

East Area Committee – 8 April 2008

Minutes of the meeting of the **East Area Committee** held on **8 April 2008** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr C G Seagers
Vice-Chairman: Cllr T E Goodwin

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr K J Gordon
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr Mrs P Shaw	-	Ashingdon Parish Council
Cllr V Newby	-	Canewdon Parish Council
Cllr D Whittingham	-	Paglesham Parish Council
Cllr Mrs M S Vince	-	Rochford Parish Council
Cllr P A Capon	-	Stambridge Parish Council
L Harvey	-	Essex County Council
S A Fallon	-	Essex County Council

OFFICERS PRESENT

Y Woodward	-	Head of Finance, Audit and Performance Management
J Bourne	-	Head of Community Services
J Bostock	-	Committee Services Manager

133 AREA COMMITTEE – INITIAL BUSINESS

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J P Cottis (Rochford District Council), Cllr B Wright (Great Wakering Parish Council) and Mr B Summerfield (Sutton Parish Council).

Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

At this point the Committee adjourned the formal meeting to move into the Community Forum to hear contributions from members of the public.

134 COMMUNITY FORUM

A document summarising questions received in advance of the meeting is appended.

There was further reference to the question from Mrs L Garner of Great Wakering under the Highways Spotlight item later in the meeting.

Mr C Hayes of Great Stambridge raised the question of whether anything could be done to help Stambridge with problems being experienced with Anglian Water. Anglian Water had not attended a recent Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works liaison meeting and no longer passed information on its activities to the Parish Council. The Council's consultants had previously criticised odour modelling undertaken by Anglian Water.

It was noted that the East Area update document provided some information on the current position. Reference was made to the fact that problems of odour had been experienced for almost twenty years and it appeared that Anglian Water would only approach the Parish Council when this suited its own organisational objectives. Since April this year odour issues seemed to have worsened, particularly late in the evenings and at weekends. Odours could mean that some local businesses, such as restaurants, lose business. Stambridge Parish Councillor P A Capon asked for clarification on why a District Council Officer had not been present at the last liaison meeting.

The Committee agreed that it was very disappointing to note that, despite commitments to do so, Anglian Water was not communicating with the Parish Council. The company's public relations appeared very poor. Cllr T G Cutmore advised that he would take concerns forward in his role as Leader of the Council, including liaison with the media as appropriate. It may be that there will be a stage when it will be appropriate to ask the District Council's Review Committee to consider the issues.

At this point the Committee re-convened into formal session.

135 SPOTLIGHT ISSUES – HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE EAST AREA

Lyn Harvey advised that a number of basic highway repairs were underway. Larger schemes from the Highway Improvement Programme included the surfacing of Lark Hall Road, Canewdon and Shopland Road, Sutton, and kerb and surfacing work at Star Lane, Great Wakering. Footway work was being undertaken at Weir Pond Road and Lindfield Road, Rochford. Schemes to be included in the Locally Determined Programme for the forthcoming year would be agreed in June. Lyn circulated a highways helpline card.

With regard to the question from Mrs L Garner of Great Wakering, Lyn confirmed that any issues would require sensitive consideration. A current Parish Council 'wish list' included the provision of off-road parking at this location, so the question could be considered in that context.

Responding to questions, Lyn advised that:-

- Concern that stalls at Rochford Market Square were encroaching onto the footway would be investigated.
- Officers would investigate the position on the allocation of Section 106 monies associated with planning permission for a Sainsbury's Local store at Rochford in terms of its application to Rochford.

- Whilst Essex County Council was similar to other authorities in not automatically filling potholes that were under 50mm in depth, each case was considered on its merits. For example, potholes near schools would be repaired at an earlier stage.

Thanks were extended to Lyn for the successful introduction of refuge points along Poynters Lane, Great Wakering.

136 EAST AREA UPDATE

The Committee received the East Area Update.

Speed of Traffic down West Street and South Street, Rochford (08/07)

Further checks could be undertaken at the Town Centre end of West Street.

Obstruction of Public Footpath through Boat Yard, Paglesham East End (11/07)

An enforcement officer had now visited this site and instituted correspondence.

Situation regarding adoption of the access road to the Somerfield development in Rochford (22/07)

It would be of value for residents to have a clear understanding of the arrangements for keeping the two roads that access the development in a tidy state.

Ruts and ridges in the road surface in Ashingdon Road in the vicinity of Hall Road/Dalys Road (23/07)

The Parish Council had been pleased with the work at this location.

Replacement of plastic banding on bollards outside the White Hart, Great Wakering High Street (37/07)

The introduction of fluorescent tape was imminent.

Reassessment of bus service provision from Stambridge earlier in the mornings and later at night (4/08)

Officers will be following up actions associated with this item as necessary.

Speed limits in Rochford Town (9/08)

It was noted that the established traffic speed would need to be near to 20 miles per hour for a 20 mile per hour restriction to be respected by drivers. Other traffic management measures also needed to be considered for this location. As a strategic route, any decisions would need the authorisation of the County Cabinet Member for Highways. It could be appropriate for

considerations relating to speeding at this location to be included in the consultation work being carried out in relation to the Town Centre Master plan.

During discussion on the update, reference was made to the need to replace a weight restriction sign at the Apton Hall Lane/Stambridge Road junction that had been previously been removed. A second restriction sign along Apton Hall Lane was only partially visible due to an encroaching hedgerow.

The meeting closed at 8.27pm.

Chairman

Date

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APPENDIX

Question	Response
<p>Mrs L Garner, Great Wakering</p> <p>The parking of cars in respect of houses 1 – 6 Silchester Corner, Great Wakering, is an eyesore. When Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins visited the area she said that there were 14 cars outside houses 1 – 6, some of which were parked on the green. Is there a possibility that half of the green could be taken away to give the car owners more room to park?</p>	<p>It is understood that the cars referred to are parked on a wide highway verge that fronts the houses at Silchester Corner. Any proposal for paving a section of the green verge would need to be submitted to Essex County Council, the Highway Authority, for agreement, but is unlikely this proposal would be considered as a priority for funding.</p>
<p>Mr M Bull, Rochford</p> <p>With regard to the lowering of the kerb on the pathway at the entrance to Norman House, one side has been done but the other side needs to be done.</p>	<p>A response will be provided on this and reported to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Mr M Bull, Rochford</p> <p>Is there a manned number that can be rung out of office hours in respect of fly tipping to report same as it is becoming a problem on country roads?</p>	<p>If there is a particular occurrence of fly tipping that is discovered out of office hours and it is deemed of an urgent nature that cannot wait until the office reopens, then the out of hours careline number (01268 527317) should be used.</p> <p>The careline has contact numbers for staff working for the Council's street cleansing contractor who can then action its removal. The careline also has contact details of various District Council staff for use if necessary.</p>
<p>Mr M Bull, Rochford</p> <p>Was any consultation over the starting times for the bus pass carried out by the Council with interested parties?</p>	<p>A response would be provided on this and reported to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Mr M Bull, Rochford</p> <p>What will the Council policy be on stray dogs out of office hours now it is their responsibility and not the Police.</p>	<p>The District Council has a contract in place where a local company will collect stray dogs between the hours of 8.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday. With regard to stray dogs being noticed outside these hours, the Council has an arrangement in place whereby the</p>

	person noticing the stray dog can take it to Medivet 24 hours a day. If the person considers the dog to be dangerous (i.e. they feel intimidated by its behaviour) then they can contact the Police whose responsibility it would be to deal with the matter under the Dangerous Dogs Guidance.
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