

Environmental Services Committee – 4 March 2004

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on **4 March 2004** when there were present:-

Cllr J E Grey (Chairman)
Cllr R G S Choppen (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr Mrs S A Harper
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr J M Pullen
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton - Head of Planning Services
J Crawford - Transportation Manager
S Worthington - Committee Administrator

COUNTY OFFICERS PRESENT

N McCullagh - Area Manager South, Transportation & Operational Services

113 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

114 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr C G Seagers declared a personal interest in item 10 of the agenda by virtue of being the Council's Crouch Harbour Authority representative and by virtue of being a resident of and Parish Councillor for Great Wakering.

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in item 10 of the agenda by virtue of being the Rochford Parish Council representative on the Crouch & Roach Estuary Project.

115 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the report of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee on a matter referred from a recent meeting.

(1) Websters Way – Environmental Enhancement

Resolved

- (1) That no further action be taken on the proposals for the environmental enhancement of Websters Way, Rayleigh without financial support from Rayleigh Town Council and Essex County Council.
- (2) That a letter be sent to Rayleigh Town Council and Essex County Council, with a copy to County Cllr R Bass requesting that further consideration be given to funding for the environmental enhancement of Websters Way in the next financial year. (HPS)

116 LOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT – HIGHWAYS

(Note: Cllr Mrs M J Webster declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a Member of the County Council Highways & Transportation Policy Development Group.)

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing an update on progress towards the preparation of the County Highways Local Service Agreement (LSA).

Resolved

- (1) That officers continue their negotiations with the County Council on the detailed proposals for the LSA.
- (2) That the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee examine the LSA proposals and report back to this Committee. (HPS)

117 MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR THE ESSEX ESTUARIES EUROPEAN MARINE SITE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services requesting the adoption of the Management Scheme, as part of the Council's responsibilities as a Relevant Authority for the site.

Officers noted the following concerns, which would be raised with the competent Authorities for the Management Scheme:-

- Page 10.28 of the appendix to the report should include a statement to the effect that future flood management should reflect the timescale of 1 in 75 years, in order to comply with the advice of the Association of British Insurers.

- On page 10.22 of the report the problem of controlling mooring by inexperienced amateurs should be included.
- On page 10.25 of the report the importance should be stressed of educating people on the proper use of trawl nets.
- On page 10.5 of the report it should be stressed that there was still much progress to be made with respect to nature conservation legislation in the United Kingdom.
- There was no mention in the Management Scheme of the potential harm to birds and bats from wind farms.
- There was no mention in the Scheme of the proposed new harbour in Thurrock, which would lead to dredging from Thurrock to Harwich.
- There was no mention in the Scheme of a Lower Thames Crossing.
- There was no mention in the Scheme of the possibility of raising the flood barrier at Newham, together with an additional flood barrier in the south.

Concluding the debate, there was a general consensus that there would be merit in including the Management Scheme within the Council's Animal Welfare Charter.

Resolved

- (1) That the proposed Management Scheme for the Essex Estuaries European Marine Site be adopted.
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to approve minor amendments to the Management Scheme for the Essex Estuaries European Marine Site following consultation with other Authorities, subject to no detriment to the Council's interests, to maintain the accuracy of the published Management Scheme. (HPS)

118 TAXI LICENSING

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on the recommendations of the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee at a recent meeting with representatives of the taxi trade.

Resolved

- (1) That, there being no strong objections from the taxi trade to the proposed charges and subject to the charge for Criminal Record Disclosures being set at £33.00, the 2004/05 charges for Hackney

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Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles be as set out on the Schedule appended to the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management (these having previously been agreed by Council, subject to this consultation process).

- (2) That officers provide statistical information on the indices/indicators identified in the above bullet points to assist the Sub-Committee when giving future consideration to the 2004/05 Hackney Carriage fare tariff. (HRHM)

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Chairman

Date