

# Community Services Committee – 9 January 2007

---

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Services Committee** held on **9 January 2007** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr R A Amner  
Vice-Chairman: Cllr Mrs B J Wilkins

Cllr Mrs P Aves  
Cllr Mrs L A Butcher  
Cllr C J Lumley  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

## **VISITING**

Cllrs Mrs H L A Glynn and Mrs J R Lumley.

## **OFFICERS PRESENT**

G Woolhouse	- Corporate Director (External Services)
D Timson	- Property Maintenance & Highways Manager
J Pritchard	- Housing Manager
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator
J O'Brien	- Committee Administrator

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs L Hungate

### **1 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mrs J R Lumley declared a personal interest in the item on the Large Scale Voluntary Transfer of Housing Stock by virtue of being on the Rochford Housing Association Shadow Board.

### **3 PROGRESS ON DECISIONS**

The Committee considered the Progress on Decisions Schedule:-

#### **(a) Donation of Redundant Teen Shelter to Stambridge Community Centre (Minute 84/06)**

It was noted that Rayleigh Town Council hoped to have the shelter on loan for a temporary period.

Responding to questions, officers advised that:-

- The shelter is structurally sound, but in need of decoration.
- Hawkwell Parish Council should put in writing to the District any interest that they have in the shelter.

#### **4 OPENING OF POOLES LANE PAVILION, HULLBRIDGE AS PUBLIC TOILETS**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on the request from Hullbridge Parish Council to reopen the toilets in the pavilion, and furthermore to consider contributing towards the scheme to enable provision of a disabled toilet.

In presenting the report, officers advised that:-

- This is a busy location, especially in the Summer months, and so the opening of the public toilets would be a benefit for all users.
- In the last 4/5 years vandalism has not been an issue.
- Resources for the provision of a disabled toilet are not currently part of the 2006/07 budget, but could potentially be funded from this source.
- A Member referred to the leisure potential that may be associated with the waterfront at Hullbridge.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the request from Hullbridge Parish Council to reopen the toilets in the Pooles Lane Pavilion, with the refurbishment, maintenance, cleaning and any potential criminal damage costs being met in full by Hullbridge Parish Council, be agreed.
- (2) That £2500 be contributed towards the scheme to enable provision of a disabled toilet in the Pavilion, either from savings in the maintenance budgets in 2006/07 or by a bid for the 2007/08 planned works budget. (CD(ES)).

#### **5 LARGE SCALE VOLUNTARY TRANSFER OF HOUSING STOCK**

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (External Services) on the result of the ballot of the Council's tenants on the proposal to transfer their homes to Rochford Housing Association, and to establish the Rochford Housing Transfer Members Panel.

Members concurred with the observation of the Chairman that the result of the ballot was a pleasing, positive outcome for the Council and thanks were

## Community Services Committee – 9 January 2007

---

extended to all staff and Members involved. This reflected much hard work and effort, which was evident in the quality of paperwork produced alone.

The Corporate Director (External Services) confirmed that it would be of benefit to appoint to the Rochford Housing Transfer Members' Panel as soon as possible as discussions involving the Panel would need to take place before long. It was noted that the appointment of a third Member to work with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Committee on the Panel did not necessarily have to be on a pro-rata basis.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the result of the ballot of the Council's tenants on the proposal to transfer their homes to Rochford Housing Association be noted.
- (2) That a Rochford Housing Transfer Members' Panel be established on the basis set out in the report, the Panel to comprise the Leader of the Council, the Chairman of the Community Services Committee and one other appointee (to be confirmed). (CD(ES))

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman .....

Date .....