

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD
SAFFRON WALDEN on 4 APRIL 2000**

Present:- Councillor A R Row - Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, Mrs D Cornell, Mrs C M Dean, R C Dean, Mrs S Flack,
M A Hibbs, A J Ketteridge, Mrs J E Menell, D M Miller, D J Morson and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- M R Dellow, Mrs S McLagan, B D Perkins,
M T Purkiss and Mrs C Roberts.

I. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C A Bayley and G W Powers.

I. MINUTES

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

I. BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute 337 - Representatives on Outside Bodies

Councillor R C Dean informed the meeting that the Chief Executive was considering the possibility of a better procedure for selection of representatives on outside bodies.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Sub-Committee held on 14 March 2000.

(i) Minute ES46 - Real Nappy Awareness Week

Councillor Mrs J E Menell explained the difference between modern, washable nappies and disposable nappies and provided examples of each.

(ii) Minute ES47 - Environmental Incident

The Corporate Director-Development informed the meeting that no reply had been received yet from the DETR.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Sub-Committee held on 14 March 2000 be approved and adopted.

I. AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 16 March 2000.

(i) Minute AM69 - Bridge End Gardens Working Party, Responsibility for the Slade

Councillor D M Miller asked that officers research the legal responsibilities for the Slade and it was noted that this matter would be clarified at the next meeting of the Working Party.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 16 March 2000 be approved and adopted.

I. LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 20 March 2000.

(i) Minute L43 - Hackney Carriage Fares

Councillors Mrs S Flack and D J Morson informed the meeting that the Hackney Carriage fares, which had been agreed with the operators, included all extra costs whereas in other authorities' areas extra charges were imposed.

(ii) Minute L44 - Private Hire Licensing Fees and Charges 2000/01

It was noted that the relevant figures had been arrived at with the agreement of the Taxi Drivers' Association.

(iii) Minutes L47-49 - Determination of Private Hire Drivers' Licences

Members were informed about the circumstances of the decisions made. It was noted that the Sub-Committee only considered licence applications where some aspect precluded automatic grant of the licence.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 20 March 2000 be approved and adopted, including the recommendations contained in Minutes L43 and L44.

I. HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee held on 21 March 2000.

(i) Minute HS82 - Tenant Panel Meeting

Members expressed regret that any shadow should be cast over the launch of the Tenant Compact by unfortunate publicity about possible transfer of the Council's housing stock.

(ii) Minute HS84 - Vulnerable Tenants Support

Councillor Mrs J E Menell asked that the Senior Housing Officer report this development to the Community Support Group.

(iii) Minute HS85 - BAA Compensation

The Corporate Director-Development informed the meeting that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee on possible ways of spending the outstanding balance within the appropriate part of the District.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee be approved and adopted.

I. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SERVICE STATEMENT

The Head of Community and Leisure Services reminded the meeting that the Council had approved a policy of preparing Equal Opportunities Service Statements for all of the Council's services. The Statement for Community and Leisure Services was submitted.

RESOLVED that the Equal Opportunities Service Statement for Community and Leisure Services be approved.

I. THE DISTRICT OF UTTLESFORD OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER 2000

The Committee received a report recommending the making of the new Off-Street Parking Order subject to consideration of four letters of objection and subject to a modification to make it clear that season tickets were available for use at Chequers Lane car park in Great Dunmow.

In answer to questions from Councillor Mrs S Flack, the Head of Community and Leisure Services informed the meeting that the Parking Attendant in Dunmow worked 20 hours flexibly to cover the whole of the restricted period.

Members also commented on the need for "no waiting" markers in Dunmow High Street due to the removal of yellow lines during roadworks.

In considering the letters of objection, Members agreed to investigate the possibility of placing parking bays for use by disabled persons along the wall of the doctor's surgery at Angel Lane, Dunmow. As regards season tickets the Chairman of the Parking Strategy Working Party stressed that the Council was not currently making substantial amounts of money from car parking, but that the predicted substantial increase in income from the Swan Meadow Car Park (the extension to which would take some months to construct) might alter this. The Chief Accountant reminded the meeting that the accepted and recommended method of costing car parks included capital charges, and that the full effects of the new valuations and of the cost of the new extension had yet to feed through.

The Chairman reminded Members that in all only four letters of objection had been received. Other Members commented on the importance of car parking as a resource and effective management of it. Councillor Mrs Menell suggested that the possibility of contracting out car parks should be considered. Councillor Miller stressed that free parking could be provided only where there was a surplus of car parking spaces.

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Councillor A Dean which he had passed to officers to refer to the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED that the District of Uttlesford Off Street Parking Places Order 2000 be confirmed (subject to the modification referred to in the report to make it clear in the Order that season tickets are available for use at the Chequers Lane Car Park, Great Dunmow), with the intention that the Order will come into force on 17 April 2000 as regards all car parks except the Swan Meadow extension, and that the Swan Meadow extension car park be included within the Order with effect from 24 July 2000.

I. LARGE SCALE PROJECT GRANT REQUEST

The Head of Community and Leisure Services reported receipt of a request from Aythorpe Roding Recreation Committee to carry forward its grant allocation of £3,500 to the 2000/01 financial year. She explained that the linked National Lottery grant application had been hampered by problems with a leasing agreement between the Recreation Committee and a third party.

RESOLVED that payment to Aythorpe Roding Recreation Committee of its grant be carried forward into the 2000/01 financial year.

I. ESSEX DISABLED PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION STEERING GROUP

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from this group inviting nominations for a representative. The group stated that it oversaw the operation of a travel voucher scheme for the disabled.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs S Flack be appointed to represent the Council on the Essex Disabled People's Association Steering Group.

I. VILLAGE WASTE DISPOSAL SKIPS

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Councillor Mrs S Flack requesting better maintenance of skip sites in certain villages. He informed the meeting that the matter would be submitted to the Environmental Services Sub-Committee at its next meeting.

I. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of Exempt Information as defined in paragraph 8 of Part I of Schedule 12 A of the 1972 Act.

I. TENDER: CAR PARK EXTENSION - SWAN MEADOW NEW POND LANE SAFFRON WALDEN

The Committee received a report on tenders received for these works and noted that the lowest tender in the sum of £170,935 had been accepted.

The meeting ended at 8.37 pm.