

**COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 3 SEPTEMBER 2002**

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, Mrs J I Loughlin, R J Copping,
Mrs D Cornell, R C Dean, Mrs J E Menell and D M Miller.

Also present at the invitation of the Chairman:- Councillor D J Morson.

Officers in attendance:- J B Dickson, Mrs S McLagan, J Mitchell,
B D Perkins and Mrs C Roberts.

CL10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

An apology was received from Councillor G Sell.

CL11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28 May 2002 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

CL12 MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute CL4 – District Grants Advisory Panel

The Head of Community and Leisure Services informed the meeting that the second resolution in this Minute required to be confirmed by the full Council.

RESOLVED that the Minute be amended to show resolution 2 as a recommendation to the full Council.

**CL13 MINUTES OF THE BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY HELD ON
17 JUNE AND 19 AUGUST 2002 – MINUTE BEG160**

The Committee received the Minutes of the meetings of the Bridge End Gardens Working Party held on 17 June and 19 August 2002.

Members noted the need to achieve greater public accessibility for the improved Gardens, particularly for the future and in order to meet the requirements of the Heritage Lottery Fund. They also discussed and noted the need to ensure appropriate revenue support and funding for the maintenance of the improved Gardens.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Bridge End Gardens Working party meetings held on 17 June and 19 August be approved and adopted including the following recommendations:-

Minute BEG160

- “1 Members accept the principle of providing greater public accessibility to the maze and walled gardens as required by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 2 The revised arrangements recently arranged in relation to the maze continue.
- 3 The maze and garden be accessible at the weekends between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm once security measures are in place.
- 4 The contract with Superclean be amended to include provision for the opening and closing of the gardens for 2002/03 and the additional cost be included in the draft 2002/03 budget.”

CL14 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

CL15 MINUTES OF THE BRIDGE END GARDENS WORKING PARTY HELD ON 17 JUNE AND 19 AUGUST 2002 – MINUTE BEG182

In this context, Members considered a separate confidential report from the Head of Planning and Building Surveying about the long term maintenance commitments following the bid for Heritage Lottery Funding of restoration of the Gardens. Officers answered questions about third party funding and a Member expressed concern about competing claims from heritage sites throughout the District.

RESOLVED that the following recommendation of the Bridge End Gardens Working Party meeting held on 19 August 2002 be approved:-

“the Community and Leisure Committee reaffirms its support for the Bridge End Gardens Restoration Project and makes appropriate provision in its draft Revenue Estimates for consideration when the budgets are determined.”

(Councillor R J Copping abstained from voting on Minute BEG182 because he considered that more information was necessary).

The public were then readmitted to the meeting.

CL16 BUDGET UPDATE AND STRATEGY

The Committee considered a report on priorities and budget targets for the Community and Leisure Committee in the light of the latest budget projections. It was noted that new procedures required consultation with the

public on budget proposals before the November/December cycle of meetings.

The information before the Committee included lists of priorities presented to the Council on 16 July, the updated budget projection for the Committee, officer input and a letter dated 30 August from the Leader recommending new committee targets and showing additional savings required in the Community and Leisure Budget of £120,000. In the context of the latter, Members considered a number of specific matters on which officers were asked to report back as set out in the decision below.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Committee notes the Council's priorities and the indicative additional committee target savings of £120,000 and asks officers to consider in the context of the latter the funding of the Museum, grants administration and the payment of various grants to outside bodies, the Community Safety budget and the results of the current Best Value Review.
- 2 the updated budget as set out in appendix BS06 be confirmed, including the officer input from appendix BS07 and the £120,000 indicative savings target from Councillor Chambers, as the basis on which officers should prepare detailed estimates for consideration in the November/December cycle in the light of any comments received from the next meeting of Scrutiny Committee No 1.

CL17

RETROSPECTIVE DECISIONS – GRANTS

Councillor Mrs J E Menell declared an interest in this item, insofar as she is the Chairman of the BUFFY Bus and Councillor R J Copping declared an interest insofar as he is a Member of the Dunmow Maltings and the Dunmow Museum Society.

The Committee considered a report advising Members of decisions made to allocate grants for the Community Project Grant scheme and the Voluntary Organisation Support Grant Scheme, together with details of the ad hoc grants allocated since the beginning of April 2002.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the decisions made by the Head of Community and Leisure Services in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Community and Leisure Committee and that the underspend of £105.40 from the one year Voluntary Organisations Support Grant Scheme be transferred to the Ad Hoc Grants Scheme.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.