

Environmental Services Committee – 4 July 2002

Minutes of the meeting of the **Environmental Services Committee** held on 4 July 2002 when there were present:

Cllr Mrs L Hungate - Chairman

Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr T Goodwin
Cllr J E Grey
Cllr A J Humphries

Cllr R A Oatham
Cllr C G Seagers
Cllr M G B Starke
Cllr Mrs M J Webster

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs R G S Choppen, G A Mockford and C R Morgan.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllrs D F L Flack and C C Langlands.

NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING

Cllrs T G Cutmore, P F A Webster and Mrs M A Weir.

DISTRICT OFFICERS PRESENT

R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
S Scrutton	- Head of Planning Services
S Clarkson	- Head of Revenue & Housing Management
J Bourne	- Leisure & Contracts Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

295 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2002 were approved as a correct record, subject to it being noted that Cllr G A Mockford had attended the meeting, and were signed by the Chairman.

296 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr R A Oatham declared a personal interest in the item "Websters Way Car Park – Redevelopment Options – Additional Consultations " (Minute 303/02) by virtue of being a member of Rayleigh Town Council.

Environmental Services Committee – 4 July 2002

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn declared a personal interest in the item “Great Crested Newts – Motion referred from Council on 25 April 2002” (Minute 299/02) by virtue of having great crested newts in her garden.

297 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

The following issues arising from the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 26 June 2002 were considered.

(1) Review of Hockley, Hullbridge and Rochford Centre Schemes (Min. 267/02)

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to the Rochford town centre scheme, Officers confirmed that the scheme was taking longer to implement than originally planned as a result of a contractor accidentally damaging a BT cable while laying paving slabs. Contractual issues concerning this matter should soon be resolved.

Resolved

That work continue on the Hockley scheme in the order prioritised by the former Hockley Town Centre Working Group. (CD(F&ES))

(2) Development Control/Building Control Best Value Review – Interim Findings (Min. 271/02)

Resolved

- (1) That the interim findings of the Audit Commission on this Council's development control and building control services be noted.
- (2) That the Head of Planning Services and his team be congratulated for their diligence in attaining a 2 star rating. (HPS)

(3) Flags on Taxis

Resolved

That this Council extends permission indefinitely to the taxi operators to fly union jack and St George cross flags on taxis. (HRHM)

298 OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Committee received the schedule relating to decisions.

Land North of the Market Square, Rochford (Min. 285/00)

The County Council had asked for a response from Wimpey by the end of

Environmental Services Committee – 4 July 2002

July with respect to obtaining legal agreement on how to market the land. Any further feedback will be communicated to Members by Officers.

Green Business Project (Min. 178/00)

Officers would raise the issue of extending the business recycling project at their next meeting with the chambers of trade.

Various Roads Hawkwell and Hockley – Proposed Variation to Existing Waiting Restrictions and On-Street Parking Bays (Min. 23/01)

Officers would raise with other local authorities the issue of traffic wardens making the same allowances for car workers as for doctors and nurses and would inform Members of any outcome.

Stambridge Sewage Treatment Works – Progress Report (Min. 14/02)

The Council has agreed to suspend the abatement notice in respect of noise nuisance; Anglian Water have undertaken to carry out the necessary works and work has actually started.

Passenger Transport Infrastructure (Min. 428/01)

Officers confirmed that £40,000 allocated for this trial came from the County Council budgets.

‘Bar-N-Bus’ Vehicle at Websters Way Car Park, Rayleigh (Min. 14/02)

The ‘Bar-N-Bus’ Trust had insufficient funds to purchase another vehicle; fundraising events were taking place during the summer.

Draft Community Transport Partnership Agreement (Min. 20/02)

The County Council have confirmed that a draft agreement would be despatched to this Council by 8 July 2002.

Environmental Statement for Bradwell Nuclear Power Station – Consultation (Min. 226/02)

A full technical statement has been received, a copy of which is available in the Members’ Room.

299 GREAT CRESTED NEWTS – MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL ON 25 APRIL 2002

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing information regarding a Notice of Motion received from Councillors J R F Mason and Mrs M J Webster regarding the inclusion of policy protection for Great Crested Newts in the local plan, together with a report on comments received from English Nature, Essex Wildlife Trust and the Essex Amphibians and Reptile Group. The Motion was referred from Full Council on 25 April for

consideration at this Committee.

Officers confirmed that the boundary of the Magnolia site did stray onto the Kirkby's estate.

Noting the good work conducted by English Nature, an amended motion was moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and it was:-

Resolved

That the draft Rochford District Replacement local plan include additional commentary on English Nature's role, together with the role of the Essex Wildlife Trust and the Essex Amphibians and Reptile Group, in providing advice and guidance on protected species and particularly Great Crested Newts. (HPS)

300 ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT FOR BRADWELL NUCLEAR POWER STATION – CONSULTATION

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care asking Members to further consider the consultation on proposals for decommissioning Bradwell Nuclear Power Station.

The Committee perceived that there were outstanding safety issues that needed clarification, particularly with respect to the dismantling of the plant and the transportation of fuel.

Noting that consultation responses were required by 30 September 2002, a motion was moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr J E Grey and it was:-

Resolved

That representatives of Magnox Electric be invited to the next Meeting to provide further information, prior to finalising the Council's response. (HHHCC)

301 SPECIAL VEHICLE LICENSING

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management asking Members to consider a short extension to the derogation granted in September 2001 to enable the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to include contract hire vehicles in their review of the taxi licensing function.

Noting that the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee would conduct this review a motion was moved by the Chairman and it was:-

Resolved

That the derogation granted to 30 June 2002 be extended for a further period of four months (to 31 October 2002) to enable the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee to include the licensing of Special Contract Vehicles in their review of the taxi licensing function. (HRHM)

302 TAXI VOUCHER SCHEME APPEALS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue & Housing Management asking Members to determine appeals against the non-issue of taxi vouchers and whether the scheme criteria ought to be amended as a result of such appeals.

Take-up of the scheme has far exceeded original estimates. As a result, voucher issue would need to be reduced in order to keep within the fixed budget of £53,000.

Many vouchers issued for the first quarter of the scheme's operation had not been used; the value of these could go towards the second quarter's issue. An update listing the total value of unused vouchers would appear in the Members' Bulletin.

Members were concerned that the proposed reduction of vouchers for the second quarter was substantial, decreasing from £120 to £48 for ambulant travellers and from £180 to £72 for wheelchair travellers.

Responding to a Member enquiry relating to taxi voucher appeals, Officers confirmed that allowing any of the appeals currently received would result in a further decrease in the value of taxi vouchers issued to members of the scheme.

Registering concern about the criteria for admission to the scheme being altered and the probable detrimental effect this would have on the value of vouchers issued to existing scheme members, a motion was moved by Cllr J E Grey and seconded by Mrs H L A Glynn, and it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That authority be delegated to the Head of Revenue & Housing Management to determine appeals, to investigate cases where the receipt of benefits is unknown and to exclude all those who do not fit the existing criteria for the scheme.
- (2) That taxi vouchers be issued for the second quarter of 2002/2003 as listed below:-

Ambulant Travellers	£48
Wheelchair Travellers	£72 (HRHM)

Environmental Services Committee – 4 July 2002

Officers confirmed that taxi vouchers for the second quarter would normally have been despatched to members of the scheme before the end of June. However, pending a decision by this Committee, the majority of taxi drivers were accepting expired vouchers until 8 July. Vouchers for the second quarter would therefore have to be despatched to members of the scheme to arrive before 8th July. As such, under Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15 (h) this decision is an urgent one and as such is not subject to call-in.

303 WEBSTERS WAY CAR PARK – REDEVELOPMENT OPTIONS – ADDITIONAL CONSULTATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services providing details of additional consultations carried out in respect of the redevelopment options for Websters Way Car Park.

Members had received particular concerns from residents about the proposal in respect of traffic congestion and of safety issues related to the suggested multi storey car park.

Noting that the consultants' redevelopment proposals offered little to enhance the Rayleigh town centre, a motion was moved by Cllr Mrs M J Webster and seconded by Cllr D F L Flack and it was:-

Resolved

That no further action be taken with respect to the redevelopment of Websters Way Car Park. (HPS)

304 CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE AWARDS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning Services seeking Member's agreement to the appointment of a Member Panel to judge the entries to the Rochford Conservation and Heritage Awards 2002.

On a motion moved by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr J E Grey it was:-

Resolved

That Councillors A J Humphries, Mrs M J Webster, plus one further Conservative Member and one Member from the other parties form a panel to judge the 2002 Rochford Conservation and Heritage Awards. (HPS)

305 MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) advising Members of the municipal waste management strategy that is currently being formulated. It also proposes specific waste management issues that this Council may wish to be included in the stage where industry views are sought on the content of the strategy.

Resolved

That the following waste management issues be put forward in liaison with industry as part of the process of devising a municipal waste management strategy for Essex, Southend and Thurrock:-

- the provision of civic amenity sites within the District of suitable location and capacity.
- the provision of sufficient local waste disposal/transfer facilities, albeit not necessarily within the District itself.
- Obtain industry view on the most cost effective way of providing recycling services and collections on a kerbside basis and the provision of a recycling service to local businesses.
- The impact of the impending Paper Standard Regulation EN643 that requires newspaper/magazines to be presented and collected separately from other recyclables to avoid undue contamination.
- The provision of an effective and efficient waste disposal system that does not include the use of incineration.
- Obtain industry view on alternative ways of dealing with the current problem of disposal of fridge/freezers.
- Obtain industry view on the way forward in dealing with the growing problem of abandoned cars.
- To obtain independent figures for the percentage of recycled materials that are sold on and used.
- To obtain figures from the County Council on recycling by the Remade company. (CD(F&ES))

306 WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking a nomination of a Member to attend the meetings of the Waste Management Advisory Board on 15 July and 29 July 2002.

Members expressed concern that the consultancy costs seemed high and that the same consultants promoting the Essex Municipal Waste Management Strategy would be evaluating it.

On a motion moved by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr J E Grey it was:-

Environmental Services Committee – 4 July 2002

Resolved

- (1) That this Committee nominates Cllr G A Mockford to attend as an approved duty the meetings of the Waste Management Advisory Board on 15 and 29 July 2002.
- (2) That this Council's share of the consultancy costs in producing and implementing the Essex Municipal Waste Management Strategy be agreed at these meetings. (CD(F&ES))

The Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman

Date
