

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee **Date:** Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Place: Committee Room 2, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 7.30 - 9.20 pm

Members Present: Councillors G Mohindra (Chairman), Mrs R Gadsby, J Knapman, Mrs M McEwen and Mrs L Wagland

Other Councillors: Councillors Mrs D Collins, Mrs A Grigg, L Leonard, Mrs C Pond, Mrs P Smith, D Stallan, C Whitbread and J M Whitehouse

Apologies:

Officers Present: D Macnab (Acting Chief Executive), J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), L MacNeill (Assistant Director (Operations, Administration & Finance)), C Pasterfield (Principal Valuer/Surveyor), T Carne (Public Relations and Marketing Officer) and R Perrin (Democratic Services Assistant)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(a) Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor J M Whitehouse declared a personal interest in agenda item 5, Asset Management Co-Ordination Group - 28 July 2011, St John's Road/Epping Depot Site. The Councillor had determined that his interest was not prejudicial and would remain in the meeting for the consideration of the issue.

(b) Pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct, Councillor L Wagland declared a personal interest in agenda item 5, Asset Management Co-Ordination Group - 28 July 2011, when concerning BP. The Councillor had determined that her interest was prejudicial and would leave the meeting for the consideration of the issue.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2011 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Stallan asked on behalf of North Weald Residents, whether the Chairman and Leader would attend a Parish Council meeting to alleviate any concerns about items of business considered in private session.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that officers had agreed to produce a brief summary of reports for the public before discussing the item in private session, which should improve communications with the Parish Council and Residents.

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Councillor Wagland advised that both herself and the Councillor Mohindra would attend the Parish Council to discuss issues and concerns but would be unable to discuss matters that had been discussed in private session of the North Weald Airfield and Asset Management Cabinet Committee.

Councillor Grigg asked that the minutes of the committee be completed as a matter of urgency, so that as District Ward Members they could dismiss any concerns raised by the private session items.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that minutes of these meeting would be completed as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That North Weald Parish Council would be written to, about attending a meeting with Councillor Mohindra and Councillor Wagland;
- (2) That Officers would produce a brief summary of reports for the public domain for part two items; and
- (3) That minutes of the committee are published as soon as possible.

4. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on the grounds that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Exempt Information Paragraph Number</u>
5	Asset Management Co-Ordination Group – 28 July 2011	3
6	North Weald Airfield - Update Report	3

5. ASSET MANAGEMENT CO-ORDINATION GROUP - 28 JULY 2011

The Cabinet Committee considered the notes of the Asset Management Coordination Group held on 28 July 2011. They considered the information regarding the sites owned by the District Council and noted the progress.

Councillor Mohindra advised that the planning application for the Langston Road Depot Site Loughton would hopefully be considered in the New Year, after highways issues had been resolved.

Councillor Knapman enquired about whether and when the Ward Members would be consulted on the application, as local knowledge would be key to the success of the development. The Principal Valuer & Estates Surveyor advised that once the

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highways report had been completed, consultation would take place with that information.

Councillor Pond enquired whether other sites were being considered alongside Oakwood Hill. Councillor Knapman advised that other options were being considered.

Councillor J Whitehouse enquired what the timeframe would be between the highways consultation and public consultation on the St John's Road/Epping Depot Site.

Councillor Mohindra advised that the Cabinet would consider the financial appraisals for the various design options and the traffic survey before a public consultation would be arranged.

Councillor Stallan enquired about the Winston Churchill Public House Site.

The Principal Valuer & Estates Surveyor advised that nothing further had progressed and number of options were being considered.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the minutes of the meeting of the Asset Management Co-Ordination Group - 28 July 2011 be noted.

6. NORTH WEALD AIRFIELD - UPDATE REPORT

The Director of Environment and Street Scene informed the committee about a number of issues including the Olympic Games, depot relocation, the Halcrow report, Ernst and Young and fees and charges of users and lease holders at the Airfield.

Councillor Stallan and Councillor Grigg were concerned about the delays and cancellations of these meetings and the suspicion it caused with residents.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that covering reports would be made available in the public domain to reduce suspicion and problems caused by discussing items in private session.

Councillor Wagland advised that in addition to the Halcrow report, further work had been required to consider all options for the Airfield. The Council wanted to make the right informed decision and felt that estimating when that would be, would raise the residents expectations.

The Director of Environment and Street scene informed the committee about enquires made about future fees and charges to users at the Airfield and requested the committees guidance.

Members asked that officers receive supporting evidence from the lease holders before any requests were considered.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That the content of the updated report be noted; and
- (2) That officers negotiate with lease holders on an individual basis.

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CHAIRMAN