

## **Community Services Committee – 1 April 2003**

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **1 April 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr K A Gibbs (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr T E Goodwin  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate  
Cllr C C Langlands  
Cllr Mrs J R Lumley

Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr J M Pullen  
Cllr P K Savill  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince  
Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R A Amner and Mrs M J Webster.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	Chief Executive
S Clarkson	Head of Revenue and Housing Management
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health and Community Care
D Timson	Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
M Martin	Committee Administrator

### **163 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **164 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr C C Langlands declared a personal interest in the item on Water Meters in Council Property by virtue of being the owner of a water meter in a property formerly owned by the Council. Cllr C C Langlands also declared a prejudicial interest in the item on Land at Worcester Drive, Rayleigh by virtue of the fact that he resides in that road and advised that he would leave the meeting during its debate.

### **165 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

#### **(1) Holmes Place Progress Report**

The Committee considered the report of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 March 2003.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Mill Hall be renamed "The Mill (Arts and Events Centre)".
- (2) That the Council's crest be relocated from the front of the Mill building to the side. (CD(F&ES)/Holmes Place)

### **(2) Best Value Review – Emergency Planning**

The Committee considered the report of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 March 2003.

With regard to proposed actions to address flooding, reference was made to a difference between the observation in the report that the Council should maintain the current position of providing sandbags for the elderly and vulnerable and a recent press article indicating that the Council did not make such provision. Reference was also made to a Council leaflet on flood advice which appeared to contradict the position set out in the report.

Members noted that the cost of issuing the leaflet originally had been £400, less than stated in the officer's report, but that the cost of printing an insert to be distributed via the Council's newspaper would be negligible.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the action set out at Appendix D of the report of the Chief Executive be agreed (including the introduction of a budget provision of up to £3000 from 2003/04 to extend current sandbag arrangements).
- (2) That Full Council be asked to establish an Emergency Planning Sub-Committee with appropriate executive powers.
- (3) That an insert to the existing leaflet on flood advice be prepared detailing the Council's custom and practice with regard to sandbag provision for the elderly and vulnerable at minimum cost.
- (4) That upon reprinting the leaflet, the text should be expanded to include the Council's practices with regard to helping the elderly and vulnerable in connection with sandbag provision. (CE)

### **(3) Woodlands Strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 13 March 2003.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Woodlands Management Strategy and the associated Action Plan be adopted
- (2) That Officers report back with the finalised Woodlands Grant Scheme documents.
- (3) That progress reports on the Action Plan be brought back to the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis.

- (4) That a Press Release be issued relating to the Woodlands Management Strategy. (CD(F&ES))

### **166 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

The Committee noted the progress on decisions and the following responses to Member questions :-

#### **Pigeons – Rayleigh High Street**

Officers confirmed that the Rayleigh Chamber of Trade had been approached more than once regarding the assistance they required to carry out proofing works. As no response had been received, officers recommended that the project be dropped. Members requested that a Press Release to this effect be issued.

#### **Resolved**

That a Press Release be issued indicating that as the Rayleigh Chamber of Trade had failed to contact the District Council in respect of pigeon proofing works, the project had been dropped. (HHHCC)

#### **Caravan Site Licensing**

The vacant post had now been filled and it was anticipated that once the officer had commenced work with the Council, a site progress inspection would be undertaken.

#### **CCTV Funding in Local Shopping Parades**

Revised proposals for CCTV cameras in Hockley, Rochford Market Square and Hullbridge had been considered by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 18 March 2003 and it was envisaged the cameras would be installed by June 2003.

#### **Proposed Designation of Public Places in terms of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in designated public places) Regulations 2001**

The Police had agreed to be part of the consultation process and Officers were in dialogue with them.

#### **Unfit House**

The situation in respect of the demolition of this property would be checked within the next few weeks and appropriate action taken.

#### **Leisure Contract – Holmes Place**

A Press Release would be issued relating to the availability of a Leisure Card.

#### **Letting Policy**

A teacher would be defined as a 'key worker' as they are employed by the local authority. It was anticipated that on a site such as the Park School where outline planning consent had been granted and where the County Council was the landowner, that key worker housing would be provided.

Members further noted that the Council would give consideration to an applicant if written authority had been received from an employer stating that no re-location package existed and that the person had insufficient income to rent in the private sector or purchase their own property.

### **Former Play Area at Tylney Avenue, Rochford**

Three Housing Associations had been invited to submit outline proposals and Estuary and Swan had responded. Details of the proposal would be brought to this Committee in June.

## **167 WATER METERS IN COUNCIL PROPERTY**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which invited Members to consider allowing all tenants to apply to the Essex & Suffolk Water Company for the installation of a water meter.

Members noted that:-

- the former Community Services Committee at its meeting held on 9 June 1998 had resolved that tenants of one and two bedroom properties would be able to make application for the installation of a water meter.
- Tenants of three and four bedroom properties had been excluded as it had been considered that it might have proved to be a more expensive method of paying for water, should the property be relet to a larger family.
- All new properties had metered water supply to encourage responsible use of water and consideration should now be given to encouraging existing users to conserve water.

### **Resolved**

That tenants of all types of property other than sheltered housing be given permission to make application to the Essex & Suffolk Water Company for the installation of a water meter. (HRHM)

## **168 OUTCOME OF THE HERITAGE LOTTERY BID – RAYLEIGH WINDMILL**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) which advised Members of the rejection of the Heritage Lottery Bid for Rayleigh Windmill.

Members noted that written notification of the refusal had been received by the Council on 11 March 2003. Two reasons had been given, namely:-

- that the scheme was not accurately costed, and
- that the development of the museum had not been sufficiently and thoroughly examined.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That Officers meet with the Heritage Lottery Fund Development Team at the earliest opportunity, to clarify the reasons for refusal and examine potential ways forward to progress this project.
- (2) That a Windmill Sub-Committee, comprising four Members, be established to consider the options available for the Council and to come forward with a recommended plan of action for securing the future of the Windmill and the adjoining area. (CD(F&ES))

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **Resolved**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 or Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

#### **169 LAND – KELVEDON CLOSE, RAYLEIGH**

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which sought agreement for the valuation and disposal of a piece of land.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That a valuation of the land at Market Value be obtained.
- (2) That the land be sold at Market Value. (HRHM)

#### **170 LAND – WORCESTER DRIVE, RAYLEIGH**

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which sought agreement for the valuation and subsequent disposal of a piece of land.

### **Resolved**

That an independent valuation of the land at current Market Value be obtained and reported back to the Committee. (HRHM)

The meeting closed at 7.59 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

