

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE held at 7.30pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 5 DECEMBER 2000

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman
Councillors E C Abrahams, Mrs C A Bayley, Mrs D Cornell,
Mrs C M Dean, R C Dean, Mrs S Flack, D W Gregory,
A J Ketteridge, Mrs J I Loughlin, D M Miller and D J Morson

Also present:- Councillor R P Chambers

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

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REPRESENTATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee received representations from Mr J L Platt of Gold Street Residents Association about residents' parking areas in Saffron Walden. The Chairman gave an assurance that these representations would be taken into consideration by the appropriate forum when considering these matters. Notes of the representations made are attached to these Minutes at Annex A.

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APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs J E Menell, G W Powers and A C Streeter.

Declarations of interest were made by:-

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| Councillor Mrs D Cornell | - | Item on capital programme, as Uttlesford representative on Saffron Walden Day Centre. |
| | - | item on concessionary fares (Minutes of Amenities Sub-Committee) as the holder of a bus pass; |
| | - | item on the Community Achievement Panel Minutes as detailed in those Minutes |
| Councillor Mrs C Dean | - | item on car parking at Stansted Mountfitchet, as a member of Stansted Parish Council. |
| Councillor Mrs J I Loughlin | - | item on car parking at Stansted Mountfitchet, as a member of Stansted Parish Council. |
| Councillor D W Gregory | - | any item involving taxis – as a private hire driver. |
| Councillor R P Chambers | - | any item involving Turpins |

Bowls Club, as a member of that club.

171 **HEAD OF PERSONNEL AND OFFICE SERVICES**

The Chairman introduced Mrs Carole Hughes, the new Head of Personnel and Office Services and welcomed her to the meeting.

172 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2000 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

173 **BUSINESS ARISING**

(i) Minute 91 – “Age Matters”

Councillor R P Chambers informed the meeting that the County Council had decided that day that one County Council maintained home be retained in each district. In the Uttlesford District that home was to be Stanley Wilson Lodge. The Leader suggested that the District Council should continue to investigate some form of partnership regarding the Hatherley home since it was linked to the sheltered housing scheme at Hatherley Court. If some sort of community partnership was not formed it was likely that Hatherley would close because, since it was small, it would not be economically viable on its own.

Councillor Mrs Bayley suggested that the District Council should consider taking over Hatherley. Councillor Mrs Flack asked what guarantee there was of Stanley Wilson Lodge remaining with the County Council for the future and Councillor Chambers stated that this was guaranteed “for the foreseeable future”. Councillor Row suggested that the Leader and Officers should research options. Councillor R C Dean asked whether the Government and the local MP were helping and Councillor Chambers explained that whilst the local MP was helping the Government was not listening.

The Corporate Director Development suggested that the issue should be revisited to assess whether something could be achieved for the benefit of the elderly within the wider community and that contacts should be made with the County Council and outside bodies. Councillor Morson recommended that a working party of Members and Officers be set up and that residents should be made aware of the options. The Corporate Director Development said it was necessary first to assess the County Council’s formal decision which had not yet been received. Councillor Morson thanked Councillor Chambers for supplying the meeting with the information before it.

Councillor R C Dean asked that it be noted that the Committee considered this to be one of the most serious matters to come before Members for some considerable time.

RESOLVED that once a formal statement is received from the County Council officers consider and report back on options.

(ii) Minute 96 – Response to Essex County Council on Decriminalisation

Councillor Chambers informed the meeting that he had voted against adopting decriminalisation but that Essex County Council had voted for it. The portfolio holder for transport would visit the District Council to discuss the issue in more detail with Members.

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“DISTINCTIVELY ESSEX – A CULTURAL STRATEGY FOR ESSEX”

The Head of Community and Leisure Services presented a report which informed Members of the work being undertaken by local authorities in Essex to produce a Cultural Strategy for Essex. It recommended that confirmation be given to officers’ involvement in production of the Strategy and that a contribution of £1,000 (over two financial years) be made towards production costs.

RESOLVED that confirmation be given to officers’ involvement in the development of “Distinctively Essex – A Cultural Strategy for Essex” and a contribution of £1,000 (over 2 financial years) towards production costs.

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REVIEW OF CAR PARKING AT STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET

The Head of Community and Leisure Services presented a report which updated Members on the usage of the two car parks in Stansted Mountfitchet. It recommended that a new tariff of £2.00 for all day parking be introduced in both Lower Street and Crafton Green car parks with effect from 1 April 2001 and that a report be produced when officers had received a formal request from Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council regarding the introduction of a Residents’ Parking Scheme.

Councillor Mrs Dean said that double yellow lines were required on both sides of the entrance to the Crafton Green car park. It was confirmed that this matter had been drawn to the attention of Essex County Council.

RESOLVED that:-

1. a new tariff of £2.00 for all day parking be introduced in both Lower Street and Crafton Green car parks with effect from 1 April 2001;

2. charges be reviewed annually by Officers to reflect any changes to the parking fees at the WAGN car park;
3. a report on the implications of introducing a residents' parking scheme be made following receipt of a formal request from Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council.

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NEW ITEMS FOR CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Head of Community and Leisure Services presented a report on three new items for possible inclusion in the Capital Programme. The Chairman introduced the subject of a bus shelter at the Swan Meadow car park to provide shelter for passengers using the new service to Addenbrookes Hospital. It was noted that this had arisen at the Community Conference and that planning permission was not needed for it.

In answer to questions the Corporate Director – Finance explained that capital receipts were buoyant although revenue, due to the loss of the negative housing subsidy, was very restricted. He confirmed that capital monies were available for all four projects.

RESOLVED that the three schemes outlined in the report, for communal TV aerials (£33,000), surfacing at Lower Street Coach Park at Stansted Mountfitchet (£30,000) and refurbishment of the kitchen at Saffron Walden Day Centre (£17,750) be included in the draft capital programme with a scheme in the sum of £5,000 to provide and install a bus shelter at the Swan Meadow car park.

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TAKELEY DAY CENTRE/THAXTED DAY CENTRE

The Head of Community and Leisure Services presented a report on works to provide disability access to Takeley Day Centre and Thaxted Day Centre.

RESOLVED that the provision of disability access at Takeley Day Centre and Thaxted Day Centre (£15,000), to include the costs of supervising the contract, be met from capital in 2000/01.

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BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, HOUSING SERVICES AND LEISURE AND AMENITIES PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee received tables showing progress on the commitments in the Council's Best Value Performance Plan.

179 **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee received the written report of Councillor G W Powers on the progress of developments as regards the Great Dunmow Museum Society.

180 **UTTLESFORD VOLUNTEER BUREAU**

The Committee received a report for information on the financial position of the Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau. The Bureau would be offered the opportunity to submit an application for three years funding from the Council's Voluntary Organisation Support Grant scheme in December/January (subject to the results of the Best Value Review).

181 **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

182 **AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

Councillor A J Ketteridge declared an interest in this item insofar as he was a member of the Saffron Walden Town Council.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 16 November 2000 be approved and adopted including the recommendation contained in Minute AM29 (Jubilee Gardens Saffron Walden).

183 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 22 November 2000 were received.

184 **HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee held on 21 November 2000 be approved and adopted including the recommendation contained in Minute HS33 (former tenant rent arrears).

185 COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT PANEL

The Minutes of the meeting of the Community Achievement Panel held on 24 November 2000 were received. It was noted that a special award had been recommended for Lloyd Upsdell and that Officers were contacting Uttlesford Volunteer Bureau suggesting that an appropriate award be made to Gwyneth Southgate.

In relation to Minute CA5 it was noted that Councillor Lewis had been approached and agreed that awards should be made to Richard Barnett and Anthony Jenkins.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Community Achievement Panel be approved and adopted including the recommendations contained in Minutes CA4 (Special Awards) and CA5 (nominations for Community Achievement Awards).

186 REVENUE ESTIMATES 2001/02

The Corporate Director – Development drew attention to the estimates booklets circulated with the agenda and pertaining to the Amenities, Housing and Environmental Services Sub-Committees.

RESOLVED that the draft service plan summaries and revenue estimates for the Amenities, Housing Services and Environmental Services Sub-Committees be approved and adopted and forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

187 SEASONAL WISHES

The Chairman of the Committee expressed seasonal wishes to the Members and Officers who responded appropriately.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.