

Extraordinary Council 26 April 2000

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **26 April 2000**
when there were present:

Cllr D R Helson – Chairman

Cllr R Adams	Cllr Mrs A R Hutchings
Cllr G C Angus	Cllr V D Hutchings
Cllr D E Barnes	Cllr C C Langlands
Cllr P A Beckers	Cllr V H Leach
Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr Mrs S J Lemon
Cllr J M Dickson	Cllr T Livings
Cllr D F Flack	Cllr G A Mockford
Cllr D M Ford	Cllr C R Morgan
Cllr Mrs J E Ford	Cllr R A Pearson
Cllr G Fox	Cllr P D Stebbing
Cllr Mrs J M Giles	Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson
Cllr J E Grey	Cllr Mrs M S Vince
Cllr H L A Glynn	Cllr R E Vingoe
Cllr Mrs J Hall	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
Cllr N Harris	Cllr P F A Webster
Cllr Mrs E M Hart	Cllr D A Weir
Cllr Mrs J Helson	Cllr Mrs M A Weir

OFFICERS ATTENDING

R Crofts – Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)
R J Honey – Corporate Director (Law, Planning and Administration)
A Smith – Head of Administrative and Member Services
P Warren – Chief Executive
G Woolhouse – Head of Housing Health and Community Care
A Wyatt – Committee Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R S Allen, C I Black, K A Gibbs and A Hosking.

145 RETIRING MEMBERS

The Chairman led Members in tribute and thanks to those Members not standing for re-election this Municipal Year. Council further wished those Members standing for re-election “Good Luck” in the forthcoming elections.

146 BLATCHES FARM

Council considered the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on the submission of the Council's Blatches Farm Business Plan to Essex County Council.

During consideration of the matter, a Member referred to an article published in that evening's Evening Echo newspaper entitled "County Park Plan Hangs in Balance", which directly quoted a Member of the Council.

The article was considered by some Members to be negative and unhelpful to Rochford District Council's cause in acquiring land at Blatches Farm for Public Open Space. A Motion put by Councillor D F Flack and seconded by Councillor D A Weir seeking the Evening Echo's correction of their mis-reporting of the Council's position on this matter was lost on a show of hands.

Further to the debate, the Chief Executive undertook to provide all Members of the Council with copies of all reports relating to Blatches Farm and a position statement on the matter.

Resolved

That the County Council be requested to attend a joint Member-level Meeting to discuss the way forward in relation to Blatches Farm at the earliest opportunity. (CEX)

147 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) on a request from the Association of Essex Councils for District Councils to support a Motion to the Local Government Association Conference that would strengthen Local Authorities powers in respect of planning enforcement action.

Noting the background to the Motion and concurring with the difficulties experienced by Castle Point Borough Council in relation to Planning Enforcement matters, it was:-

Resolved

That this Authority supports the Essex Councils in seeking to place a Motion at the Local Government Association Conference in order to achieve:-

- (1) A review of the practice of the Inspectorates to extend periods for compliance with Enforcement Notices and encouragement of

the Planning Inspectorate to limit the periods of compliance as far as possible.

- (2) The introduction of fines based on a daily rate for each day of the continuing offence starting from the day on which the Notice has been served.
- (3) That in levying fines, a consideration of the financial circumstances of the offender not be considered an overriding or significant consideration.
- (4) That a new scale of fines be introduced imposed by the Inspectorate and linked to the presence of a breach of control. These are in addition to the current system of fines for the non-compliance within an Enforcement Notice.
- (5) That primary legislation be introduced which creates a requirement for offenders to submit an application for a Lawful Use/Development Certificate in respect of identified breaches of control. (CD(LP&A))

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in Paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

148 PRESENTATION BY THE SOUTH ESSEX MENTAL HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE NHS TRUST

Members welcomed Patrick Geoghegan – Chief Executive, Eunan Macintyre, Director of Mental Health and Nigel Leonard, Project Director from South Essex Mental Health Community Care Trust who had been invited to attend the Meeting to present to Members the future for Mental Health Service Provision within the South East part of Essex.

With the aid of viewfoils, Mr Geoghegan presented to Members in confidence both the past and future for the provision of Mental Health Services for the Rochford District. Aided by pictures of current service provision, Members were advised of the plans for both Runwell and Rochford Hospital sites for the future and also the provision of an additional site along Rawreth Lane in Rayleigh.

Members' questions were answered in relation to the following points:-

- The provision of local services more easily accessible to the community.
- The need for the Trust and Health Authority to work in partnership with both the District Council and Social Services in providing an integrated service.
- The benefit to the Rochford District in the proposed future plan for the Rochford Hospital and Runwell Hospital sites.
- The level of funding available to the Trust and the more short-term solutions being sought at both the Rochford Hospital and Runwell Hospital sites.

In summing up, Members thanked Mr Geoghegan for his informative presentation, and wished to express their support in principle for the proposals for Rochford District. On a show of hands it was

Resolved

That this Council supports in principle the strategic plans of South Essex Mental Health and Community Care NHS Trust. (CEX)

149 WEBSTERS WAY CAR PARK – DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Members considered the confidential report of the Chief Executive which outlined the progress made to date by the Websters Way Working Group and sought Members' views on the way forward for securing a detailed development scheme for the site.

Noting the current situation regarding the Websters Way proposals, some Members expressed concern at possible expenditure prior to consultation on a project which might turn out to be not feasible. On a Motion put by Councillor PFA Webster and seconded by Councillor DA Weir it was:-

Resolved

- (1) That before external consultants are engaged, Officers first consult Essex County Council, the Police, Rayleigh Town Council, the three Chambers of Trade and a sample of other retailers on the proposals as outlined in the report and that a report be made back to Council on the findings.
- (2) That subject to the results of these preliminary consultations, consultants be appointed to undertake a Feasibility Study as outlined in the report and to advise on the arrangements for a public consultation exercise.

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- (3) That a further report be made to Full Council once the Feasibility Study is complete. (HCPI)

The Meeting closed at 10.30pm.

Chairman

Date