

COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 12 DECEMBER 2006

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman.
Councillors E C Abrahams, K R Artus, H D Baker, C A Cant, R P Chambers, J F Cheetham, A Dean, C M Dean, C D Down, S Flack, M L Foley, R F Freeman, M A Gayler, E J Godwin, E Gower, D W Gregory, M A Hibbs, E W Hicks, B M Hughes, S C Jones, A J Ketteridge, V J T Lelliott, R M Lemon, J I Loughlin, J E Menell, M J Miller, D J Morson, J P Murphy, M J Savage, S V Schneider, G Sell, E Tealby-Watson, A R Thawley, A M Wattebot, P A Wilcock and A C Yarwood.

Officers in attendance:- A Bovaird, R Auty, M Brean, E Green, J Mitchell, P O'Dell, M J Perry, M T Purkiss and T Turner.

C58 ROD STONE

The Chairman informed Members that former Councillor Rod Stone had sadly passed away and those present stood in silent tribute to his memory.

C59 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Martyn Fiddler presented the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel. He thanked those members of the Council who had taken the time to supply the Panel with their views and information which had informed their discussions. The Panel also thanked Mick Purkiss for his continued support, assistance and advice.

He outlined the main areas which the Panel had considered in its report for 2007/08. The Panel had looked at the payment of a special responsibility allowance for committee vice-chairmen. He said that the Panel was not convinced that the role of committee vice-chairmen had changed substantially or their responsibilities increased to any great degree and therefore had recommended that no special allowance should be payable to them at this time.

The Panel had also looked at the level of the special responsibility allowance payable to the Deputy Leader of the Council. It had concluded that this was a high profile role with representative elements, a strategic focus and was often countywide. He said that the Panel was persuaded that the SRA payable to the Deputy Leader should equate to that of a committee chairman and recommended that it should be increased to three quarters of the basic allowance.

The Panel had received evidence of the unusual workload carried out by members of the Development Control Committee during the period May to November 2006 associated with the Stansted Airport application. They had recommended that, in this exceptional and short term circumstance, the

committee chairman and members of that committee should be entitled to receive an allowance of £24 per special meeting attended to deal with this application.

Mr Fiddler said that his term of office would end on 30 April 2007 and recommended that an open recruitment campaign should begin early in 2007 to appoint his successor and to identify a successor for Ruth Whitlam whose term would end in April 2008. In conclusion, he encouraged vice chairmen to continue to talk to the Panel and provide evidence of their additional workload and responsibilities so that this issue could be considered in the next review. He said that the Panel was always willing to look at fresh ideas and welcomed comments from Members.

Councillor Morson thanked the Panel for its deliberations and thanked Mr Fiddler who had been one of the founding members of the Panel. He said that in comparison with neighbouring authorities members of Uttlesford were not well compensated for their work and he urged the Panel to look at the scheme at Braintree. He said that he would continue to press for greater recognition of committee vice chairmen and corporate plan champions.

Councillor Cheetham again raised the issue of adjusting the calculation of the group leaders allowance as soon as a by-election had been held rather than the allowance being adjusted at the start of each council year. Mr Fiddler said that the Panel would give further consideration to this matter.

Councillor Savage thanked Mr Fiddler for his efforts and said that a lot of innovative work had been carried out by the Panel. However, he agreed with the comments that Uttlesford was not well compensated and he considered that the role of committee vice chairmen should be encouraged by providing a better allowance. He also felt that the £24 per meeting for members of the Development Control Committee was on the low side. Councillor Freeman said that he believed that this country got democracy on the cheap and it was important to encourage working people to become councillors and the allowance system needed a major overhaul.

Councillor Chambers said that he claimed the basic allowance from Essex County Council, but did not claim expenses. He was also Chairman of the Essex Police Authority. He added that he had joined local government for what he was going to put into it rather than take out of it. He said that allowances at Uttlesford did not compare with Braintree which had a cabinet system and he was pleased that Uttlesford still had a democratic structure. He also thanked Mr Fiddler and said that he had been a delightful and helpful colleague and wished him well for the future. Councillor Morson acknowledged these comments, but said that the Councillors should not be disadvantaged by having a committee system.

Martin Fiddler said that all comments would be taken on board by the Panel and they would look at any new suggestions next year. He agreed that it would be valid to look at circumstances in authorities in the local area and he would ask the Panel to look again at the flexibility in the calculation of the group leaders' allowance.

RESOLVED that the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel be accepted and that

- 1 No special responsibility allowance is payable to committee vice-chairmen at this time.
- 2 The special responsibility allowance payable to the Deputy Leader of the Council is increased to $\frac{3}{4}$ the basic allowance.
- 3 Members of the Development Control Committee receive a payment of £24 per special meeting attended to deal with the Stansted Airport application.
- 4 An open recruitment campaign should begin early in 2007 to recruit two new Panel members one to start on 1 May 2007 and one to start on 1 May 2008.
- 5 The following allowances be payable for 2007/08.

Basic allowance	£4,900 (notionally 65 days at £75.40 per day)
Chairman of the Council	£4,900 + £3,675 + civic expenses (Basic allowance + $\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
Vice Chairman of the Council	£4,900 + £2,450 (Basic allowance + $\frac{1}{2}$ basic allowance)
Leader of the Council	£4,900 + £7,350 (Basic allowance + $1\frac{1}{2}$ basic allowance)
Deputy Leader of the Council	£4,900 + £3,675 (Basic allowance + $\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
Committee Chairmen & Chairmen of Area Panels	£4,900 + £3,675 (Basic allowance + $\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
Chairman of Standards Committee	£3,675 ($\frac{3}{4}$ basic allowance)
Group Leaders	One basic allowance + either £1,030 p.a. or £111 x group membership as at 1 st April (subject to a minimum group size of 2) which ever is the greater.
Members of the Development Control Committee	£4,900 + £490 (Basic allowance + $6\frac{1}{2}$ days at £75.40 per day)
Carer's allowance	£10 per hour

C60

MEMBERS QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Councillor Flack asked what progress had been made on regulations on semi-enclosed places which could become common place after the smoking ban took effect in 2007. The Executive Manager Corporate Governance said that this was a matter for environmental services and Councillor Morson said that he would ensure that this matter was addressed.

Councillor Gregory said that following the approval of his Motion at a previous Council meeting, five members of staff had been appointed as first responders and had been trained to use the defibrillator. He congratulated the five staff involved:

Victoria Borges
Jason Dear
Stephen Rhenius
Sonia Williams
Lisa Lipscombe

He also asked the Leader to confirm that, in view of the threats to post offices, he would make representations setting out the Council's concerns about the impact on rural communities. The Leader confirmed that every effort would be made to fight for these facilities.

Councillor Godwin said that the Chairmen of Area Panels had held drop in sessions in various wards in the district and, she asked if this was to be repeated, that local members should be consulted in advance. She also asked how many people had attended these sessions. Councillor Sell apologised that Councillor Godwin had not been notified and agreed that future meetings needed to be better planned and publicised. He said that attendance at the sessions had been variable. Councillor Cheetham added that she had been advised of the meeting in her area and had attended. However, she agreed that publicity needed to be improved and details should be put in Uttlesford Life. The Chief Executive said that the next edition of Uttlesford Life would be in February, but there would be no drop in sessions between February and May.

In response to a question from Councillor Foley officers confirmed that no official response had been received from Essex County Council following the decision on the Stansted Airport Planning Application. In answer to a further question from Councillor Ketteridge, Councillor Thawley said that he would examine the situation regarding half hour parking and clarify the matter for him.

In answer to a question from Councillor Menell, Councillor Morson said that the Council would have a representative on the new West Essex PCT. Councillor Menell also said that she understood that the Council incurred costs of between £6-7,000 if people paid Council Tax by credit card. Councillor Jones confirmed that there was a charge involved, but this had been balanced by the savings achieved by not taking cash.

Councillor A Dean referred to the report by Kate Barker on the review of the planning system and, in particular, the suggestion that a non elected Panel be set up to deal with major infrastructure projects in the future. He asked that the Council make a robust response to these proposals. Councillor Gayler agreed with these comments and said that a letter would be sent.

C61

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Boland, R T Harris, T P Knight, A Marchant, V Pedder and F E Silver.

The Chairman said that he was delighted that Councillor Tealby-Watson was able to attend the meeting.

C62

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors A Dean, Foley, Godwin and Tealby-Watson declared interests as members of SSE;

Councillors Baker, Hibbs and Hughes declared interests as members of Saffron Walden Town Council;

Councillors Hughes and Thawley declared interests as members of both the National Trust and CPRE;

Councillor Lemon declared an interest as a member of the National Trust and Councillor Jones declared an interest as a member of Saffron Walden Town Council and the National Trust.

Councillors Gayler and Murphy declared interests as members of Great Dunmow Town Council, the Dunmow Town Strategy Group and the Dunmow Town Design Statement Group. Councillor Cheetham declared an interest as a Member of NWEHPA, the National Trust and the Hatfield Forest Management Committee. Councillor Down declared an interest as a member of CPRE and Councillor Chambers declared an interest as a member of Essex County Council and Chairman of the Essex Police Authority. Councillor C Dean declared an interest as a member of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council and the National Trust and Councillor Sell declared an interest as a member of Stansted Mountfitchet Parish Council. Councillor Flack declared an interest as a member of Essex County Council and clarified that she took no part in the discussion on street lighting at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

C63

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C64

BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute C43 – Members' Question and Answer Session – Primary Care Trust

Councillor Flack said that the Scrutiny Committee had received a presentation concerning the demise of the Uttlesford PCT, but had been given an assurance that the locality team would mean that there were more people on the ground in the local area.

(ii) Minute C43 – Members’ Question and Answer Session – Recycling etc

Councillor Ketteridge said that at the Performance Select Committee he had asked questions about the cost of implementing the new recycling rounds. It had been acknowledged that costs had increased and it was not possible to say whether costs would remain within the implementation budget. He said that this answer contradicted the reassurance which he had been given at the last Council meeting. Councillor Thawley said that he did not think it would be necessary to increase staff numbers, but the situation was still being looked at. He also confirmed that bins at village shops were continuing to be emptied, but the service was being undertaken by another section. However, Councillor Ketteridge said that the bin at a community shop near to him had not been emptied since the date of implementation and he had been told that this was considered to be “commercial waste”. Councillor Thawley replied that the bins at the Debden Village Shop were being emptied and the same service should be continuing for all community shops and in answer to a question from Councillor Savage, he confirmed that the service would continue.

(iii) Minute C43 – Members’ Question and Answer Session – Recycling Paper

Councillor Foley said that he had spoken to other authorities about the use of recycled paper and established that this Council’s achievement of 92% was excellent.

(iv) Minute C44 - Apologies

Councillor Tealby-Watson thanked members and officers for their support and in particular for the bouquet of flowers which had been sent to her.

(v) Minute C55 – Beirut Emergency

Councillor Godwin asked for a progress report on this matter. The Chief Executive said that some of the evacuees were still in residence, but some had returned to the Lebanon. Council officers continued to provide advice and support and he wished to place on record his thanks for the efforts of the staff in the housing section. In relation to the costs of the emergency, he said that a letter had been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government stating that authorities with airports in their area should make provision for such emergencies in their budgets.

(vi) Minute C57(ii) – Concessionary Fares

Councillor Hughes said that she was pleased that she was able to get a half fare reduction on the shuttle bus to Addenbrookes Hospital.

(vii) Minute C57(i) – Leave

In answer to a question from Councillor Savage, the Chief Executive said that the report on leave entitlement referred to at the last meeting would be considered at the meeting of the Operations Committee on 1 February 2007.

C65 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Flack presented the Chairman with a photograph of youngsters from Uttlesford who had been involved in Fire Break week. She said that the scheme had been very successful and helped in building self respect for young people and respect for authority and others.

The Chairman said that he had attended the AGM of the Essex Playing Field Association and awards had been presented to Clavering, Debden and Radwinter Parish Councils, Great Dunmow Town Council and Ashdon, High Roding and Lindsell Cricket Clubs. He also reported that the project for the restoration of Bridge End Gardens had been placed in the final three in the Guardian Awards and he extended his thanks to John Bosworth, the Project Officer.

The Chairman also mentioned his carol service on 13 December, an exclusive showing of the award winning film 'Calendar Girls' and his Christmas raffle.

C66 LEADER'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Leader, on behalf of the Council, expressed his thanks to John Mitchell, Michael Perry and all officers and members of the Development Control Committee for all their hard work in dealing with the Stansted Airport planning application.

He referred to an article which had appeared in the Local Government Chronicle entitled 'A slow death for districts' by the Leader of Essex County Council. This article had caused concern across all districts and political parties in Essex and he said that, whilst he was in favour of joint working, there could be no takeover by the county council. Councillor Chambers added that he was proud to be a member of the county council, but first and foremost, he was a district councillor, and the district was essential in representing local democracy.

The Leader also mentioned that he would be meeting Ruth Kelly to discuss migration issues and said this might be an opportunity to raise with her the issue of the Lebanese evacuation.

C67 MATTERS ARISING FROM COMMITTEES

**(i) Licensing Committee – 1 November 2006 – Minute LC34 –
Gambling Act Policy**

Councillor Loughlin said that the Licensing Committee had recommended that a Licensing Policy required by the Gambling Act 2005 should be adopted by the Council. Councillor Loughlin thanked Michael Perry and Catherine Nicholson for their hard work in preparing the draft policy.

The Executive Manager Corporate Governance said that one part of the policy was not complete and he set out the options which could be adopted in dealing with casinos. It was noted that no consultation responses had been received on this subject. Councillor Loughlin said that each application should be treated on its merits and would add this to her motion.

In answer to a question from Councillor Flack, the Executive Manager, Corporate Governance said that consultations would include all statutory consultees, the Gambling Industry and Town and Parish Councils. However, she said that this did not appear to be specified in the policy and the Executive Manager said that he would arrange for this to be inserted. In answer to a question from Councillor Godwin, he confirmed that the consultation period was prescribed by statute.

RESOLVED that the Gambling Act Policy attached to the report to Council be adopted with the amendments made at the meeting and to specify that any applications for casinos would be treated on their merits.

(ii) Environment Committee – 7 November 2006 – Minute E35 – Local Development Scheme

Members considered the recommendation from the Environment Committee to approve the revised Local Development Scheme for submission to the Secretary of State. A report was also circulated recommending that the Council bring the second revision to the LDS into effect from 13 December 2006, subject to there being no intervention from the Secretary of State. The Executive Manager, Development Services, said that confirmation had been received from Go-East that they did not wish to intervene in this matter.

RESOLVED that the second revision to the LDS be brought into effect from 13 December 2006.

(iii) Scrutiny Committee – 29 November 2006 – Minute SC22 – Street Lighting

Councillor Flack, having already declared an interest, left the meeting during the discussion and voting on this item.

Members considered the Minute from the Scrutiny Committee together with a detailed report, setting out the updated position with the County Council's revised street lighting policy and practice.

Councillor Murphy said that the proposal to turn off some street lights was appalling and a useless idea. He said that it was knee jerk reaction and far more sensible suggestions were needed. He drew attention to the

Farringdon study which illustrated that improved lighting could reduce crime. He considered that the proposal would lead to an increase in crime and more particularly in the fear of crime. He also considered that the proposal was illegal as it contravened section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and he moved the recommendation contained in the Minute including provision to seek a judicial review.

Councillor Gayler seconded the proposal and said that whilst there might be a case for some lights to be turned off, the proposal was far in excess of what was needed and would present a risk to personal safety. He also suggested that the energy saving objectives would not be met as people would tend to use their cars more often if they were travelling through unlit areas. He concluded that the consultation had been unsatisfactory.

Councillor Sell said that he had concerns about light pollution, but this came mainly from the M11 and the airport and not from ordinary highways. He added that working patterns had changed and the country was no longer a 9-5 society. He felt that the clear motive for these proposals was to save money. In conclusion he referred to a statement from the police concerning the effectiveness of improved lighting in reducing crime.

Councillor Hibbs said that sustainability should have been one of the criteria in preparing this report. He considered that the proposal was being driven by the portfolio holder and there had been inadequate consultation. He said it was clear that comments were being invited but the principle was not up for debate. He thanked Councillor Chambers for explaining the proposals to Saffron Walden Town Council and he considered that the proposals had put the Town Council in an invidious position regarding the lighting of some areas. He said that full criteria needed to be published and proper consultation undertaken.

Councillor Tealby-Watson said that Uttlesford Futures had identified that the perception of safety at night in this area was high and this situation should not be made worse. She said that if the proposals went ahead the situation should be monitored so that comparative information was available.

Councillor Cheetham asked how much a judicial review was likely to cost if the matter went to court. The Executive Manager Corporate Governance said that it was likely to be in the region of £20,000 for each side with the loser paying both sides' costs.

Prior to Councillor Chambers' speaking on this matter the Executive Manager Corporate Governance confirmed that as he was not involved in highway issues he was able to speak on this matter. Councillor Chambers said it was a classic example of a cabinet system enabling one person to do whatever he wanted. He said that he had expressed concern to Councillor Bass and was continuing to discuss the matter with him. He believed that a strong case should go back to the County Council asking them to review the decision and he hoped that democracy would win at the end of the day.

Councillor Ketteridge agreed that there was still value in speaking to the portfolio holder and moved an amendment that sought a further period of consultation. This was seconded by Councillor Chambers.

Councillor Hibbs said that the district council had responsibility for its tenants and should be properly consulted. Councillor C Dean said that the South West Area Panel had written to the portfolio holder asking for an extension of the consultation period, but had been told that this was not possible.

Councillor Chambers then moved a further amendment which was seconded, which would add the words "we therefore request that the highways department consult over a period of three months with as many organisations as possible". This amendment was accepted by the mover and seconder of the original motion.

Councillor Freeman said that once the lighting units were changed they would continue for a number of years and it would be better to look at alternative types of lighting and green energy. Councillor Savage said that he was surprised that the four Uttlesford county councillors had been unable to persuade the portfolio holder to change his mind. Councillor Foley concluded the debate by saying that he understood that a statement had been issued by the portfolio holder saying that work would start during the third week of January.

RESOLVED that the Council, whilst not opposed in principle to energy saving and sustainability consider that the present scheme is not well thought out and that the consultation has been inadequate and hurried. We therefore request that the Highways Department consult over a period of three months with as many organisations as possible. Further that the Legal Department be asked to prepare a judicial review on the grounds that the proposal was ill thought out and inadequate consultation be sought on the grounds of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act with a view to sending a case to Essex County Council.

C68

UTTLESFORD IN 2011

The Chief Executive presented a detailed report setting out an ambitious approach to service and performance improvement for the Council between now and 2011. This involved a programme of service transformation, and organisational restructure and committed the Council to the goal of becoming the prominent small district council in England by 2011. He said that consultation with staff and members in groups and individually had taken place.

It was proposed to replace the current structure of nine executive managers with one consisting of five directors and a number, to be determined, of Heads of Division. The new structure would be headed by a Strategic Management Board, consisting of the Chief Executive and the five directors and the key service responsibilities of each director were set out in the report.

The report said that the key areas in which the Council needed to change and improve current practices included:

- Human Resources
- Sustainability
- Customer and citizen understanding and engagement
- Member support and development
- Use of technology
- The building
- Shared services

The report also set out details of the cost implications and timescales for the key stages.

The recommendations in the report were moved by Councillor Gayler and seconded by Councillor A Dean. Councillor Gayler said that in 2003, many things needed to be done and the new structure enabled changes to be made. He said this was the next step to enable more improvements to be implemented. He clarified that, in relation to the building, it was not a proposal to move offices, but to make better use of the current services particularly in terms of IT and storage. He concluded that the proposal would enable Uttlesford to tackle the many challenges which lay ahead.

Councillor Ketteridge said that the Conservative Group had opposed the last restructure and said that it would be an expensive mistake. He said that they had been proved right as two years later the structure was being changed again, despite assurances that it would be robust for at least five years. He said that the administration should admit that it got it wrong in 2004 and because of this failure there would now be a new wave of uncertainty for staff. He added that a number of major projects had recently been rushed through the Council and asked whether the Liberal Democrat administration had abdicated control to officers. He said that the wage bill for senior staff had greatly increased since 2004 and said that clarification was needed on the future of the London Road offices. He said that district elections would be held in May 2007 and said it was important that the proposals accorded with the views of any new administration.

Councillor Godwin said that she applauded the intention to streamline, but found it difficult to reconcile this with the unwieldy committee system. She was concerned about staff and said that they needed to be given reassurance and provided with a career structure and a training programme. She also felt that careful consideration needed to be given to any suggestions of moving the offices. Councillor Cheetham said that she shared the concerns about the wellbeing of staff and asked where Leisure fitted into the structure and who would be dealing with Scrutiny. She also asked for details of the recruitment process. The Chief Executive clarified that Leisure and Scrutiny would be the responsibility of the Director of Customer and Communications and explained the recruitment process for directors and heads of division. He clarified that the London Road offices were not unfit for purpose at the moment, but the situation needed to be addressed in the near future to ensure that this did not occur.

Councillor Menell said that it had taken several years for the local community to accept the new offices, following the move from Debden Road and Hill Street. She felt that the paragraph in the report should be removed from the document. The Chief Executive said that he had an obligation to provide the best possible advice which he had done and it was not open for a member to instruct him to delete this from the report.

Councillor Sell said that the report set out where the Council was and what it needed to do. He felt that Uttlesford was becoming more effective at promoting the interests of the district and the area of community engagement was being improved through the Area Panel structure. He accepted that more needed to be done such as building on the success of the Diversity Festival.

Councillor Chambers agreed with the comments by Councillor Menell that the paragraph about the building gave the wrong impression and he asked the Chief Executive to issue a press release explaining the situation and the need to look at all options. However, his main concern was with the proposed new structure and said he needed to be convinced that the increased salaries for directors and the addition of a new structure of heads of division would be able to demonstrate better value for money. Councillor Flack pointed out that sustainability was not built into the role of any of the new directors.

Councillor Wilcock said the report was looking to the future and he felt that there would be improved officer/member working relationships. He said that the public expected better from the Council and it must meet their expectations and look at new ways of working to achieve this. Councillor Yarwood agreed and said that continuous change was necessary to respond to customer needs.

Councillor Gayler again referred to the paragraph concerning the building and pointed out that the report clearly stated 'unless radical action was taken' and said that this would mean making better use of the offices. He said that the Quality of Life plan had been improved and had evolved and the proposals for the future had been drawn up in partnership, between the administration and the Chief Executive. He concluded that the Council needed to get these changes moving and this structure addressed the Corporate Plan objectives.

RESOLVED that

- 1 The Council note and endorse the proposed approach and the organisational restructure that it entails.
- 2 Further report(s) be brought forward at the February 2007 Council meeting setting out cost implications more fully (within the context of the 2007-08 Council budget) and laying out a more detailed picture of the proposal programme of projects to achieve the transformation.

C69

APPOINTMENTS TO TASK GROUPS AND OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following appointments be confirmed:

Page 12

Housing Strategy Working Group – Councillors G Sell and
A R Thawley
Local Development Framework Group – Councillor C A Cant
Board of Turpins Indoor Bowling Club – Councillor P Boland
Campaign to Protect Rural Essex – Councillor C A Cant
Uttlesford Community Travel – Councillor P A Wilcock

Vacancies on the Community Achievement Panel and the Road Safety
Sub-Group were not filled.

C70 **STANDARDS COMMITTEE – INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

It was reported that the Council had until now had a Standards Committee appointed before the Local Government Act 2000 had come into effect. This had been permissible under transitional arrangements contained in the Act. However, these would cease to be available after the May 2007 Elections and the Council needed to put arrangements in hand now to ensure compliance with the legislation. It was necessary to establish a selection Panel to interview candidates to be independent persons on the Standards Committee with a view to recommending appointments to Annual Council in May 2007.

RESOLVED that the Constitution Task Group be authorised to recommend the appointment of an independent person or persons to the Council's Standards Committee.

C71 **SAFFRON WALDEN PIG MARKET**

Following a request at the last Council meeting, officers set out a detailed report clarifying the financial arrangements for the former Pig Market site. It was clarified that the charity owned a proportion of the land occupied by the car park at Fairycroft Road which was maintained by and otherwise belonged to the district council. The charity received 66/303 of the net income after costs. This was the proportion of the car park that related to the former pig market. The charity then distributed the amount it received (£35,912 in 2005/06) to charities in the Saffron Walden area.

Details of the financial arrangements and the allocation of grant monies were set out and the report concluded that there appeared to be no problem and no need to change the arrangements as all of the Pig Market money and a large element of the Council's own grants money were currently allocated to Saffron Walden charities. The report recommended that the current arrangements for the administration of the Pig Market's income should remain unchanged. However, the Leader circulated a revised recommendation which was approved and accordingly, it was

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Pig Market Charity be operated as a separate ring fenced account
- 2 a budget be set for 2007/08 identifying the budgeted level of income and proposed expenditure, separately identifying grants from the Pig Market's resources from the Council's own budget, with consequent changes made to the relevant Council budgets.
- 3 The Pig Market Charity finances be overseen by the North Area Panel with effect from 1 April 2007.

C72

EASTERN SECTOR REDEVELOPMENT – GREAT DUNMOW

Members were reminded that the Council had a long standing objective to see the appropriate redevelopment of land to the east of the High Street in Great Dunmow. Planning permission had been granted in 2002 and associated conditions had been attached in relation to the Uttlesford District Council land contribution and to community benefit. These had been identified by Members as a prerequisite outline associated with any approval for comprehensive development. The terms of the legal agreement were set out in the report.

It was reported that, in 2003, Strutt and Parker advised of the value of Uttlesford District Council land as being £107,000 and that land values had moved in the interim of between 20 and 30%, ie at today's value the land was worth between £128,000/£138,000. They had further advised that the land only had development potential as part of the overall scheme. Additionally, the Council had set aside £260,000, a proportion of which was Section 106 money to contribute to the infrastructure cost. It was also noted that building prices had changed upwards in the interim by 15/20%. Thus with cost contribution and value frozen at 2003 figures, the current position represented better value to the Council. It was concluded that with these factors taken into account and the broader benefit to the community, disposal represented good value which would promote and improve the economic and social well being of the area.

RESOLVED that the land outlined in red on the plan submitted to the meeting be disposed of for the sum of £107,000.

C73

MUSEUM SERVICE – HERITAGE QUEST CENTRE

It was reported that the creation of the Heritage Quest Trust, a new charitable company to be limited by guarantee required subscribing or first members to sign up to its creation.

It was proposed that the Council, along with the Museum Society, be the subscribing members and therefore the Council should approve the memorandum of association and articles of association and agree the first directors. The intention of the Heritage Quest Trust was to build a Heritage Quest Centre which could be used by the Museum Service to enable it to

expand the provision of its services. As a charity it would be able to raise money from additional sources and donees could be sure that the money would only be used in the provision of the centre.

It was noted that the board would have three directors, namely one nominated by the Council, one nominated by the Saffron Walden Museum Society and one nominated by the Essex Wildlife Trust. It was proposed that the directors would be: Uttlesford District Council nominee – Councillor Barbara Hughes, Saffron Walden Museum Society nominee David Laing (Hon Treasurer), Essex Wildlife Trust nominee Paul Salvidge.

RESOLVED that the Council

- 1 approves the memorandum and articles of association for the Heritage Quest Centre Trust, subject to any minor amendments requested by the Charity Commission and Companies House in consultation with the Executive Manager Corporate Governance, agrees to be a subscribing member and approves the appointment of the three nominated directors.
- 2 appoint Councillor Barbara Hughes to be the Council's representative as member of the company to attend the Annual General Meetings and any other meetings.

C74 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

Members considered the following Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor D W Gregory and duly seconded:

'That this Council continues to explore all means of promoting tourism within Uttlesford, for example the provision of tourist bus routes, using vintage vehicles serving Audley End House and other tourist attractions'.

Councillor Gregory said that if the motion was approved, he hoped to be able to submit a report to the Community Committee in January 2007. In response to a question from Councillor Ketteridge, he said that it was unlikely that the project would be commercially viable and there would be cost implications for the Council, but all funding opportunities would be explored.

RESOLVED that the Motion be approved.

C75 **BRIAN HUGHES**

The Chairman reported that former Councillor Brian Hughes was poorly in Addenbrookes Hospital. He said that he would send a card to Mr Hughes extending the Council's best wishes.

C76 **SEASONS GREETINGS**

The Chairman extended his best wishes for a Happy Christmas and New Year to all Members and officers.

The meeting ended at 10.25 pm.