroes Awards.

The Chairman had been honoured to have attended many events and functions, including the Rayleigh Windmill Heritage Arts Festival; the Rochford Arts Trail; MacMillan Coffee Mornings in Rochford and Rayleigh; the 125th anniversary of the railway coming to Rayleigh; the opening of the Rayleigh Adult Community Learning Centre and a variety of school events.

Particular thanks were extended to Members for supporting the recent Chairman's Charity Golf Day. The Chairman had recently visited Dolphin Court to present a cheque for £650.

219 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Council received the Minutes of Executive and Committee meetings held between the period 19 July to 10 October 2014.

220 REPORTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEES TO COUNCIL

(a) Training

Council considered the report of the Standards Committee containing recommendations on allocating funding from the Member training budget for Members to attend certain externally run conferences/training courses and charging other authorities for places on Rochford District Council Member training courses.

Resolved

- (1) That an amount of up to £1,500 be identified each year out of the Member training budget (£7,000 for 2014/15) for individual Members to be able to request attendance at external conferences/training courses, the allocation of such training to be subject to the agreement of all Group Leaders.
- (2) That a charge be set of £45 per attendee for neighbouring authorities for places on certain courses in the Rochford District Council Member Learning and Development Programme. (HLEMS)

(b) Independent Remuneration Panel

Council considered the report of the Executive containing a recommendation on adopting a Remuneration Scheme for 2015/16.

Resolved

That the Remuneration Scheme for 2015/16 proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel be adopted. (HLEMS)

221 REPORT ON URGENT DECISIONS

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

222 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 third ordinary Council meeting for the 2014/15 municipal year and I would like to welcome all Members.

Since the last meeting I am delighted to announce that:-

- We held a very successful Parish Summit on 31 July.
- We have also held two Flood Forum meetings, on 19 August and 1 October. The work already undertaken has contributed positively and we are sure that the recent heavy rain would have had a far greater impact on sites previously affected, had this work not been carried out. Particular thanks should be extended to Cllr K H Hudson and officers for their contributions.
- Our fifth Rochford Art Trail took place between 18 and 27 September. This very popular event once again brought more visitors into the town and District.

Since my last report to Council, the Executive has met on two occasions, when:-

- The process for awarding Voluntary Sector grants for 2015/16 was agreed.
- A decision was made to retain the existing 3 bin collection scheme for recycling.
- The release of capital for re-surfacing and drainage works was agreed.

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

- Identifying a potential site for a new recycling centre, which will be included within the 2014 Allocation Plan.
- Allocating funds to allow for the Council's assets to be maintained and resurveyed for asbestos.
- Subscribing to Visit Essex for a period of three years, to assist in the marketing of the District as a tourist destination - a key priority within the Corporate Plan.
- Approving expenditure for the installation of surfacing and fencing for play equipment in Pooles Lane, Hullbridge.

Our budget setting process for 2015/16 is well underway and I would like to thank the Members that attended the Awayday on 4 October. Our next Awayday will be held on 24 January 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."

223 SAFER LORRIES, SAFER CYCLING PLEDGE

Members considered the report of the Head of Planning and Transportation on whether the Council should support the London Cycling Campaign's 'Safer Lorries, Safer Cycling' Pledge in principle.

In support of in principle endorsement reference was made to the high number of vehicles on the roads and to the fact that the District Council's new refuse vehicles would be exceeding the standards set out by the London Cycling Campaign with no additional resource implications. Whilst there were not currently many cycling routes within the District, route availability was being given consideration by the Local Highways Panel.

Against lending support to the pledge reference was made to the rural nature of the District, which had many lanes utilised by agricultural vehicles. The Council should avoid giving out messages that could be open to interpretation and introduce logistical and enforcement issues.

Reference was made to the sterling cycling safety work undertaken by Junior Schools within the District and to the value of an emphasis on road improvements.

On a show of hands it was:-

Resolved

That no action be taken on this item. (HPT)

224 POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES REVIEW

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on the review of polling districts and places within the District.

It was recognised that a lot of work had gone into the development of proposals. Further work would be required once the outcome of the current Local Government Boundary Commission Review had been finalised. Members noted that Cllr Mrs J A Mockford had not provided comment on behalf of Paglesham Parish Council.

Responding to questions, the Chief Executive advised that officers were considering whether an alternative could be found to the utilisation of the site manager's office at the Dome Caravan Park, Hockley, as a polling station.

Resolved

That the final proposals for changes to polling arrangements in the District, as summarised in the report, be agreed. (CE)

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

Chairman

Date

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