

Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on 31 August 2000  
when there were present:

Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson – Chairman

Cllr R Adams  
Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr C I Black  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr P A Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr D M Ford  
Cllr Mrs J E Ford  
Cllr G Fox  
Cllr Mrs J M Giles  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr Mrs J Hall  
Cllr D Helson  
Cllr Mrs J Helson

Cllr Mrs L Hungate  
Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr J R F Mason  
Cllr G A Mockford  
Cllr C R Morgan  
Cllr P J Morgan  
Cllr R A Pearson  
Cllr Mrs L I V Phillips  
Cllr S P Smith  
Cllr M G B Starke  
Cllr P D Stebbing  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr P F A Webster  
Cllr D A Weir  
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D F Flack, K A Gibbs,  
C C Langlands, Mrs S J Lemon, T Livings and R E Vingoe.

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

P Warren	Chief Executive
R Crofts	Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing, Health & Community Care
A Bugeja	Head of Legal Services
A Wyatt	Committee Administrator

### **269 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members Interests relating to the item “the future of elderly persons  
homes in Essex” were received as follows:-

Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue  
of her Mother’s residence in a private sector nursing home.

Councillor Mrs J M Giles declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue of  
her work in the voluntary sector.

Councillor C I Black, on entering the Chamber towards the end of the debate, declared an interest by virtue of his spouse's employment and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

**270. THE FUTURE OF ELDERLY PERSONS HOMES IN ESSEX**

Council welcomed Mr Roger Sinden, County Manager, Provider Services, Essex County Council Social Services and County Councillor Mrs E Dines, portfolio holder for Health and Social Services who had been invited to attend the Meeting to update Members on the current position for Essex County Council relating to Albert Jones Court.

By way of introduction Mr Sinden gave a brief history of the provision of older persons homes in Essex, in particular Albert Jones Court, including the recent decision by Essex County Council to not lease transfer Albert Jones Court to the Strathmore Group, a private sector nursing home provider, instead taking a decision to begin a public consultation exercise with a view of the closure of the facility.

Mention was also made of the complete review of elderly persons home provision by Essex County Council throughout the County and that the Essex County Council Social Services Committee would pass resolution on the future of Albert Jones Court at its Meeting on 25 September 2000.

In response to Members' questions Mr Sinden and County Councillor Mrs Dines advised Members of the following points-

- After careful consideration Essex County Council has decided to not pursue the Strathmore Group's bid in relation to Albert Jones Court. There were a number of inspection reports relating to the Strathmore Group on Essex County Council's website which was in the public domain and so available for Members' scrutiny. Given the disposal of Albert Jones Court was commercially sensitive, specific details relating to bids would need to remain private and confidential. However, Mr Sinden advised that he would check with the County Council's Legal Advisers and allow the District Council access to as much information on this as was possible.
- No capital receipt for the bungalow site had been realised since its closure a number of years ago. The County Council were still working with Rochford District Council to seek further use of the site.
- In considering the future provision of services for the elderly Essex County Council had produced a consultation "Age Matters" which would be considered by the District Council at its Meeting of Community Services Committee on 10 October 2000. The document considered alternative service provision in partnership with the Health Authority for all levels of care for the elderly.

- With the potential closure of Albert Jones Court, Essex County Council had undertaken a review of bed spaces available within a ten mile radius of the site and were confident there was sufficient service provision available to relocate residents.
- In reviewing elderly persons home provision throughout Essex, the County Council would be looking to all elderly persons schemes with a view to fitting each home to one of the following specific categories:-
  - (1) retain as residential care home as going concern
  - (2) sale as residential care home as going concern
  - (3) lease transfer as residential care home as going concern
  - (4) development of alternative use in partnership with others either following closure or gradually without the necessity of closure
  - (5) Closure
- Sweyne Court was a modern up-graded facility in Rayleigh that was unlikely to fall into any other category other than (1) above.

In response to the above points, Members expressed concern at the plight of the existing residents at Albert Jones Court, considering Rochford has a growing elderly population who would possibly need to look to this sort of service provision in future. Members felt that a copy of these Minutes should be sent to all Essex County Council Social Services Committee Members.

Pursuant to Standing Order 24(2) voting on a motion put by Councillor D M Ford and seconded by Councillor G Fox was recorded as follows:

### **For the Motion**

Cllrs: R Adams  
R S Allen  
R A Amner  
Mrs R Brown  
P A Capon  
T G Cutmore  
D M Ford  
Mrs J E Ford  
G Fox  
Mrs J M Giles  
J E Grey  
Mrs H L A Glynn  
Mrs J Hall  
D Helson  
Mrs J Helson  
Mrs L Hungate

### **Against the Motion**

V H Leach  
J R F Mason  
G A Mockford  
C R Morgan  
P J Morgan  
R A Pearson  
Mrs L I V Phillips  
S P Smith  
M G B Stark  
P D Stebbings  
Mrs W M Stevenson  
Mrs M H Webster  
Mrs P F A Webster  
D A Weir  
Mrs M A Weir

Nil

**Abstain**

Cllr C I Black

The motion was declared carried and it was:

**Resolved**

That this Council request that Essex County Council defer its decision relating to the future of Albert Jones Court, until the consultations relating to other homes have been completed so that a decision can be taken in a comprehensive manner.  
(CEX)

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

Chairman

Date