

Minutes of the meeting of the **Transportation & Environmental Services Urgency Sub-Committee** held on **Thursday 13 April 2000** when there were present:

Cllr A Hosking - Chairman

Cllr V H Leach

Cllr D A Weir

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mr G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

Mr D Brown - Environmental Protection Manager

Mrs M Martin - Committee Administrator

5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 1999 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6 PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE - STAMBRIDGE SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS

The Urgency Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which asked Members to consider how they wished to progress the resolution passed at the Transportation & Environmental Services Committee of 21 March 2000 that a request be sent to Dr Michael Clark, MP to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation, to include District and County Council Members and advisers about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site.

In response to this request, Dr Clark had requested that the Council write to the Environment Agency initially. If the response was not satisfactory, he would then approach the Minister for the Environment.

The Council had already written to the Agency in January of this year; a copy of this letter and the reply to it were attached as appendices to the report. It was felt, therefore, it would be more appropriate to invite a representative of the Environment Agency to attend the meeting, so that Members would be able to determine whether there was still a need to pursue a meeting with the Minister.

Mr Tim Sheppard from the Environment Agency was welcomed to the meeting. Mr Sheppard confirmed the current situation at the site, as follows:-

- the production of N-Viro from Rochford sludge was continuing; the by-pass was enabling the residue to be taken away in skips. Approximately 20% of the sludge on the site is being removed by the by-pass.

- the plant was taking in by pipe as much Southend sludge as could properly be dealt with;
- odour tests carried out by Anglian Water with the Environment Agency present had shown that this was not causing a significant problem
- a deadline of 16 May had been set for the delivery and installation of the replacement part
- after that date the Environment Agency will not permit the by-pass to be used and another method of dealing with the excess sludge from Southend would have to be found
- the deadline had been agreed with Anglian Water and the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions
- in future spares would be kept of all parts which are not readily available
- Anglian Water were quite satisfied that once the new part is installed, the plant would be able to manage the sludge received from Rochford and Southend
- the Odourguard system was working well and the odour meter showed readings at less than the limits set; a limit for the site boundary would shortly be set
- a further dust survey would be undertaken in the drier Summer months

In response to a question, Members were informed that the County Council were actively investigating possible breaches of the planning conditions relating to vehicle movement to and from the site. Breaches of these conditions are difficult to verify as complaints from members of the public often did not include registration details of the vehicles concerned. It was confirmed that the limit was 10 lorries (20 vehicle movements) over 7.5 tonne, but an unlimited amount below that weight.

Resolved

To write a letter to Dr M Clark, MP thanking him for his initial response to this Council's request and informing him of this Committee's decision to hold in abeyance until after 16 May 2000 the decision on whether to pursue the request for Dr Clark to communicate with the Minister for the Environment, Mr Michael Meacher, MP on the possibility of Mr Meacher receiving a deputation, to include District and County Council Members and advisers about this Council's discontent over the monitoring of the site. (HHHCC)

7 HAWKWELL RECYCLING TRIAL - GREEN WASTE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health & Community Care which asked Members to consider proposals to manage a possible surge in compostable waste over the Easter period in the trial area, by the introduction of extra collections.

The green bin trial of collecting compostable waste was still in its infancy and under the current policy excess waste of this type would not be collected.

A draft leaflet had been prepared which would be circulated to affected householders in the trial area detailing the proposals. This was handed round at the meeting.

The Head of Housing, Health & Community Care would write to Ward Members informing them of this Committee's decision.

Resolved

That two further collections of compostable waste are made in order to give a weekly collection from the 19th April 2000 to the 10th May 2000 inclusive and that this is financed from the Payment to Contractors budget. (HHHCC)

The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm and closed at 6 pm.

Chairman

Date