
Minutes of the meeting of **Environmental Health Sub-Committee** held on **5 September 2000** when there were present:

Cllr R E Vingoe (Chairman)
Cllr P A Capon
Cllr D M Ford
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr C C Langlands

Cllr V H Leach
Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs A Hosking and Mrs S J Lemon

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn

OFFICERS PRESENT

G P Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
D Brown - Environmental Protection Manager
C A F Thomas - Estates & Emergency Planning Manager
Miss N Shorten - LA21 Officer
Mrs M A Martin - Committee Administrator

96 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2000 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to it being noted that Cllr Mrs M A Weir had been a substitute at that meeting and not Cllr Mrs M J Webster.

97 APPOINTMENT OF ADVISERS TO THE STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS WORKING GROUP

Members agreed the appointment of Advisers to the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group, as recommended by the meeting of the Working Group, held prior to this meeting of the Sub-Committee.

In response to a Member question, it was confirmed that as agreed at Council on 25 July 2000 advisers to Working Groups had no voting rights.

Recommended

That a representative from: Friends of the Earth, National Farmers' Union, Sludgewatch and Stambridge Parish Council, together with County Councillor

Mrs T Chapman be appointed advisers to the Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works Working Group. (HHHCC)

98 WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD FOR ESSEX AND SOUTHEND

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which invited nominations for an observer representative to attend Board meetings.

The report informed Members that a Waste Management Advisory Board had been established by the Association of Essex Councils. Membership comprised five County Councillors, one Councillor from each of five collection districts and one from Southend Borough Council.

At the inaugural meeting of the Board in July, it had been decided that those collection districts not directly represented on the Board should be invited to send a Member or officer observer to future meetings.

Members noted that given the importance of waste issues at the present time, it would be advisable for this Council to nominate a Member observer to attend the meetings.

On a Motion moved by Cllr P A Capon and seconded by Cllr V H Leach it was:

Recommended

- (1) That Cllr R A Pearson attend Waste Management Advisory Board Meetings.
- (2) That attendance at the Board Meetings is an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances. (HHHCC)

99 LOCAL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE ON ACTION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which informed Members that local authorities were being urged by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions to support a one day conference on action for climate change being held in Nottingham on 25 October 2000.

The conference had been organised by Nottingham Energy Partnership and a copy of the provisional programme had been appended to the report.

Members were of the opinion that with recent changes to government policy relating to sea defences, as well as the high spring tides experienced earlier this

year, it would be sensible for this Council to send a delegate, who would be able to report back to the Sub-Committee.

On a Motion moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr R A Pearson, it was:

Recommended

That the Council sends a senior officer to attend the conference. (HHHCC)

100 ROCHFORD FARMERS' MARKET

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which reported back to Members on the progress of the recent Farmers' Markets held in Rochford and asked Members to recommend their continuation.

The aim of these markets had been to promote sustainable development within the Rochford area. The report highlighted the success of the two markets that had been held at the time of writing the report. There had been plenty of support from both producers and public. Details of a survey which had taken place after the second market to assess their impact on local trade were appended to the report. Of the 21 businesses that responded to the survey, a majority felt that there had been no noticeable difference in trade on either occasion.

A copy of the survey conducted after the third market had been held was handed round at the meeting. This concentrated on discovering the views of people regarding the future of the market. Of the 69 surveys which had been returned, all had been in favour of the continuance of the market. A monthly market was the most popular frequency and Friday the most favoured day of the week.

Members noted that:-

- more people are brought into Rochford on the day of the market - many of these shop at local retail outlets in Rochford at the same time
- the project was self-financing
- staff time amounts to one half-day per month in preparation; an officer needs to be present on the day of the market
- a local retailer would be able to sell by-products on a market stall, eg butcher selling sausages.

Members were in general agreement that:-

- a more suitable venue needed to be found as the Women's Institute Hall was too small

- it was necessary to find another organisation to take on the administration of the market
- increased publicity was crucial.

On a Motion moved by Cllr R Vingoe and seconded by Cllr R A Pearson it was:-

Recommended

- (1) That a monthly Farmers' Market be established in Rochford Town Centre.
- (2) That officers approach other appropriate organisations with a view to handing over administration of the market. (HCPI)

101 ASSOCIATION OF ESSEX COUNCILS - LOCAL AGENDA 21 MEMBERS GROUP UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which brought members up to date with the progress of the Association of Essex Council's Local Agenda 21 Members group and discussed its current work.

The report detailed the four Member Steering Groups of the AEC; Community Safety, Local Agenda 21, Economic Development (now dissolved) and Enhancing Local Democracy for Young People. The main achievements had been the publishing of the Essex Sustainability Report and the Essex Local Agenda 21 Youth Forum.

The Essex Sustainability Report contained a set of sustainability indicators, which aimed to provide an illustration of the present state of the environment in Essex. These indicators would be used as the basis against which could be seen an emerging picture of how the Essex environment is altering.

The Local Agenda 21 Youth Forum had been designed to involve students from Essex Secondary schools in thinking about environmental issues, a vision for the future and the local democratic process.

Appended to the report was the Local Agenda 21 consultation document produced by Essex County Council, which could provide the framework for the Essex-Wide Local Agenda 21 Strategy. The final document would then need to be approved by the Association of Essex Council's Local Agenda 21 Steering Group.

Recommended

- (1) That the progress of the Association of Essex Council's Local Agenda 21 Member Steering Group be noted with interest.

- (2) That the consultation document provide the framework for the Essex-Wide Local Agenda 21 Strategy. (HCPI)

102 LOCAL AGENDA 21 STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Policy and Initiatives which provided a summary of the submissions to the Draft Local Agenda 21 strategy, and the officer recommendations on the submissions. It also presented the final Local Agenda 21 Strategy for approval by Members.

The development of a Local Agenda 21 Strategy was a key part of Rochford's Local Agenda 21 process. A draft document which set out the community's vision for sustainable development and plans of action aimed at achieving that vision had been approved at the end of last year. Comments received following consultation were appended to the report, together with officer recommendation in relation to the submissions received. Also appended was the final Local Agenda 21 Strategy and Action Plan.

Members were of the opinion that the "walking bus" project which encourages parents to walk their children to school in groups should be investigated in more detail by the Community Safety Sub-Committee.

Members wished to pass on their thanks to Miss Nicola Shorten, Local Agenda 21 officer, who would shortly be leaving the District Council, for the excellent presentation of these documents and general thanks for all the work done during her time with this Council.

Recommended

That the Rochford Local Agenda 21 Strategy be agreed. (HCPI)

The meeting commenced at 8.30 pm and closed at 9.30 pm.

Chairman

Date

