

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COUNCIL MINUTES

Committee: Council **Date:** 29 July 2008
Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.30 - 8.10 pm

Members Present: Councillors J Knapman (Chairman), Mrs P Smith (Vice-Chairman), K Angold-Stephens, R Barrett, D Bateman, A Boyce, Mrs R Brookes, Mrs P Brooks, K Chana, Mrs S Clapp, M Cohen, Miss R Cohen, J Collier, M Colling, Mrs D Collins, D Dodeja, Mrs R Gadsby, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs A Haigh, Mrs H Harding, Ms J Hedges, D Jacobs, R Law, J Markham, G Mohindra, R Morgan, S Murray, Mrs C Pond, G Pritchard, W Pryor, Mrs P Richardson, B Sandler, Mrs M Sartin, P Spencer, D Stallan, Mrs J Sutcliffe, P Turpin, Mrs L Wagland, A Watts, Mrs E Webster, C Whitbread, D Wixley and J Wyatt

Apologies: Councillors R Bassett, Mrs A Cooper, R Frankel, P Gode, A Green, J Hart, Mrs J Lea, Mrs M McEwen, J Philip, B Rolfe, Ms S Stavrou, Mrs J H Whitehouse and J M Whitehouse

Officers Present: D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), I Willett (Assistant to the Chief Executive), G Lunnun (Assistant Director Democratic Services), R Harris (Democratic Services Assistant), S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer), P Tredgett (Information Assistant) and J Boreham (Assistant Public Relations and Information Officer)

40. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

Councillor J Knapman reminded everyone present that the meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

41. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 June 2008 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the name of Councillor D Bateman in the list of members present.

42. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Announcements by the Chairman

(i) Events

Councillor Knapman reported on his attendance at the following events during the past month:

- Proms on the Green Picnic Concert organised by the Epping Forest Band
- Lee Valley Regional Park Authority Luncheon; the Chairman expressed his thanks to Councillor Mrs E Webster, Chairman of the Park Authority, for the work being undertaken by the Park Authority in relation to the 2012 Olympics and Para-Olympics
- The Annual Reception of the Chairman of Essex County Council held at Ingatestone Hall
- The opening of "The Gunpowder Plot: Parliament and Treason 1605" exhibition at the Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey
- A Multifaith celebration held in Newham which he had attended with Councillors Mrs A Haigh and B Sandler.

Councillor Knapman also drew attention to the Race for Life event at North Weald Airfield which had been started by the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Councillor Knapman advised that on 30 July 2008 he would be attending a special 10th Anniversary celebration of the Essex Air Ambulance Team.

(ii) Flowers

The Chairman announced that the floral display from tonight's meeting would be sent to Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs, Grange Farm, Chigwell.

(b) Announcements by the Leader of the Council and Other Cabinet Members

There were no announcements made under this heading.

43. PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

No public questions had been received for consideration at the meeting.

44. REPORTS FROM THE LEADER, CHAIRMAN OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

The Council received written reports from the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder, the Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder, the Corporate Support and ICT Services Portfolio Holder, the Environment Portfolio Holder, the Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder, the Housing Portfolio Holder, the Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder and the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

The Chairman invited the Leader, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Members of the Cabinet to update their reports orally if they wished.

(a) Leader of the Council

The Leader advised that the Council's Forward Planning Team were working hard in preparation for public consultation in relation to the East of England Plan. She advised that she had not yet met with representatives of East Herts District Council as that authority had decided to defer taking part in any partnership discussions pending the outcome of the request for a judicial review made by the Hertfordshire County Council.

The Leader reported on her attendance at an Epping Forest College NVQ awards event held at Murray Hall in Loughton. She advised that this had been a well organised and very enjoyable event. The Council noted that the Principal of the College had resigned and the Acting Principal would remain in post pending the appointment of a new Principal.

Councillor Mrs Collins reported on her attendance at a meeting of the Epping Forest Youth Council and she drew attention to the work being undertaken by the Youth Council in relation to "The Big Youth Debate".

Councillor Mrs Collins advised that together with the Deputy Leader of the Council she had now visited all of the Secondary Schools in the District and it had been agreed that further meetings would be held with Head Teachers twice a year.

The Leader reported on her attendance with the Chief Executive at a meeting of the North East London Partnership. The meeting had focussed on shared services and it now appeared that only smaller services were being pursued.

Councillor Mrs Collins advised that together with Councillor R Bassett and the Assistant Director Technical Services she had met County Councillor N Hume, Highways and Transportation Portfolio Holder. A number of highway issues in the District had been discussed including the proposed improved road layout at Chigwell Lane/Langston Road/Oakwood Hill.

Councillor Mrs Collins also referred to a meeting with local Members of Parliament and local County Councillors.

(b) Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder

Councillor Whitbread advised that the meeting of the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee scheduled for 31 July 2008 would now be held on 12 August 2008.

(c) Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Grigg advised that consultation in relation to The Broadway Regeneration Scheme had finished on 18 July 2008. The Council's consultants were preparing a report which it was hoped would be submitted to the Cabinet on 1 September 2008.

(d) Environment Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Sartin advised that it was hoped the Rapid Response Unit to be introduced as part of the Council's Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative would be in place by the end of September 2008.

Councillor Mrs Sartin reported that the first meeting of the Waste Management Partnership Board had been held on 15 July 2008. The main issues considered had been the collection of food and garden waste and the number of properties still using black sacks for residual waste. Options for the collection of food and green waste would be considered at a future meeting of the Board and the views of residents would be sought in the next edition of the Forester Magazine.

Councillor Mrs Sartin advised that arrangements were being made for members to visit a recycling facility, hopefully before the end of September 2008.

(e) Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Harding advised that the Gate Guardian event at North Weald Airfield scheduled for 3 September 2008 would now be held on 15 September 2008.

(f) Corporate Support and ICT Services Portfolio Holder

Councillor Cohen reported on a meeting with the Police to discuss licensing issues.

45. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS WITHOUT NOTICE**(a) Waste Management Partnership Board**

By Councillor S Murray to Councillor Mrs M Sartin, Environment Portfolio Holder

Councillor Murray referred to the statement made earlier in the meeting by Councillor Mrs Sartin regarding options for the collection of garden and food waste. He sought an assurance that the final decision on these issues would be made by the Council and not by the Partnership Board.

Response by Councillor Mrs M Sartin, Environment Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Sartin advised that following consideration of the matter by the Partnership Board a report would be submitted to the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Standing Panel following which the issues would be considered by the Cabinet and the full Council.

(b) Parking Reviews

By Councillor Mrs A Haigh to Councillor R Bassett, Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Haigh acknowledged that Councillor Bassett was not present at the meeting and requested a written response to her question. She pointed out that at the last meeting of the Council the Portfolio Holder had agreed to provide details of the timescales for all of the parking reviews and she questioned when this information would be published in the Bulletin.

Councillor Whitbread, in the absence of Councillor Bassett, advised that he would speak to Councillor Bassett about the early publication of this information.

(c) Ongar Campus

By Councillor A Haigh to Councillor Mrs H Harding, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Haigh referred to the statement in the Portfolio Holder's report that the Youth Centre was currently underutilised in early evenings and during the daytime. She questioned whether the lack of attendance in the early evenings was due to the facilities offered or simply reflected a lack of interest.

Response by Councillor Mrs H Harding, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Harding advised that discussions were taking place about what activities could be provided which would be of interest and there would be consultation on this issue following which it was hoped that the facility would be better used.

Supplementary Question by Councillor A Haigh to Councillor Mrs H Harding, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Haigh asked whether the proposal to extend the Youth Centre building to accommodate changing room facilities would impact on the facilities provided for young people.

Response by Councillor Mrs H Harding, Leisure and Young People Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Harding advised that it was not intended that the proposed extension would simply be a changing area for football and that other uses would be considered as the scheme developed.

(d) West Hatch School - Youth Council**By Councillor J Markham to Councillor Mrs D Collins, Leader of the Council**

Councillor Markham referred to the statement made by Councillor Mrs Collins earlier in the meeting about being escorted around West Hatch School by the Headboy who was a member of the Youth Council. He questioned the status of the Youth Council at a School where more than half of the pupils came from outside of the Epping Forest District.

Response by Councillor Mrs D Collins, Leader of the Council

Councillor Mrs Collins advised that the Headboy at West Hatch School lived within the Epping Forest District and was a member of the Epping Forest Youth Council.

(e) Highway Repairs**By Councillor Mrs P Richardson to Councillor R Bassett, Civil Engineering and Maintenance Portfolio Holder**

Councillor Mrs Richardson drew attention to details which the Portfolio Holder had published in the Council Bulletin following her request made at the last meeting for information from the County Council regarding highway repairs. She pointed out that the details provided in the Bulletin had not answered all of the points which had been included in the motion.

Response by Councillor Mrs D Collins, Leader of the Council

In the absence of Councillor Bassett, Councillor Mrs D Collins advised that she would arrange for more detailed information to be provided in the bulletin. She advised however that temporary road repairs had been discussed with the County Council and that the repairs failing within a short period of time should be reported to the County Council.

(f) Loughton Broadway Regeneration Scheme

By Councillor Mrs P Richardson to Councillor Mrs A Grigg, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

Councillor Mrs Richardson sought clarification of the consultation process and the date when it was expected a report would be submitted to Cabinet.

Response by Councillor Mrs A Grigg, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Grigg advised that the consultation period had finished on 18 July 2008, that a first draft report was currently being prepared by the Council's consultants and that it was anticipated a report would be submitted to the Cabinet on 1 September 2008.

(g) Springfields Improvement Scheme, Waltham Abbey

By Councillor A Watts to Councillor D Stallan, Housing Portfolio Holder

Councillor Watts asked the Portfolio Holder for an update on the Springfields Improvement Scheme.

Response by Councillor D Stallan, Housing Portfolio Holder

Councillor Stallan advised that he had nothing to add to the report which he had made at the Council meeting on 26 June 2008. The scheme remained on time and within budget. Councillor Stallan further advised that he was shortly proposing to discuss the scheme with the contractor and residents in order to seek their views on the progress being made.

(h) Recycling of Batteries

By Councillor G Pritchard to Councillor Mrs M Sartin, Environment Portfolio Holder

Councillor Pritchard drew attention to a recent pilot scheme in Ongar for the recycling of batteries. He asked the Portfolio Holder if there was any intention to repeat this scheme as he had received representations from local residents.

Response by Councillor Mrs M Sartin, Environment Portfolio Holder

Councillor Mrs Sartin stated that she had also received questions from residents about this scheme. She reported that the pilot scheme had been operated from Harlow and this was no longer possible. Councillor Mrs Sartin reported that the Waste Management Partnership Board would be considering the possible introduction of roadside collection of batteries but in the meantime residents were able to take batteries to the civic amenity sites for disposal.

46. MOTIONS

There were no motions for consideration at this meeting.

47. QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS UNDER NOTICE

There were no questions asked by members under this item.

48. REPORT OF THE CABINET - LOUGHTON BROADWAY TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME - SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE

Councillor Mrs D Collins, Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Cabinet invited the Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder to present this report of the Cabinet.

(Mover: Councillor C Whitbread - Finance and Performance Management Portfolio Holder)

The Portfolio Holder and Councillor Mrs Grigg, Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, presented a report seeking a supplementary capital estimate for this scheme.

Report as first moved **ADOPTED**

RESOLVED:

That a supplementary capital estimate in the sum of £455,500 (including £200,000 contingency) be approved.

49. REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE - LOCAL ASSESSMENT OF ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT BY COUNCILLORS

The Chairman of the Council, in the absence of the Chairman of the Standards Committee, presented a report regarding the need to increase the size of the committee in order to undertake the Local Assessment of Allegations of Misconduct by Councillors.

Report as first moved **ADOPTED**

RESOLVED:

(1) That the number of District Council members of the Standards Committee be increased to three and that Councillor S Murray be appointed to the additional seat;

(2) That the number of Parish/Town Council representatives be increased to three, with the present Deputy becoming one of the members;

(3) That the revised Article 9 of the Council's Constitution attached as Appendix 1 to the report of the Committee be approved; and

(4) That the terms of reference of the Assessment Sub-Committee and the Review Sub-Committee attached as Appendix 2 to the report to the Committee be noted and included in the Council's Constitution.

50. JOINT ARRANGEMENTS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There were no reports for consideration under this heading.

CHAIRMAN