

Council – 24 April 2001

Minutes of the meeting of **Council** held on **27 February 2001** when there were present:

Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson

Chairman

Cllr R Adams

Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R S Allen

Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr R A Amner

Cllr V H Leach

Cllr C I Black

Cllr Mrs S J Lemon

Cllr Mrs R Brown

Cllr T Livings

Cllr P A Capon

Cllr J R F Mason

Cllr T G Cutmore

Cllr G A Mockford

Cllr D F Flack

Cllr C R Morgan

Cllr D M Ford

Cllr P J Morgan

Cllr Mrs J E Ford

Cllr R A Pearson

Cllr G Fox

Cllr Mrs L I V Phillips

Cllr K A Gibbs

Cllr S P Smith

Cllr Mrs J M Giles

Cllr M G B Starke

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

Cllr P D Stebbing

Cllr J E Grey

Cllr R E Vingoe

Cllr Mrs J Hall

Cllr Mrs M J Webster

Cllr D R Helson

Cllr P F A Webster

Cllr Mrs J Helson

Cllr D A Weir

Cllr A Hosking

Cllr Mrs M A Weir

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R F Powell.

DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	-	Chief Executive
R J Honey	-	Corporate Director (Law, Planning & Administration)
R Crofts	-	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
G Woolhouse	-	Head of Housing Health & Community Care
A Smith	-	Head of Administrative & Member Services
J Bostock	-	Principal Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr McCullagh	-	Area Manager, Transportation & Operational Services
Ms J Martyn	-	District Manager

Also present –

D Downing	-	Essex Police Traffic Management Unit
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82 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs J M Giles declared an interest on the item on aggregate credit limit and treasury management by virtue of holding an account with various lenders.

Councillors Mrs D M Ford, Mrs H L A Glynn, V H Leach, D A Weir and Mrs M A Weir each declared an interest in the item on Magnolia Park, Hawkwell, by virtue of being Hawkwell Parish Councillors.

83 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 February 2001 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the list of Members present identifying Councillor Mrs W M Stevenson as Chairman.

84 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A number of engagements had been undertaken. Particular reference was made to the success of the recent Schools Citizenship Debate.

The Chairman extended thanks to all Members who had been involved in fund raising activity for the Chairman's Charity. In terms of forthcoming events, all Members were invited to attend a Rock'n'Roll night at the Mill Hall (the last main charity fundraising event) on 14 April and the Annual Civic Banquet on 16 March.

85 MINUTES

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to any amendments below, the Minutes of Committees be received and the recommendations contained therein adopted.
- (2) That the common seal of the Council be affixed to any document necessary to give effect to decisions taken or approved by the Council in these Minutes.

Committee	Date	Minute No.
(1) AUDIT SERVICES	2 January 2001	1-2
(2) PLANNING SERVICES	11 January 2001	3-12
(3) TRANSPORTATION & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES	25 January 2001	17-37

**Minute 21(1) – relating to Transportation Sub-Committee Minute 154 –
Matters arising – efficiency of lighting in Council car parks**

The report identified under this Minute was considered later in the Meeting.

Minute 21(1) – relating to Transportation Sub-Committee Minute 156 – licensing of stretched limousines and specialist vehicles for private hire

Reference was made to the liaison meeting held on 21 February and involving Members of the Transportation Sub-Committee, the Chairman of the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee and representatives of the taxi trade. At that meeting it had been agreed that the matter of establishing a Taxi Licensing Working Group be pursued.

Resolved

That authority be delegated to the Transportation Sub-Committee to make arrangements for establishing a Taxi Licensing Working Group in accordance with the Council's protocol for working groups. (HRHM)

Minute 22 – Rayleigh Town Centre Review

Note: Councillors G Fox and V H Leach each declared non-pecuniary interests in this item by virtue of being related to persons with disability.

The Transportation and Environmental Services Committee had referred Minute 22 to Full Council for consideration.

A letter from the Rayleigh Taxi Drivers' Association in support of the proposal to move the two disabled parking bays out of the lagoon area was tabled at the meeting. Mr D Downing indicated that the Police were generally in support of the proposed Traffic Regulation Order. Traffic conditions within the lagoon area could change rapidly and increased prohibition would assist current issues associated with use by the non-disabled and delivery vehicles.

During debate a motion that the southern car park exit from Websters Way Car Park be retained to save expenditure, moved by Councillor P A Capon and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore, was won on a show of hands.

In considering the lagoon area of the High Street, a motion that the status quo be retained until two spaces for disabled parking had been established on the lagoon side and one on the other side of the High Street was moved by Councillor G Fox and seconded by Councillor Mrs J E Ford.

In favour of the motion comment was made that it was not immediately apparent that adjustments to parking bay arrangements for the disabled were key to resolving overall High Street problems. Against the motion reference was made to the professional advice received and the detailed

consideration already given to this matter by the Rayleigh Town Centre Monitoring Panel. The motion would both exacerbate current problems and delay a package of improvement proposals.

Responding to Member questions, the County Council's Area Manager, Transportation and Operational Services advised that, should the revised traffic regulation order be implemented, there would be full consultation on the allocation of disabled parking bays and changes would not involve the loss of a disabled parking facility in the High Street at any stage.

The motion was lost on a show of hands and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That the southern car park exit from Websters Way Car Park, Rayleigh be retained.
- (2) That a revised Traffic Regulation Order, as proposed by the Rayleigh Town Centre Monitoring Panel, be advertised in accordance with the Traffic Regulation Order procedure (Area Highways).

Minute 25 – Proposed Traffic Calming Measures, Alexandra Road, Great Wakering

The Transportation and Environmental Services Committee had referred this item to Full Council for consideration.

Prior to the commencement of debate, the results of consultation exercises undertaken by the County Council with Alexandra Road residents during August 1998, 1999 and 2000 were tabled. In August 2000 188 residents had been consulted. Of 26 replies, 6 were in favour of traffic calming and 20 against. The consultation letter had indicated that, if a resident did not reply, it would be assumed they had no objection to the scheme.

A motion that, in view of overwhelming objections by the residents of Alexandra Road, this Council proposes any moves to introduce traffic calming into the road was moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor J E Grey.

During debate it was noted that Alexandra Road was a cul-de-sac. It was felt that pure reliance on the number of replies to consultation received would be inappropriate given that it was assumed non-reply meant no objection to this scheme. Taken overall, and combined with residents' observations to the Local Ward Members, it could be observed that there was a remit for introducing the proposed traffic calming measures. Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that planning permission relating to this site had been approved subject to a section 106

agreement requiring the developer to fund traffic calming measures on this road.

On a Requisition pursuant to Standing Order 24(2), a recorded vote was taken on the Motion as follows:-

For (17)	Councillors R Adams, R A Amner, Mrs R Brown, P A Capon, T G Cutmore, K A Gibbs, J E Grey, Mrs L Hungate, C C Langlands, T Livings, G A Mockford, P J Morgan, Mrs L I V Phillips, S P Smith, M G B Starke, Mrs M J Webster, P F A Webster.
Against (21)	Councillors R S Allen, C I Black, D F Flack, D M Ford, Mrs J E Ford, G Fox, Mrs J M Giles, Mrs H L A Glynn, Mrs J Hall, D R Helson, Mrs J Helson, A Hosking, V H Leach, Mrs S J Lemon, J R F Mason, C R Morgan, P D Stebbing, Mrs W M Stevenson, R E Vingoe, D A Weir, Mrs M A Weir

Abstentions (1)	Councillor R A Pearson
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The Motion was declared lost and it was:-

Resolved

That, having considered the objections to the formal consultation, the proposed traffic calming measures in Alexandra Road, Great Wakering be introduced (Area Highways).

(4) COMMUNITY SERVICES 30 January 2001 38 - 52

Minute 42(2) – Relating to Community Safety Sub-Committee Minute 171 – Hawkwell Parish Council – Magnolia Park

The Community Services Committee had referred this item to Full Council for consideration, with Hawkwell Parish Council being requested to provide layout plans and more information relating to the proposal in the interim.

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) setting out further detail received from the Parish.

It was noted that young persons were so keen on the proposals that they had lobbied the Parish Council. Proposals for the teen shelter were amongst a package of Parish Council proposals for the Magnolia Park

site. On a motion moved by V H Leach and seconded by Councillor Mrs J Helson, it was:-

Resolved

That approval be given to the provision of matched funding to enable the Parish Council to proceed with proposals for the introduction of a teen shelter at Magnolia Park, the cost to the District Council to be a maximum of £3,880. (CD(F&ES))

Minute 51 – Five-aside-Football – Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh

The Community Services Committee had referred this item to Full Council for consideration, subject to public consultation having been undertaken with properties in Victoria Road and Hockley Road, Rayleigh

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) advising on the results of the public consultation exercise.

It was felt that officers should use their discretion on site fencing and that there should not be floodlighting.

On a motion moved by Councillor D R Helson and seconded by Councillor J E Grey, it was:-

Resolved

That two basketball goals be installed on the former croquet lawn in Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh. (CD(F&ES))

(5)	AUDIT SERVICES	1 February 2001	53 - 58
(6)	PLANNING SERVICES	8 February 2001	59 - 65
(7)	FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES	15 February 2001	66 - 78

Minute 67 – Outstanding Issues – Essex Police Best Value Structural Review

With regard to Minute 67, reference was made to the contents of a letter dated 20 February 2001 from the Chairman of the Essex Police Authority.

Council felt that both the tone and content of the letter, which was not in favour of a public meeting, were extremely disappointing. It was noted that Castle Point Borough Council had also indicated concern at the Police's approach and it was felt that there would be merit in approaching

Castle Point with a view to the development of a joint campaign, including the promotion of public meetings on this issue. If Local Authority public meetings were arranged, the Police could be invited to attend. It was also agreed that the District Council's strong concerns should be communicated to the local Members of Parliament and that the Chairman of the Police Authority should be invited to attend the next Meeting of Full Council to explain the Police Authority's position on this matter.

On a Motion moved by Councillor G Fox and seconded by Councillor P F A Webster and a further motion moved by Councillor V H Leach and seconded by Councillor Mrs HLA Glynn, it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That Castle Point Borough Council be approached with a view to developing a joint campaign on this issue, including the setting up of public consultation meetings to which the Police could be invited.
- (2) That the local Members of Parliament be advised of the current position and this Council's concerns on the review.
- (3) That the Chairman of the Police Authority be invited to the next Meeting of Full Council to explain the Police Authority's position on this matter. (CE)

Minute 75 – Timetable of Meetings 2001/02

Council noted that the Finance and General Purposes Committee was requesting that the date of this year's Annual meeting be brought forward to 8 May in order to avoid a clash with the Annual Meeting of Rochford Parish Council.

Resolved

That the proposed Timetable of Meetings 2001/02, as revised, be approved on the basis that there would be further review of arrangements from January 2002 once the Council has finalised a way forward on the Modernising Agenda. (HAMS)

Minute 76 - Bellingham Lane/Mill Hall Car Park Project

With regard to work on addressing potential problems which could be associated with skateboarding at the Mill building, the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) tabled two possible fence designs for the elevated entrance to the building.

In indicating a preference for chain link, Members commented that it would need to be of adequate strength and an additional chain across the entranceway to the Mill would be appropriate. The Corporate Director

(Finance & External Services) confirmed that proposals met all requirements under legislation relating to access for the disabled.

With regard to contract damages, the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) advised that liquidated damages for the car park area would be based on a sum of £500 per week. Damages would be on a pro-rata basis and include the capital aspect.

Resolved

That Officers proceed with proposals to introduce chain link fencing at the Windmill entrance site. (CD(F& ES))

86 NOTICES OF MOTION

(1) From Councillor P A Capon

The Proper Officer reported that the following Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor P A Capon:-

“Council instructs officers to consider and report back on possible initiatives to celebrate the Queen’s Golden Jubilee in 2002”.

Resolved

That the motion stand referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(2) From Councillor Mrs J Helson on behalf of all Members of the Liberal Democrat Group

The Proper Officer reported a Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mrs J Helson on behalf of all Members of the Liberal Democrat Group. Pursuant to Standing Order 9(11), it was agreed that the motion be considered at this Meeting.

During debate Council agreed that it would be appropriate to add Glebe and Morrins Playspace, the projects in West Street, Rochford and Fairview Tennis Courts to the list set out in the motion and it was:-

Resolved

That officers report in full to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee with indicated timescales for implementation of the projects listed below:-

	£
Presentation equipment for the Council Chamber	53,000
Rayleigh Windmill	25,000
Town Centre Developments	350,000

CCTV Shopping Parades	40,000
Road Safety School and Pedestrian Crossings	30,000
Upgrade Lighting in Rochford Council Car Parks	30,000
Downhall Road/London Road Junction	50,000
Rolling Programme of Play Equipment	50,000
Playspace – Glebe/Morrins Close, Great Wakering	
30-39 and 50-54 West Street, Rochford	
Tennis Courts at Fairview Playing Field, Rayleigh	

Whilst acknowledging some of the projects are progressing, the Council should ensure that they are fully completed before the re-organisation of electoral boundaries takes effect in 15 months time. (CD(F&ES))

87 AGGREGATE CREDIT LIMIT AND TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Council considered the report of the Head of Financial Services on setting the aggregate credit limit and Treasury Management.

Resolved

- (1) That the aggregate credit limit for 2001/2002 be £18M and that the temporary borrowing limit be £6M and that the limit of variable rate loans is £2M.
- (2) That the existing policies regarding Treasury Management continue for 2001/2002.

88 WEBSTERS WAY CAR PARK PROPOSALS – ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Council considered the report of the Head of Planning Services outlining the details of additional consultations carried out to ascertain the interest in a redevelopment scheme for Websters Way Car Park and summarising the deliberations of the Town Centre Working Group.

The Corporate Director (Law, Planning and Administration) confirmed that, should proposals be endorsed, funding would be via £5,000 from this year's General Contingency Fund and £5,000 from next year's.

Resolved

That an external consultant be appointed to advise the Council on the development options for the Websters Way Car Park. (HPS)

89 RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ON CAR PARK LIGHTING

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance and External Services) on the results of the car park lighting survey.

Reference was made to the value of a fully detailed project implementation timetable being produced.

On a motion moved by Councillor Mrs J Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That improved lighting to the following car parks be progressed as indicated within the allocated budget:-

Back Lane, Rochford
Southend Road, Hockley
Market, Rayleigh
Civic Suite, Rayleigh
Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh
The Approach, Rayleigh
Clements Hall/Great Wakering/Park School

- (2) That the provision of lighting at the Freight House, Rochford be agreed in principle, but considered for funding as part of the leisure contract renewal process. (CD(F&ES))

90 CIVIC AMENITY SITES IN THE SOUTHEND BOROUGH

NOTE: Councillor Mrs J M Giles declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of residence in Castle Road, Rayleigh.

Council considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care on proposals by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council to introduce charges for non-Southend residents using Civic Amenity sites in the Borough.

It was noted that Sir Teddy Taylor MP had expressed concern about this matter and that the County Council, which had not been consulted, was also very concerned about proposals.

Council agreed that this was a prime example of the need for effective inter-authority liaison over boundary matters. Comment was made that, if introduced, Southend's proposals could lead to significant costs associated with fly tipping. They could be seen as regressive and particularly inappropriate in the context of future recycling requirements.

It was considered important for Rochford to take a stand on this matter, about which all Groups on the Council were concerned. Reference was made to the different approach being taken to recycling by Southend since the last Local Government re-organisation.

Responding to Member questions, the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care confirmed that Southend had not consulted the District on their current proposals on this matter.

Resolved

- (1) That Officers request an urgent Member level meeting with representatives from Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Essex County Council.
- (2) That Group Leaders or their nominees, together with the Chairman of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee, represent the Council. (HHHCC)

91 ROYAL GARDEN PARTY

Note

- (1) The Chairman admitted this item of business as urgent in view of the timescale involved.
- (2) Councillor G Fox left the Meeting during consideration of this item.

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive on an invitation which had been received to appoint representatives to attend one of this year's Royal Garden Parties to be held in July.

Resolved

That Councillors G Fox and A Hosking, together with their partners, be invited to attend one of the Royal Garden Parties to be held in July. (CE)

92 FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

Note

- (1) The Chairman admitted this item of business as urgent in view of the need for all Members to be updated on the current position.
- (2) Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn declared a pecuniary interest in this item by virtue of owning livestock.

Further to a letter to all Members dated 21 February, the Chief Executive provided an update on the current position relating to the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease.

Council was concerned that some members of the public had been challenging the Authority's activity in displaying notices in its parks and woodlands advising of the outbreak and requiring that dogs should be kept on leads. Some signs had been damaged.

It was noted that the Council's refuse collection arrangements had been revised and that Officers were in consultation with other Authorities and the relevant agencies in connection with any further steps which might be

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required. It was possible that the further action to be taken would involve restrictions on access/egress to footpaths, woodland areas and open spaces.

Council expressed its sorrow for the Canewdon farmer who had lost livestock as a result of the disease. Reference was also made to the value of continuing to ensure Parish Councils are supplied with advice.

The Chief Executive advised that Members would be updated on the situation as appropriate.

The Meeting closed at 10.32pm

Chairman

Dated