

AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 7 SEPTEMBER 2000

Present:- Councillor Mrs J E Menell – Chairman.
Councillors Mrs C M Dean, Mrs C D Down, Mrs J I Loughlin,
D J Morson, R J O'Neill, G W Powers, Mrs S V Schneider and
R C Smith

Also present:- E Planterose (Museum Society)

Officers in attendance:- J B Dickson, Mrs S J McLagan, M T Purkiss
and Mrs C Roberts.

AM11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D W Gregory and A C Streeter and from Messrs N B Newman and J Hurwitz.

AM12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2000 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AM13 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute AM4(ii) – Decriminalisation

Councillor G W Powers said that he would speak on this at a later stage.

(ii) Minute AM5 – Community Achievement Award Scheme Working Party

Councillor Powers made reference to comments being credited to “a member”. He said that he would prefer to be named specifically in the Minutes.

The Committee & PR Manager explained that impersonal Minutes were used to eliminate the possibility of Officers being perceived to take sides. At his suggestion Members' views were canvassed and Councillor R J O'Neill said that he felt that there was nothing wrong with named references and that if one Councillor was particularly voluble the comments could be consolidated into one reference. The Committee & PR Manager stated that Officers would take note of this if it were the general view of Members.

AM14 BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY

Councillor R J O'Neill declared an interest in this item in so far as he was the Chairman of the Friends of Bridge End Gardens

The Minutes of the meetings of the Bridge End Gardens Working Party held on 12 June and 24 July 2000 were received.

(i) Minute BEG10 - Friends of Bridge End Gardens

Councillor R J O'Neill informed the meeting that the Friends of Bridge End Gardens were making good progress towards achieving charitable status.

(ii) Minute BEG11 - Next meeting of the Working Party

It was suggested that the possibility of obtaining a Writtle College student on a placement to work in the Gardens should be investigated and Officers undertook to pursue this.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Bridge End Gardens Working Party held on 12 June and 24 July 2000 be approved and adopted.

AM15 PARKING STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

The Sub-Committee received the Minutes of the meetings of the Parking Strategy Working Party held on 13 July and 1 August 2000.

(i) Minute PS13 – Decriminalisation – Response to Essex County Council

Councillor Powers stated that he had been very disappointed by the tone of the letter sent to Essex County Council. He did not believe that the Council had a policy on decriminalisation. Decriminalisation assumed that the police had limitless resources to police the roads. He wished to disassociate himself from the Council's letter. Whilst he did not wish to disparage the Working Party's work he felt that it was adrift from the rest of the Council.

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee explained that the Community Services Committee would be asked to establish a policy on decriminalisation at a future meeting. Councillor Mrs C Dean added that it should be made clear that the views of the Council as a whole had not yet been sought.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Parking Strategy Working Party held on 13 July and 1 August 2000 be approved and adopted.

AM16 MUSEUM MANAGEMENT JOINT WORKING PARTY

The Sub-Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Museum Management Joint Working Party held on 31 August 2000.

(i) Minute MM11

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee commented on the excellent work carried out by the Education Officer of the Museum.

RESOLVED that Minutes of the meeting of the Museum Management Joint Working Party held on 31 August 2000 be approved and adopted.

AM17

AD-HOC GRANT REQUESTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report on requests received for grant aid with the Officers' initial assessment of the eligibility of those requests.

RESOLVED that

- 1 a grant of £350 be awarded to the Stansted Cricket Club
- 2 a grant of £350 be awarded to the Saffron Walden Town Band
- 3 the application for a grant from the Chamber of Trade Saffron Walden be refused.

AM18

BUDGET STRATEGY 2001/02

The Sub-Committee considered a report from the Budget Strategy Group giving information about the impact on Shire Districts of the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review for 2001/04. The Corporate Director – Finance explained the implications of the report and the timetable of the financial settlement. He drew attention to the fact that Business Centre Managers were critically examining all budgets and looking at a 5% reduction. In addition, the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 26 September would be examining all budgets. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee and Councillor R P Chambers would be present at the appropriate meeting of the Community Services Committee for discussion of these matters.

Councillor D J Morson stressed that priority must be given to the Sub-Committee's statutory services.

Councillor Powers said that much more detail was needed next time round and that the picture was hazy.

Councillor O'Neill commented that the most important information from the Government would only be available at the end of the financial year, so that only the scope for reductions could be examined now.

The Corporate Director – Finance added that there would be a provisional settlement in November /December, and in November transitional relief provisions would be disclosed. Councillor R C Smith read the resolution of the Environmental Services

Sub-Committee following its consideration of this report at its meeting on 5 September 2000 and Members agreed to adopt its resolutions.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 the Budget Strategy Group meet with Business Centre Managers and Committee Chairmen to examine critically all budgets and to examine the impact and collate a corporate approach.
- 2 Members endorse that there is a need for expenditure reduction
- 3 further reports be submitted as necessary to the next cycle of meetings.

AM19 **PRESENTATION BY RURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF ESSEX**

Councillor Powers informed the meeting that he was trying to set up a presentation by Nick Shuttleworth of the Rural Community Council for Essex.

AM20 **TURPIN'S BOWLS CLUB**

The Chairman of the Sub-Committee informed the meeting that an invitation was expected from Turpin's Bowls Club to Members to attend an evening at the Club. She reminded them that it was important to record any hospitality in the appropriate register.

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm.