

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE held at the COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2001 at 7.30
pm**

Present: Councillor A R Row (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs C A Bayley, Mrs D Cornell, Mrs C M Dean,
R C Dean, Mrs S Flack, D W Gregory, M A Hibbs,
A J Ketteridge, Mrs J I Loughlin and Mrs J E Menell

Officers in attendance: R H Chamberlain, M R Dellow, Mrs S L McLagan,
B D Perkins, M T Purkiss and Mrs C E Roberts

14 **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

The Committee received representations from Mr C Goldie on behalf of the Bridge End Residents Association about three areas of open space within Saffron Walden which the members of the Association considered to be neglected. Notes of the representations made and the reply from the Chairman of the Committee are attached to these Minutes at Annex A.

15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E C Abrahams, D J Morson and A C Streeter.

16 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2001 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17 **MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 314 – Hatherley House, Saffron Walden

In answer to a question from a Member, the Housing Services Manager informed the meeting that he had heard from Essex County Council of a possible expression of interest in taking over the running of Hatherley. A great deal of consultation would still need to be undertaken with this Council regarding the arrangements with Uttlesford's sheltered housing site at Hatherley Court.

18 **AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE – MINUTE AM54 SWAN MEADOW**

Minute AM54 – Swan Meadow

The Chairman agreed to consider Minute AM54 at this stage of the meeting in view of the interest of members of the Bridge End Residents Association.

The Head of Community & Leisure Services reminded the meeting of the proposals to remedy the pond structure, landscape the perimeter, provide wildlife information notices and maintain the pond and its environs in the future, and substantial debate ensued.

RESOLVED that the recommendation contained in Minute AM54 of the Minutes of the Amenities Sub-Committee Meeting held on 24 May 2001 be approved and adopted, and that the proposals be duly submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee.

19

HOSPITAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

The Head of Community & Leisure Services presented a report which recommended a grant of £30,000 to Uttlesford Community Travel in the current year, £27,500 in 2002/03 and £28,000 in 2003/04 and that the Council entered into a Service Level Agreement with Uttlesford Community Travel over the three years. She outlined the work undertaken by Uttlesford Community Travel, describing the current service provision and likely future operational needs. Estimated costs and income for the service were provided although Members were reminded that the predicted income could not be guaranteed.

Some Members questioned the need for these services and their costs, particularly in the light of figures received from the Primary Care Trust about numbers of annual visits.

The Head of Community & Leisure Services advised Members that it would be possible to ask for regular reports and/or withdraw grant from the service. The Service Level Agreement would contain appropriate safeguards for the Council

Members discussed the proposals at length and suggestions were made for other possible transport arrangements. Such as providing a public bus service to Cambridge. However, it was agreed that it was not financially viable to provide a service for all, and It was acknowledged that expenditure levels must be monitored carefully.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Council offer UCT a 3 year grant utilising the Community Transport Budget of £30,000 in the current year, £27,500 in 2002/03 and £28,000 in 2003/04 of which £6,000 is to be earmarked annually as a reserve for the replacement vehicle fund.
- 2 the Council enter into a three year Service Level Agreement with UCT.

20

AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 24 May 2001.

(i) Minute AM52 – Use Of Unspent Ad Hoc Grant Scheme Budget

A letter from Uttlesford Carers reiterating their request for grant funding was circulated at the meeting.

Members felt that it was unacceptable to reconsider the decision made but noted that the unspent Ad Hoc Grant Scheme budget could be applied for by these organisations.

(ii) Minute AM53 – Saffron Walden Museum & Uttlesford Museum Strategic Plan 2001-2004

In answer to a question from Councillor M A Hibbs, the Head of Community & Leisure Services informed the meeting that the Property Services Manager was reviewing the condition of the boilers in the Museum.

Councillor Mrs J E Menell informed Members that the Museum Curator would be willing to take Councillors on a tour of the Newport store.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Amenities Sub-Committee held on 24 May 2001 be approved and adopted including the recommendations contained in Minutes 52 (Use of Unspent Ad Hoc Grants Scheme Budget) and 53 (Saffron Walden Museum and Uttlesford Museum Strategic Plan 2001 – 2004).

21

PARKING STRATEGY WORKING PARTY

The Committee received the Minutes of the meeting of the Parking Strategy Working Party held on 31 May 2001.

(i) Minute PS5 – Residents' Parking Streets Survey

The Head of Community & Leisure Services explained that parking was to be available for one hour only with no return within two hours, under the preferred option.

Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of providing free parking and it was acknowledged that the current proposals provided short term parking at a reasonable cost.

Concern was expressed about the existing provision for residents parking on both sides of the street in Gold Street, in view of the access difficulties experienced on the occasion of a recent fire there. It was considered, however, that the double parking which had occurred at about 8.30pm would not have been prevented by the restrictions under consideration.

(ii) Minute PS4 – Presentation By Brian Fairweather On Great Dunmow Car Park Usage

The Head of Community & Leisure Services informed the meeting that copies of the papers forming Mr Fairweather's report would be sent to all Members of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parking Strategy Working Party held on 31 May 2001 be approved and adopted including the recommendations contained in Minute PS4 (Great Dunmow Car Park Usage) and PS5 (Residents Parking Streets Survey), subject in the case of Minute PS5 to submission of the proposals to the Policy and Resources Committee.

22

HOUSING SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Committee received the Minutes of the Housing Services Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 June 2001.

Minute HS54 – Future Management Of The Council's Housing Stock

The Director of Community Services informed the meeting that tenants would be informed of this matter and the Committee's decision through the next newsletter.

A proposal to refer the item to full Council for decision was put to the vote and lost.

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Housing Services Sub-Committee held on 5 June 2001 be approved and adopted including the recommendation contained in Minute HS58 (Oakroyd House, Great Dunmow).

23

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Mrs J E Menell reported that the Primary Care Trust, upon which she represented the Council, had appointed a new Chief Executive, Peta Wilkinson. The Trust had produced a directory of elderly people's services and had held a half day open event at Saffron Walden Community Hospital. She was pleased to report that there was an electrocardiogram and a cardiac nurse in every practice in the District.

Councillor Mrs Menell also reported, as representative on the Uttlesford Community Support Group (Vulnerable Persons), that a new leaflet had been produced, a copy of which had hopefully already been received by all Members.

Councillor Mrs Menell also asked, in her capacity as Chairman of the Buffy Bus Association, that users of the bus, particularly Parish Councils, should make themselves aware of the purposes to which the bus is dedicated before requesting visits and publicise the role and availability of the BUFFY Bus.

24 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 23 May 2001 be received and adopted.

25 **BUDGET MONITORING – ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

The Sub-Committee received the Budget Monitoring report of provisional outturn for 2000/01 as against the 2000/01 revised budget for Environmental Services.

26 **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – LAST MEETING**

The Chairman of the Committee informed Members that this was the last meeting of the Committee and that on the next occasion Members would meet as the Community & Leisure Services Committee in September. He commented that whilst Members held different opinions, the business of the Committee had always proceeded in a respectful and professional manner.

On behalf of Members, Councillor M A Hibbs thanked Councillor Row for his exemplary chairmanship of the Committee over a period of many years.

The meeting ended at 9.27pm.

Annex A

REPRESENTATIONS ABOUT MAINTENANCE OF OPEN SPACES IN SAFFRON WALDEN

Mr C Goldie, representing the Bridge End Residents Association, expressed concern about maintenance of the following three open spaces:

(i) Swan Meadow Pond

Mr Goldie expressed the view that neglect was encouraging recurrent vandalism in the area. He suggested that half of the ducks should be moved to the Fens where there was a shortage. The pond liner should either be remedied or removed if unnecessary.

(ii) Close Garden, High Street

He complained of neglect encouraging vandalism and asked that the barricading of the shelter should be only a temporary solution. Shrubs should be pruned and last year's debris removed. Benches required renewal and a remedy should be found for a tree which had been badly cut, ivy on a wall and wooden board edges which were broken. He suggested that this Garden should get the same attention and budget as the Jubilee Gardens.

(iii) Walden Place

Mr Goldie complained that debris was not removed, hedges were untrimmed and there were pot holes in the driveway. He asked that contracts for maintenance be very specific as to the work to be undertaken.

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor A R Row, thanked Mr Goldie for his eloquent comments and for his interest in important features of Saffron Walden. He informed the Members of the Association that the Swan Meadow Pond was already the subject of a report to the Committee at its meeting that night and that the Close Garden would be the subject of a report from Officers in September. At Walden Place resurfacing of the hard footways was programmed for this summer. More generally, he had asked Officers to ensure that maintenance levels were closely monitored. He thanked the Members of the Association for their interest in the well-being of Saffron Walden and thanked Mr Goldie for his public spiritedness in coming to speak at this meeting. He invited Members of the Association to stay to listen to the debate upon the item regarding the Swan Meadow Pond.