

## Extraordinary Council 28 June 2000

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Minutes of the meeting of **Extraordinary Council** held on **28 June 2000**  
when there were present:

Cllr Mrs W M Stevenson – Chairman

Cllr R Adams  
Cllr R S Allen  
Cllr R A Amner  
Cllr Mrs R Brown  
Cllr P A Capon  
Cllr T G Cutmore  
Cllr D F Flack  
Cllr D M Ford  
Cllr Mrs J E Ford  
Cllr G Fox  
Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr Mrs J M Giles  
Cllr J E Grey  
Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn  
Cllr Mrs J Hall  
Cllr D R Helson  
Cllr Mrs J Helson  
Cllr A Hosking  
Cllr Mrs L Hungate

Cllr C C Langlands  
Cllr V H Leach  
Cllr Mrs S J Lemon  
Cllr T Livings  
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 R E Vingoe  
Cllr Mrs M J Webster  
Cllr P F A Webster  
Cllr D A Weir  
Cllr Mrs M A Weir

### OFFICERS PRESENT

P Warren	- Chief Executive
R J Honey	- Corporate Director (Law, Planning and Administration)
R Crofts	- Corporate Director (Finance and External Services)
A Smith	- Head of Administrative and Member Services
J Bostock	- Principal Committee Administrator
B Goodwin	- Area Manager (Essex County Council)
N McCullough	- District Manager (South)(Essex County Council)
N Downey	- RTA Associates (The County Council's consultants)

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence was received from Cllr C I Black.

### FORMER COUNCILLOR V D HUTCHINGS

Prior to commencement of the Meeting, Members stood in silent tribute to former Councillor V D Hutchings.

### **209 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs W M Stevenson declared a pecuniary interest in the item on car parking (Minute 212) by virtue of business involvement with the trader refund scheme and left the meeting taking no part in the consideration thereof.

### **210 DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT IN ESSEX**

Council considered a report from RTA Associates Limited, the consultants engaged by Essex County Council to produce a County wide strategy for decriminalised parking enforcement. (DPE)

Norman Downey of RTA Associates Limited led a presentation on the report, during which he emphasised the nature, financial viability and merits of scheme proposals.

Responding to Member questions, Mr Downey and the representatives from the County Council indicated that:-

- Provision for the towing away of vehicles would normally only be applied to schemes involving large urban areas.
- There is minimal Police enforcement activity outside urban areas and the proposals would address this.
- The Government had stressed that the emphasis of schemes should be to address traffic management, although proposals needed to demonstrate that schemes would be self-financing in the longer term.
- The key brief of County Officers was to achieve a sustainable plan for decriminalised parking enforcement within the County. The consultants report provided an encouraging business case.
- Proposals had been formulated so that Districts would not find themselves in a deficit position. Set up costs and levy would be from the local Five Year Transport Plan (with spending in years 1, 2 and 3 recovered in years 3, 4 and 5). Revenue funds would only be involved where an ongoing deficit position is identified. Where this is the case, the locally determined budget would be top-sliced (to a likely figure of about 1%).
- The County Council was mindful that, once half of the Districts within the County had adopted DPE, additional management difficulties would be faced by the Police. It was understood that the Police did not propose to transfer traffic wardens.

- Districts would be expected to manage their own affairs. For example, whilst the County Council would prepare basic public relations material, Districts would determine all publicity (the costing of which would be recoverable).
- At this stage, the County Council was not looking for a decision on scheme adoption, just Rochford's views on the report and its principles in advance of 18 August.
- Where an authority chooses not to be involved with the scheme, enforcement would remain with the Police. Should the Police determine not to continue then it is likely enforcement would rest with the Highways Authority.
- In many respects the working of the scheme would be an extension to existing car park enforcement activity.
- The proposed levy fee of £40.00 could only be adjusted by Government legislation.
- County Officers would ensure that a response to specific detailed questions raised during the meeting would be provided within 14 days of the meeting.

During debate Members agreed that it was important for the District to give appropriate time to making an informed decision given the variety of aspects involved. A Motion relating to the establishment of a Working Group was moved by Councillor P F A Webster. An amendment that a Special Meeting of the Transportation Sub-Committee be convened (all Members of the Council to be invited) was moved by Councillor D F Flack, seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn and lost on a show of hands.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the consultants report be accepted as stands at this stage.
- (2) That, subject to further detailed consideration by a Working Group comprising the four Group Leaders or their deputies and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee, this Council considers Essex County Council's application to transfer parking enforcement from the Police. (HRHM)

## **211 CAR PARKS CUSTOMER SURVEY**

Council considered the report of the Head of Revenues and Housing Management which provided the results of the Biennial Car Park Survey.

### Resolved

That the car park report and survey be noted and a further survey be carried out during Autumn 2001. (HRHM)

### 212 CAR PARKING

NOTE: The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mrs S J Lemon, took the Chair for this item (the Chairman having declared a pecuniary interest and left the Meeting).

Council considered the report of the Head of Revenues & Housing Management on car parking administration charges and the consultation process for the annual review of car parking charges. The report encapsulated the principal matters raised at earlier meetings, addressing the following areas in detail:-

- Car Parks, their designations and management.
- Trader Refund Scheme.
- Pay and Display versus Pay on Exit.
- Type of ticket-issuing machines.
- Comparisons with other local authority charge structures.
- Consultation with Chambers of Trade.
- Ticket sales for 1999/2000.
- Fee structure.

Responding to Member questions, Officers confirmed that the financial details within the report took account of recent changes to the number of long term season tickets issued.

A composite motion was moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor T G Cutmore. In terms of charges, the motion asked that the car parking charges to be implemented from 1 August should be, for Southend Road car park alone, the approved Schedule detailed in Appendix 4 of the report. For all other Council car parks it should be as proposed by the Rayleigh Chamber of Trade as set out in Appendix 5 of the report. Jointly these proposals would provide an income of £514,000 per annum.

In addressing the charging aspect, Councillor Webster commented on the importance of being mindful of the views of the largest Chamber of Trade within the District, together with those of local residents. Whilst the proposal represented an increase in charges, the Conservative Group would view this as the final charges position for a period of two years.

Those Members not in favour of the motion felt that more detailed consideration should be given to the strategy for car parking.

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Reference was made to the latest position whereby an income surplus was being achieved which meant that some previous concerns had been neutralised.

An amendment to that aspect of the motion relating to stay designations for the Bellingham Lane and Mill Hall car parks, moved by Councillor D R Helson and seconded by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn, was agreed on a show of hands.

On a requisition pursuant to Standing Order 24(2), a recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion as follows:-

For (25)	Cllr R Adams	Cllr C C Langlands
	Cllr R A Amner	Cllr V H Leach
	Cllr Mrs R Brown	Cllr Mrs S J Lemon
	Cllr P A Capon	Cllr T Livings
	Cllr T G Cutmore	Cllr G A Mockford
	Cllr Mrs J M Giles	Cllr P J Morgan
	Cllr J E Grey	Cllr R A Pearson
	Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn	Cllr Mrs L I V Phillips
	Cllr Mrs J Hall	Cllr S P Smith
	Cllr D R Helson	Cllr M G B Starke
	Cllr Mrs J Helson	Cllr Mrs M J Webster
	Cllr A Hosking	Cllr P F A Webster
	Cllr Mrs L Hungate	
Against (11)	Cllr R S Allen	Cllr J R F Mason
	Cllr D F Flack	Cllr C R Morgan
	Cllr D M Ford	Cllr P D Stebbing
	Cllr Mrs J E Ford	Cllr R A Vingoe
	Cllr G Fox	Cllr D A Weir
		Cllr Mrs M A Weir

The motion was declared carried.

### Resolved

(1) That Council agrees the car parking charges to be implemented from 1 August shall be, for the Southend Road car park alone, the approved Schedule detailed in Appendix 4 of the report of the Head of Revenues and Housing Management (attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes). For all other Council car parks it shall be as proposed by the Rayleigh Chamber of Trade in Appendix 5 of the report of the Head of Revenues and Housing Management (attached at Appendix 2 to these Minutes). Jointly these proposals will provide income of £514,000 per annum.

(2) That Council further notes that the Conservative Group will implement pay-on-exit car parking in Websters Way car park as soon as possible.

- (3) That Council agrees that the Trader Refund Scheme shall continue through use of the existing machines and ticket issues.
- (4) That consideration be given to designating the new parking spaces at the Mill Hall as a short stay facility in view of pressure on the town centre car parks with the Bellingham Lane car park long stay.
- (5) That Council agrees that the Approach car park be a free car park all day on Saturdays. (HRHM)

### 213 ESSEX WIDE APPROACH TO BEST VALUE CONSULTATION

Council considered the report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking approval to a joint consultation exercise with Essex County Council in order to meet Best Value statutory requirements.

#### **Resolved**

That the Council participate in the Essex Joint Consultation Exercise and that a budget up to £20,000 be made available to CD(F&ES).

### 214 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES

In view of the lateness of the hour it was:-

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That, subject to the appointments identified below, the report of the Head of Administrative and Member Services on the nomination of representatives to serve on outside bodies for the municipal year 2000/2002 be referred to the next Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Appointee(s)</u>
A E C General Assembly	3 Conservative, 2 Labour 2 Liberal Democrat 2 Independent representatives
Association of Essex Councils	Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee (Cllr G Fox)
Association of Essex Councils L A 21 Members Group	Cllr T G Cutmore
Association of Essex Councils Regional Strategy Group	Chairman of Transportation & Environmental Services Committee (Cllr D M Ford)
Association of Essex Councils	Chairman of the Community Safety

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Community Safety Members  
Steering Committee  
Local Government  
Association

Sub-Committee (Cllr Mrs J Ford)  
  
Voting Member -Cllr P F A Webster  
Substitute Member – Cllr G Fox

(2) That attendance and travel allowance be paid for Member attendance at the above Meetings. (HAMS)

The Meeting closed at 10.44 pm

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date. \_\_\_\_\_

APPENDIX 1  
TO MINUTES

APPROVED SCHEDULE

Approved Fee Structure

Charge Band	Sales	Charge	Income £
Up to ½ hour	389270	.40p	155,708
½ to 1 hour	475978	.40p	190,391
1 to 2 hours	303367	.40p	121,347
2 to 3 hours	52098	.75p	39,074
3 to 4 hours	28436	1.00p	28,436
4 to 5 hours	8248	1.25p	10,310
Daily	32441	2.00p	64,882
Weekly	1353	8.00p	10,824
Daily (App)	15586	1.75p	27,275
Weekly (App)	1944	7.00p	<u>13,608</u>
			661,855
		Less VAT	<u>98,574</u>
			<u>563, 281</u>

2000/01 Possible Split Income £536,000



APPENDIX 2  
TO MINUTES

RAYLEIGH CHAMBER OF TRADE PROPOSAL

Charge Band	Sales	Charge	Income £
Up to ½ hour	389270	.20p	77,854
½ to 1 hour	475978	.40p	190,391
1 to 2 hours	303367	.40p	121,347
2 to 3 hours	52098	.80p	41,678
3 to 4 hours	28436	1.10p	31,280
4 to 5 hours	8248	1.30p	10,722
Day tickets	32441	2.20p	71,370
Weekly	1353	8.00p	10,824
Daily (App)	5586	1.80p	10,055
Weekly (App)	1944	7.00p	<u>13,608</u>
			579,129
		Less VAT	<u>86,253</u>
			<u>492,876</u>

2000/01 Possible Split Income £489,000