

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 6 FEBRUARY 2001**

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

Also present:- Councillor R P Chambers.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman: Mrs D Cornell

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

245 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D J Morson.

Councillor M A Hibbs declared an interest in the item concerning Radwinter Road/Thaxted Road allotment land.

246 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2000 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

247 **ORDER OF AGENDA**

The Chairman informed Members that, subject to receiving the agreement of the Committee, he proposed to consider the item on Radwinter Road/Thaxted Road allotment land as the next item.

*At this point Councillor M A Hibbs reiterated his interest in this item, left the room and took no part in the discussion or vote on the item.*

248 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(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 paragraphs 7 and 8 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

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**RADWINTER ROAD/THAXTED ROAD ALLOTMENT LAND**

The Property Services Manager presented a report recommending the disposal of non-statutory allotment land adjacent to the Radwinter Road cemetery, Saffron Walden. He made reference to new heads of terms which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and to the planning brief for the site. Members discussed the general principles as well as different possible uses for the area including the suggestion that part of it be used as the site of a new elderly persons' home. The Property Services Manager also advised Members about the rights of allotment holders and gave details of land value and interest apportionment.

Officers advised Members that the negotiations had been based on current Council policy and that the District Council was not the statutory agency responsible for provision of elderly people's homes.

It was noted that a separate report would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the appropriation of land for housing purposes.

RECOMMENDED to the Policy and Resources Committee that the proposals outlined in the report regarding disposal of the allotment site be approved.

(Councillors R C Dean, Mrs S Flack, A J Ketteridge and J I Loughlin asked that their votes against this recommendation be minuted).

At this stage, the public were readmitted to the meeting.

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**THE FRIENDS OF BRIDGE END GARDENS – REPRESENTATION**

The Committee and PR Manager reported on an invitation to appoint a representative to serve on the Executive Committee of the Friends of Bridge End Gardens. It was felt that this link would complement the work of the Bridge End Gardens Working Party and that a Member of the Working Party would be an appropriate choice.

RESOLVED that Councillor D J Morson be appointed to the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Bridge End Gardens.

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**FUTURE COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTING PEOPLE**

The Housing Services Manager reported on "Supporting People", the Government's policy and funding framework for support services for vulnerable members of the community which would be introduced in April 2003. Support costs were to be separated from housing costs and bids would in future be required from a county wide centralised fund for services to continue. No "new money" was expected for the new arrangements. A sum

of £18,000 was being provided by DETR to enable mapping of existing services in Uttlesford. It was essential for the various services provided that all correct data should be identified now.

Members expressed the hope that the pockets of poverty which existed would be identified by this process. They felt that there were data protection and confidentiality issues involved and the work to be undertaken in the mapping of services was a major task. In answer to a question, the Housing Services Manager confirmed that it was hoped there would be a further funding in the following year. Members considered the following three options:

- (a) A “go alone” proposal – this was thought to be unrealistic for Uttlesford as the funds available would not be adequate to recruit someone suitable.
- (b) Uttlesford could join a group of Councils and the funding jointly available could result in recruiting a team of more junior staff supervised by a jointly approved senior officer
- (c) Uttlesford could work in partnership with a neighbouring Council.

Discussions had been held with Braintree District Council and it had been suggested that by combining both Councils’ implementation allocations it would be possible to recruit a suitable person to undertake the work on behalf of both Councils.

RESOLVED that the Council agree to a partnership arrangement with Braintree District Council to implement “supporting people”, and that IT equipment be used to minimise travel expenses where possible.

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### **LARGE SCALE PROJECT GRANT EXTENSION**

The Committee received a report on a request by Newport Cricket Club for its award to be carried over to the next financial year. Adverse weather conditions had delayed the work necessary to bring the club’s project to fruition.

RESOLVED that the 2000/01 Large Scale Grant awarded to Newport Cricket Club be carried over into the 2001/2002 financial year.

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### **HATHERLEY HOUSE/COURT – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received a report from the Housing Services Manager updating them about the County Council decision that Hatherley House be sold or leased as a going concern to the independent sector.

Earlier in the evening, County Councillor Mrs E Dines had met with Members to discuss the future of Hatherley House. At that meeting, she had outlined

the reasons for the County Council's decision to recommend disposal of this property. She had put forward a proposal which involved Uttlesford entering into an agreement which would allow any purchaser of Hatherley House to use the communal link areas.

The Housing Services Manager informed the meeting that the tenants, following three separate consultations, were not willing to be transferred to a Registered Social Landlord. It was noted that the cost to Essex County Council of maintenance and the costs per bed of £590 per week meant, however, that the status quo was not an option. The question was whether to enter into negotiations with the Essex County Council. This would help to secure the future of Hatherley House, the county home, for the benefit of the local community. In addition it was necessary to resolve emerging issues relating to the provision of the Warden Service at Hatherley Court which could result in Uttlesford taking over direct responsibility for the service.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the current position regarding Hatherley House/Court and the shared facilities be noted and the officers be authorised to negotiate with Essex County Council and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.
- 2 Officers arrange to meet residents of Hatherley Court once more for consultation, to keep them informed of developments.

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#### **REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee received the reports of Councillor Mrs S Flack on the Dunmow and District Over 60s Association and of Councillor Mrs D Cornell on the Saffron Walden Day Centre. Councillor Mrs J E Menell reminded the meeting that Gwyneth Southgate was retiring from her post as organiser of the Council for Voluntary Service Uttlesford and that the District Council would pay tribute to her service at the Council meeting on 27 February 2001.

Councillor D Gregory reported on the visit paid by four Members of the Council to the Oxford Archaeological Research Unit where an informative and fascinating day had been spent learning about the work entailed in preparing archaeological finds from the Stansted archaeological excavations.

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#### **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 13 December 2000 and 10 January 2001 were received,

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 13 December 2000 and 10 January 2001 be approved and adopted.

256 **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Sub-Committee held on 16 January 2001 were received.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Sub-Committee held on 16 January 2001 be approved and adopted and that the draft Revenue Estimates 2001/02, referred to in Minute ES31, be forwarded to the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

257 **AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 18 January 2001.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 18 January 2001 be approved and adopted including the recommendations contained in Minute AM37, and that the Draft Revenue Estimates 2001/2002, referred to in Minute AM38, be referred to the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

258 **BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Minute AM38 – Draft Revenue Estimates 2001/2002**

The Corporate Director-Finance explained that pursuant to the second resolution of this Minute, the £40,000 expenditure for large scale grants would be funded from capital.

**(ii) Minute AM38 - Grants to Great Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust and Dunmow Museum Society**

The Head of Community and Leisure Services submitted a report for urgent consideration regarding the funding of grants for the Great Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust and the Dunmow Museum Society.

RECOMMENDED that, based on previous commitments made by Members to support these organisations,

- 1 grants for 2000/01 be made to the Dunmow Museum Society (£2,000) and the Great Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust (£1,000) and be funded from the existing 2000/01 Amenities budget.
- 2 the Policy and Resources Committee be requested to make

provision to increase the Museum service budget by £3,000 for 2001/02 and 2002/03 to enable a grant of £2,000 to be made to the Dunmow Museum Society and a grant of £1,000 for the Maltings to the Great Dunmow Maltings Preservation Trust.

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## HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee held on 23 January 2001.

The Corporate Director-Finance explained that the final stage in the fixing of the Council tenants' rent would be at the Policy and Resources Committee the following week.

Further to the discussions which had taken place to date on the proposed Council tenants' rent for houses and for garages,

*Councillor Mrs C A Bayley declared an interest in this item in so far as she has a Council garage.*

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Minutes of the Housing Services Sub-Committee held on 23 January 2001 be approved and adopted and that the draft Revenue Estimates 2001/02 referred to in Minute HS37 be forwarded to the special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.
- 2 that the draft Housing Revenue Account Estimates 2001/02 be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval, as amended to reflect:
  - (i) an increase in garage rents from £4.00 to £5.00 per week,
  - (ii) an increase in dwelling rents, above the DETR guideline, by an average of £3.00 per week – giving a rent multiplier of 2.161
  - (iii) the additional £173,000 income generated, £28,000 from garage rents and £145,000 from dwelling rents, being added to the repairs budget.

*(Councillor M A Hibbs abstained from voting on this matter).*

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.