

COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 11 FEBRUARY 2003

Present:- Councillor A J Ketteridge – Chairman
 Councillors Mrs C A Bayley, W F Bowker, Mrs C A Cant, Mrs M A Caton, R P Chambers, Mrs J F Cheetham, R J Copping, Mrs D Cornell, A Dean, Mrs C M Dean, R C Dean, Mrs C D Down, Mrs S Flack, M L Foley, M A Gayler, Mrs E J Godwin, R D Green, D W Gregory, D M Jones, P G F Lewis, Mrs C M Little, Mrs J I Loughlin, Mrs J E Menell, R A Merrion, D M Miller, D J Morson, R J O'Neill, Mrs S V Schneider, G Sell, R W L Stone, A C Streeter, Mrs E Tealby-Watson, A R Thawley, R B Tyler and P A Wilcock.

Officers in attendance:- Mrs E Forbes, J B Dickson, A Forrow, B D Perkins, M J Perry and M T Purkiss.

C74 STATEMENT BY A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

Before the meeting Mr Robert Wingard, Vice Chairman of the Governors of Mountfitchet High School made a statement and a summary of this is attached to these Minutes.

C75 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E C Abrahams, R A E Clifford, M A Hibbs, G W Powers, A R Row and R C Smith.

C76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Mrs C M Dean, Mrs Loughlin and Sell declared their interests as members of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Cheetham declared an interest as a member of NWEHPA and SSE and Councillor Mrs Menell declared an interest in relation to Hearing Help, Buffy Bus and the Primary Care Trust. Councillor Chambers declared an interest as a member of the Police Authority and Essex County Council.

The following Members declared interests as members of SSE:

Councillors Mrs C A Bayley, W F Bowker, Mrs C A Cant, A Dean, Mrs C M Dean, Mrs C D Down, Mrs S Flack, M L Foley, M A Gayler, Mrs E J Godwin, P G F Lewis, Mrs C M Little, Mrs J I Loughlin, Mrs J E Menell, R A Merrion, A R Row, Mrs E Tealby-Watson and A R Thawley.

Councillor A Dean had declared a prejudicial interest and left the meeting for consideration of items C74 – C80.

C77 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2002 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

C78 BUSINESS ARISING**(i) Minute C72 Notice of Motion – Policing**

Councillor Tyler reiterated his view that crime was escalating in Uttlesford and said that he had recently been a victim of crime. He considered that Essex Police should decentralise and give adequate 24 hour cover in Saffron Walden. He suggested that the Police Authority's precept should be reduced in line with the service which they were delivering.

(ii) Minute C72 Notice of Motion – Air Transport

Councillor Foley asked whether the Leader had addressed his "confusion" at the County Council meeting and whether he would be opposing further expansion at the Airport. Councillor Chambers said that the decision at the County Council meeting had not been taken on party lines and if it was possible to prevent further development at the Airport he would pursue this.

C79 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman expressed his congratulations to SSE for organising the conference on 9 February. He also reminded Members that the Community Achievement Award presentations would be made on Thursday 13 February 2003.

C80 MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEES**Benefactor Contribution : Stansted Mountfitchet Leisure Centre**

The Resources Committee at its meeting on 23 January 2003 had recommended that the Council should not provide additional funding of £100,000 for the PFI Project and should accept the name of "Stansted Romeera Centre". This recommendation had been supported by Scrutiny Committee 2 at its meeting on 5 February 2003.

Councillor Mrs Caton moved, and it was seconded, that

"the Council approves the designation of the name "Stansted Romera Centre" for the leisure facility at Stansted Mountfitchet subject to a benefactor making a contribution of £100,000 towards the costs."

In response to questions from Members, the Head of Legal Services confirmed that the motion was a proper motion and whilst the Council could not impose the name on Uttlesford Leisure Limited, he understood informally that they would accept it.

Councillor Copping said that the decision seemed to have concentrated on the financial situation. He suggested that the budgets were misleading as they showed a £4m contribution to the leisure project from this Council but this included the Section 106 monies and contributions from both the Parish Council and benefactor. He suggested that the Council's contribution should be shown differently. In reply, the Director of Resources said that £4m was the gross amount of the contractual commitment by the Council. However, the Council's own actual contribution had been confirmed at £3.75m at previous Council meetings.

Councillor Mrs Loughlin said that due to the controversy concerning the naming of the Leisure Centre she had approached 20 people in Stansted including pupils and parents of the school. She said that none had been against the suggested name but all had supported the Council taking the opportunity of saving money.

Both Councillors Mrs Cornell and Green said that the benefactor should be applauded and thanked for his contribution. Councillor Green added that there was a great need for this facility and the project needed to be moved forward. Councillor O'Neill agreed and said that it was important to encourage sponsors and benefactors where appropriate.

Councillor Sell considered that it was unfortunate that some of the partners in the PFI project felt affronted by the suggested name. Whilst he welcomed sponsorship he was concerned at how the decision had been arrived at and at the advice which Members had received. Councillor Mrs Dean said that it was unfair to exclude "Mountfitchet" from the name of the centre. The suggested name meant nothing to the people of Stansted and had no relationship to the school. Councillor Mrs Cant also considered that trust had been broken and it was important that the Council looked at its procedures to ensure that this never happened again.

In response to a question from Councillor Morson, the Chief Executive confirmed that when the benefactor's offer had first been made it was at an early stage of the project. Many complex issues had had to be dealt with during these early uncertain stages and the naming of the Centre had not been addressed until these issues had been dealt with. She confirmed that the conditions had been discussed by the PFI Board. The Chairman added that the Board valued the co-operation given and contributions made by the School and the Parish Council. In response to a further question from Councillor Mrs Tealby-Watson, the Chief Executive confirmed that if the suggested name was not agreed, the benefactor would withdraw the offer. Councillor Mrs Tealby-Watson suggested that an apology should be given to the School and the School's name should be recognised in some form. She said that it might be necessary for the Council to review its procedures for accepting sponsorship in the future.

Councillor Foley said that he was concerned at the precedent this decision might create. However, the Chairman considered that no precedent would be set and said that any further approaches would be considered on their merits.

Councillor Copping said that a further condition of the benefactor would prevent the names of any other sponsor being used at the Centre. In answer to a question from Councillor Jones, the Head of Legal Services said that the Council had the power to suggest a name for the Centre but could not impose this on Uttlesford Leisure Limited.

The Leader of the Council, in summing up, agreed that the Council should look seriously at sponsorship in future and that a letter should be sent to the benefactor thanking him for his support.

Following a request for a recorded vote, the motion proposed by Councillor Mrs Caton was then put to the vote and carried by 26 votes to 7, with 2 abstentions. The votes were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAINED
Mrs C A Bayley	Mrs C A Cant	M A Gayler
W F Bowker	R J Copping	D M Jones
Mrs A Caton	Mrs C M Dean	
R P Chambers	D W Gregory	
Mrs J F Cheetham	Mrs C M Little	
Mrs D Cornell	G Sell	
R C Dean	P A Wilcock	
Mrs C D Down		
Mrs S Flack		
M L Foley		
Mrs E J Godwin		
R D Green		
A J Ketteridge		
P G F Lewis		
Mrs J I Loughlin		
Mrs J E Menell		
R A Merrion		
D M Miller		
D J Morson		
R J O'Neill		
Mrs S V Schneider		
R W L Stone		
A C Streeter		
Mrs E Tealby-Watson		
A R Thawley		
R B Tyler		

RESOLVED that the Council approves the designation of the name "Stansted Romeera Centre" for the leisure facility at Stansted Mountfitchet subject to a benefactor making a contribution of £100,000 towards the cost.

C81 DRAFT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2003/04 – 2004/05

Members received the recommendations of the Extraordinary Resources Committee meeting held on 5 February 2003 concerning the revised Capital Programme for 2002/03 and the Programme for 2003/04.

The Director of Resources explained that on 11 February an email had been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister stating that LASHG was to be abolished with effect from 1 April 2003. The Capital Leasing Programme 2003/04 report presented to the Extraordinary Resources Committee Meeting had assumed that any changes to capital finance arrangements would not take place until April 2004. Therefore, on this basis a sum of £2,379,940 had been included in 2003/04 for LASHG Schemes plus a significant amount of work not formally committed in the 2002/03 programme. Funding from LASHG would not now be available for this significant amount of proposed work. He said that the Government was proposing some transitional arrangements, as yet unquantified, and officers would report to the Resources Committee on 20 March on the consequences of these new arrangements.

RESOLVED that the Council

- 1 formally adopt the Revised Capital Programme 2002/03 and the Capital Programme 2003/04, including the sum of £50,000 in 2003/04 for flood relief schemes, with the proviso that the LASHG programme from April 2003 be subject to a further report to the Resources Committee on 20 March 2003.
- 2 the Capital Programme projections for 2004 onwards be accepted as a basis for further work needed to strengthen the Council's forward planning bidding and prioritisation processes in time for producing the capital strategy document in July 2003.

C82 GENERAL FUND REVENUE ESTIMATES 2003/04

Councillor A Dean declared an interest as Chairman of the Governors of Stansted Mountfitchet High School.

Councillor A Dean suggested that the sum of £11,500 shown in line 26 (prioritised growth) should be moved back to line 1 of the budget (resources) to enable the Resources Committee to give further consideration to the appointment of a part-time Communications Assistant. He said that the Council was running down its communications facility and was acting contrary to the advice of District Audit and the IDeA. He said that staff in this area were hopelessly overloaded and his suggestion would enable officers to submit a further report with fresh proposals to a future meeting of the Resources Committee. He duly moved this amendment which was seconded by Councillor Wilcock. However, on being put to the vote the amendment was lost with 15 votes for and 19 against.

Councillor Sell expressed concern that the police precept had increased considerably at the same time as the Council was being asked to fund community wardens. Councillor Jones said that he was not persuaded that

the proposal for community wardens was in the best interests of residents who he considered deserved a better deal from the police.

The Leader of the Council said that he was pleased that there had been some consensus on the budget. The Government had given this District the lowest possible financial settlement grant for 2003/04 and the next two years. He said that the Council's committees had achieved savings of over £512,000 and this was on top of savings of £700,000 last year. He said that the Council could not sustain these reductions if the Government continued to withdraw money. He said that in July 2002 the Council had agreed that it should aim to increase Council Tax by no more than 2½%. This had almost been achieved but growth items for community wardens and fighting the Stansted expansion proposals had since been included. He said that the MORI survey had illustrated that community safety was the main issue of concern and the proposal for community wardens provided more visible policing. Also, within the survey, 63% of residents had said that they would be willing to pay more to fight proposals for the expansion of Stansted Airport.

Councillor O'Neill thanked the Director of Resources and his colleagues for all the hard work in preparing the budget and the Heads of Service who had identified savings.

The Director of Resources reported that notification had been received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that a Planning Delivery Grant of £246,261 had been awarded to this Council for 2003/04. The grant rewarded local authorities' improvement towards and achievement of Best Value development control targets. Officers undertook to investigate the implications of this award.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and approved with 21 votes for and none against.

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in Minute RE75 of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Resources Committee held on 5 February 2003 be approved, including the appointment of group leaders or their nominees as a sub-committee for the purpose of confirming the overall council tax figures for aggregation purposes on 18 February 2003 following Essex County Council's decision making meeting on the same day, and the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requiring political balance shall not apply.

It was further

RESOLVED that

1 It be noted that at its meeting on 17 December 2002, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2003/04 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) £29,844 being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities

(Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax base for the year.

- (b) **Table 1** (Tax Base for each part of the Council's area) being the amounts calculated by the Council in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulation, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.
- 2 The following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2003/04 in accordance with Sections 32 to 26 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-
- (a) £27,652,152 being the aggregate of the amount which the Council estimate for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act.
- (b) £19,439,803 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimate for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the Act.
- (c) £8,212,351 being the amount by which the aggregate at 2(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £3,739,179 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates and Revenue Support Grant.
- (e) £20,103 being the aggregate of £20,103 which the Council estimates as Council Tax surplus will be transferred in the year from its Collection Fund to its General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Act 1988 and £nil being the sum which the Council estimates as Community Charge surplus will be transferred from its Collection Fund to its General Fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Act 1988 made on 15 February 2000.
- (f) £149.21 being the amount at 2(c) above, less the amount at 2(d) and 2(e) above, divided by 1(a) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (g) £1,209,325 being the aggregate amount of all special items

referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.

- (h) £108.69 being the amount at 2(f) above, less the result given by dividing the amount at 2(g) above by the amount at 1(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for which dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.
- (i) **Table 2** (Band D charge for Parish and District combined), being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2(g) above, the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the act in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

Tax Base for each part of the Council's area**Table 1**

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>	<u>Parish</u>	<u>Tax Base</u>
Arkesden	178.3	Leaden Roding	234.7
Ashdon	344.9	Lindsell	105.6
Aythorpe Roding	102.8	Littlebury	384.3
Barnston	380.2	Little Bardfield	124.5
Berden	212.3	Little Canfield	143.1
Birchanger	395.2	Little Chesterford	102.4
Broxted	229.1	Little Dunmow	345.9
Chickney	24.0	Little Easton	212.0
Chrishall	241.6	Little Hallingbury	701.1
Clavering	565.1	Manuden	288.2
Debden	365.6	Margaret Roding	75.6
Elmdon and Wenden Lofts	286.0	Newport	888.8
Elsenham	933.0	Quendon & Rickling	251.5
Farnham	186.6	Radwinter	245.2
Felsted	1196.6	Saffron Walden Town	5897.5
Great Canfield	187.2	The Sampfords	354.5
Great Chesterford	604.8	Stansted	2275.8
Great Dunmow Town	2984.0	Stebbing	610.5
Great Easton	384.4	Strethall	12.6
Great Hallingbury	316.2	Takeley	974.4
Hadstock	153.7	Thaxted	1116.2
Hatfield Broad Oak	548.8	Tilty	51.0
Hatfield Heath	817.9	Ugley	197.9
Hempstead	209.6	Wendens Ambo	187.4
Henham	546.4	White Roding	166.0
High Easter	316.1	Wicken Bonhunt	103.5
High Roding	198.0	Widdington	237.8
Langley	164.7	Wimbish	482.9
		Total	29844.0

Band D charge for Parish and District combined**Table 2**

Parish	Band D Parish	Band D District	Band D Combined	Parish	Band D Parish	Band D District	Band D Combined
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Arkesden	27.59	108.69	136.28	Leaden Roding	17.04	108.69	125.73
Ashdon	41.55	108.69	150.24	Lindsell	0.00	108.69	108.69
Aythorpe Roding	17.51	108.69	126.20	Littlebury	32.66	108.69	141.35
Barnston	36.82	108.69	145.51	Little Bardfield	20.08	108.69	128.77
Berden	25.91	108.69	134.60	Little Canfield	19.22	108.69	127.91
Birchanger	36.56	108.69	145.25	Little Chesterford	21.97	108.69	130.66
Broxted	24.01	108.69	132.70	Little Dunmow	23.13	108.69	131.82
Chickney	0.00	108.69	108.69	Little Easton	33.02	108.69	141.71
Chrishall	18.63	108.69	127.32	Little Hallingbury	24.25	108.69	132.94
Clavering	12.39	108.69	121.08	Manuden	58.99	108.69	167.68
Debden	13.68	108.69	122.37	Margaret Roding	26.46	108.69	135.15
Elmdon and Wenden Lofts	26.22	108.69	134.91	Newport	47.20	108.69	155.89
Elsenham	24.12	108.69	132.81	Quendon & Rickling	7.95	108.69	116.64
Farnham	25.46	108.69	134.15	Radwinter	29.98	108.69	138.67
Felsted	29.25	108.69	137.94	Saffron Walden Town	65.20	108.69	173.89
Great Canfield	25.37	108.69	134.06	The Sampfords	23.98	108.69	132.67
Great Chesterford	43.82	108.69	152.51	Stansted	46.14	108.69	154.83
Great Dunmow Town	61.33	108.69	170.02	Stebbing	37.57	108.69	146.26
Great Easton	23.41	108.69	132.10	Strethall	0.00	108.69	108.69
Great Hallingbury	25.30	108.69	133.99	Takeley	41.05	108.69	149.74
Hadstock	25.87	108.69	134.56	Thaxted	44.35	108.69	153.04
Hatfield Broad Oak	27.33	108.69	131.13	Tilty	0.00	108.69	108.69
Hatfield Heath	22.44	108.69	136.02	Ugley	21.35	108.69	130.04
Hempstead	31.01	108.69	139.70	Wendens Ambo	26.68	108.69	135.37
Henham	23.79	108.69	132.48	White Roding	11.75	108.69	120.44
High Easter	15.82	108.69	124.51	Wicken Bonhunt	0.00	108.69	108.69
High Roding	30.30	108.69	138.99	Widdington	16.82	108.69	125.51
Langley	21.25	108.69	129.94	Wimbish	16.57	108.69	125.26

TOWN AND PARISH REQUIREMENTS

	Amount required by Parish £	Parish Tax Base (band 'D' equivalent) No of Properties	Amount per band 'D' Property £
Arkesden	4,920.00	178.3	27.59
Ashdon	14,330.00	344.9	41.55
Aythorpe Roding	1,800.00	102.8	17.51
Barnston	14,000.00	380.2	36.82
Berden	5,500.00	212.3	25.91
Birchanger	14,448.00	395.2	36.56
Broxted	5,500.00	229.1	24.01
Chickney	0.00	24.0	0.00
Chrishall	4,500.00	241.6	18.63
Clavering	7,000.00	565.1	12.39
Debden	5,000.00	365.6	13.68
Elmdon & Wendon Lofts	7,500.00	286.0	26.22
Elsenham	22,500.00	933.0	24.12
Farnham	4,750.00	186.6	25.46
Felsted	35,000.00	1,196.6	29.25
Great Canfield	4,750.00	187.2	25.37
Great Chesterford	26,500.00	604.8	43.82
Great Dunmow	183,002.00	2,984.0	61.33
Great Easton	9,000.00	384.4	23.41
Great Hallingbury	8,000.00	316.2	25.30
Hadstock	3,976.00	153.7	25.87
Hatfield Broad Oak	15,000.00	548.8	27.33
Hatfield Heath	18,350.00	817.9	22.44
Hempstead	6,500.00	209.6	31.01
Henham	13,000.00	546.4	23.79
High Easter	5,000.00	316.1	15.82
High Roding	6,000.00	198.0	30.30
Langley	3,500.00	164.7	21.25
Leaden Roding	4,000.00	234.7	17.04
Lindsell	0.00	105.6	0.00
Littlebury	12,550.00	384.3	32.66
Little Bardfield	2,500.00	124.5	20.08
Little Canfield	2,750.00	143.1	19.22
Little Chesterford	2,250.00	102.4	21.97
Little Dunmow	8,000.00	345.9	23.13
Little Easton	7,000.00	212.0	33.02
Little Hallingbury	17,000.00	701.1	24.25
Manuden	17,000.00	288.2	58.99
Margaret Roding	2,000.00	75.6	26.46
Newport	41,950.00	888.8	47.20
Quendon & Rickling	2,000.00	251.5	7.95
Radwinter	7,350.00	245.2	29.98
Saffron Walden	384,525.00	5,897.5	65.20
Sampfords, The	8,500.00	354.5	23.98
Stansted	105,014.00	2,275.8	46.14
Stebbing	22,935.00	610.5	37.57
Strethall	0.00	12.6	0.00
Takeley	40,000.00	974.4	41.05
Thaxted	49,500.00	1,116.2	44.35

Tilty	0.00	51.0	0.00
Ugley	4,225.00	197.9	21.35
Wendens Ambo	5,000.00	187.4	26.68
White Roding	1,950.00	166.0	11.75
Wicken Bonhunt	0.00	103.5	0.00
Widdington	4,000.00	237.8	16.82
Wimbish	8,000.00	482.9	16.57
	1,209,325.00	29,844.0	

C83 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES AND RENT SETTING 2003/04

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained in Minute HH35 of the Special Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 21 January 2003 be approved.

C84 COMMITTEE TIMETABLE 2003/04

Members received a draft timetable of meetings for 2003/04. Details of meetings of the Stansted Airport Advisory Panel would be included once these had been arranged.

Councillor Mrs Tealby-Watson asked that, if possible, Council meetings during the school holiday periods should be avoided.

RESOLVED that the Committee timetable 2003/04 be approved.

C85 UTTLESFORD PRIMARY CARE TRUST

Members were asked to consider the appointment of a representative on the Primary Care Trust to replace Councillor Mrs J E Menell who had been appointed as a non-executive Member of the Board in her own right. The Chairman thanked Councillor Mrs Menell for her excellent service on the Trust.

Councillors Lewis and Mrs Cant were nominated and following a vote it was

RESOLVED that Councillor P G F Lewis be appointed as the Council's representative on the Primary Care Trust.

C86 ESSEX COMMUNITY STRATEGY CONSULTATION

At its meeting on 17 December the Council had been informed that Essex County Council would shortly be consulting on its draft Community Strategy and it had been agreed that four Members would represent this Council at a consultative workshop on 20 January. The County Council had now published the draft Strategy together with a consultation document on the revision of the County Structure Plan. Comments on these documents were requested by 31 March 2003.

The consultation on the Structure Plan would be considered at the meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee on 11 March. The Chief Executive asked Members for their views on how the draft Community Strategy should be considered by this Council.

RESOLVED that consideration of Essex County Council's Community Strategy be referred to the next meetings of Scrutiny Committees 1 and 2.

C87 NOTICE OF MOTION

Members considered the following notice of motion which had been proposed by Councillor R J Copping:

“That this Council sends its warmest congratulations to the Girls Under 18 Indoor Hockey team of Helena Romanes School, Great Dunmow upon recently winning the National Championship.”

Councillor Copping referred to a letter which he had received from a parent drawing attention to the significance of the achievement for such a small school in a rural area. He added that the provision of the excellent new astro turf pitch in Dunmow could only improve opportunities for achievement in sport.

Councillor Mrs Schneider, as Chairman of the Uttlesford Sports Forum, expressed her congratulations and added that the Helena Romanes hockey team had won the team of the year award and would receive a monetary award of £200. She said that Paul Goddard had won the individual award for his services to hockey. The presentations would be made at the Community Achievement Awards evening on 13 February 2003.

Councillor Foley mentioned that former Councillor Brian Hughes had reached the age of 99 years on 26 January and Members agreed to send a letter to him congratulating him on this event and also informing him of the sports achievements mentioned earlier as he had always been a great ambassador for encouraging sport for young people.

C88 QUESTION UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8.2

The following question was submitted under Council Procedure Rule 8.2 by Councillors Mrs Cheetham, Mrs Flack, Jones and Smith.

“We the undersigned wish to put the following question to the Leader of the Council:

Following a resolution passed by the Environment and Transport Committee on 14 January 2003, a letter was sent to the relevant Cabinet Member of Essex County Council asking him to revise the County Council’s policy and start gritting and salting minor roads that are used by school buses.

Will the Leader of the Council support the action of the Committee by pressing the County Council to change its policy in this way, as we have a duty to the residents of Uttlesford to make sure our roads are safe for school transport to use?”

The Leader said that he would be delighted to raise this matter with the County Council and said that he would write to the new Cabinet Member after his appointment on 18 February 2003.

C89

OFF STREET CAR PARKS

The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this matter on the grounds of urgency as a decision was required before the next meeting.

It was also

RESOLVED that Council procedure rules be suspended to enable this matter to be considered.

It was noted that at the meeting of the Environment and Transport Committee on 14 January 2003 Members had decided to increase the car parking charges on the Council's off street car parks. In the course of preparing the formal notice for publication three minor errors had come to light and in order to rectify this matter it was

RESOLVED that the car parking tariffs agreed by the Environment and Transport Committee on 14 January 2003 be confirmed, subject to the following amendments:

- (a) The charge for season tickets at Swan Meadow, Saffron Walden to be £250 per annum
- (b) The charge for up to 6 hours at Lower Street and Crafton Green, Stansted Mountfitchet to be £1.60
- (c) The charge to persons resident in Chapel Hill, Grove Hill or Lower Street, Stansted Mountfitchet who do not have other parking provision to be £35 for 52 weeks.

Mrs Tealby-Watson asked that it be noted that she did not vote on this matter.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

SUMMARY OF STATEMENT MADE BY MR ROBERT WINGARD

I am Vice-Chairman of the School Governors and would like to make this statement on behalf of the Stansted Mountfitchet High School.

I believe that the decision to name the leisure centre against the wishes of the School is dishonourable and dishonest and breaches the Council rules. Ultimate responsibility for naming the centre rests with Uttlesford Leisure.

The benefactor offered a contribution of £100,000 but only if certain unnamed conditions were met. These conditions had not been revealed to the School until contracts had been signed.

Both the School and the parish council feel that the name is inappropriate. In January the PFI Board agreed to the name Stansted Mountfitchet Leisure Centre but this decision was reversed by the Resources Committee – The School has signed up to this project in good faith and is undergoing chaos during the construction period. The Centre is regarded as a natural extension to the school but the proposed name has no links to the school or the local community.

The school would oppose the name by all possible means. The Council has three options. First, to abandon the name, secondly to enter into further negotiations with the partners and thirdly to try to convince Uttlesford Leisure to adopt the name against the wishes of the School and the parish council.