

## **Council – 24 October 2000**

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Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of **Council** held on **28 September 2000** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson  
Cllr Mrs S J Lemon

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman

Cllr R Adams  
Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr C I Black  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr P A Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr D M Ford  
Cllr Mrs J E Ford  
Cllr G Fox  
Cllr Mrs J M Giles  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr Mrs J Hall  
Cllr D R Helson  
Cllr Mrs J Helson  
Cllr A Hosking

Cllr Mrs L Hungate  
Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr T Livings  
Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr G A Mockford  
Cllr C R Morgan  
Cllr R A Pearson  
Cllr Mrs L I V Phillips  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr P D Stebbing  
Cllr R E Vingoe  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr P F A Webster  
Cllr D A Weir  
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs T Livings, P J Morgan and M G B Starke.

### **288. ALBERT JONES COURT, ROCHFORD**

Council was informed of correspondence received from Essex County Council advising on the outcome of the Special Meeting of their Social Services Committee held on 25 September 2000 relating to the future of Albert Jones Court, Rochford. It was noted that the Social Services Committee had decided two issues, namely:

1. That the decision not to accept the bid from Strathmore Care Group for Albert Jones Court be reaffirmed.
2. That Albert Jones Court be closed.

Members further noted that Essex County Council would be undertaking discussions with staff, residents and their families to discuss options on the way forward. It was the County Council's intention to close the facility within a matter of months.

Noting the above information, Members were appalled at Essex County Council's chosen course of action for the future of Albert Jones Court

considering there were implications above and beyond the issue of closure of the site. The following points were raised by Members:-

- With Essex County Council not pursuing the bid from Strathmore Homes for Albert Jones Court, Members' questioned the suitability of the company to provide additional bed spaces on contract to the County Council.
- With Albert Jones Court being considered as an issue on its own, without regard to the review of other County homes in Essex, concern was expressed at the potential for current residents of Albert Jones Court to be moved, only to possibly face further disruption should their new residence be earmarked for closure by the County Council at a later date.
- It was the wish of Members to see the closure being undertaken in a professional manner with the building not being left for any length of time.

A motion put by Councillor D M Ford and seconded by G Fox was unanimously won on a show of hands and it was

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the County Council reconsiders its decision and look at Albert Jones Court as part of the overall comprehensive consultation exercise as requested by the District Council.
- (2) If the County Council do not agree, that they be requested to enter into discussions with Rochford District Council and other organisations such as the primary care group and the health trusts and with social landlords to secure a suitable future use for the site.
- (3) In addition, the County Council should assure this Council that the closure will be carried out in an organised fashion and that the building will not be left in a state of abandonment for any length of time.
- (4) Finally the District Council requests that the County Council confirms that all capital receipts received in connection with Albert Jones Court and also the Bungalow site be spent in Rochford District on initiatives for the benefit of Rochford residents, particularly with regard to the provision of elderly persons' accommodation.

The Meeting started at 7.00pm and closed at 7.25pm.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_