

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Minutes of a meeting of the Asset Development Sub-Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Monday 8th December 2014 at 4:00pm

PRESENT

Councillor Bill Hunt (Chairman)
Councillor Lis Every
Councillor Sheila Friend-Smith, MBE
Councillor Tony Goodge
Councillor Elaine Griffin-Singh
Councillor Richard Hobbs
Councillor Neil Morrison (as Substitute for Councillor Pauline Wilson)

OFFICERS

Maggie Camp – Solicitor
Spencer Clark – Senior Open Spaces & Maintenance Officer
Tracey Harding – Team Leader, Tourism and Town Centres
John Hill – Chief Executive
Richard Quayle – Director, Support Services
Adrian Scaites-Stokes – Democratic Services Officer

28. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

29. **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Councillor Pauline Wilson offered her apologies. Councillor Neil Morrison substituted for her for this meeting.

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

31. **MINUTES**

Councillor Bill Hunt proposed that the words “and sat in the public gallery and took no part in the discussion and took no part in the vote” be added after the words “..Councillor Hunt vacated the Chair...” under minute 23 in both the public and exempt versions of the minutes. This amendment was agreed.

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2014, as amended, be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Tony Goodge asked when a report about the Council's car parks would be brought back to the Sub-Committee. The Chief Executive hoped to present it to the next meeting.

32. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The Chairman felt that today's earlier site visits had been very enjoyable and would be useful for all Members to attend future visits, as it gave Members a good feel for what the Sub-Committee was trying to do. It was intended to continue these trips.
- The Senior Open Spaces & Maintenance Officer and his team had been very busy erecting signs advertising free car parking in Ely, Soham and Burwell. Thanks were offered for the help received from the City of Ely Council. This work, together with the advertising campaign, had cost around £7000. It was noted that, in contrast, Cambridge City Council were now charging for parking at their park-and-ride sites.
- The Post Office was still a tenant on the Paradise car park and the Council was still receiving rent.

33. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS**

It was resolved:

That the press and public be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item nos. 7 to 13 because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 3 of Part I Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

34. **LAND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES (PARISHES OF ELY, LITTLEPORT AND SOHAM)**

The Sub-Committee considered an Exempt report, reference P150, previously circulated, which looked at land development opportunities in the parishes of Ely, Littleport and Soham.

The Chief Executive explained that the format for reporting had changed, as land development opportunities would be reported separately from the usual asset development reports. In doing so, it was considered sensible to identify in the report titles which parishes the land development opportunities related to.

A revised recommendation was tabled and the Chief Executive reminded the Sub-Committee that it had been tasked by the Corporate Governance and Finance Committee to identify development opportunities for Council owned land. The Sub-Committee then considered a number of sites within the three parishes.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the Chief Executive be authorised to act as per the revised recommendations within the report, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee;
- (ii) That the Chief Executive's decision under delegated powers be noted;
- (iii) That updates on the progress of a number of sites be given at the next Sub-Committee meeting;
- (iv) That the relevant Parish Council should directly benefit from the relevant action taken, as negotiated on a case by case basis in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, be agreed in principle.

35. **LAND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY – PARISH OF ELY (UPDATE)**

The Committee considered an Exempt report, reference P151, previously circulated, which looked at a particular site within the parish of Ely.

The Chief Executive tabled revised recommendations and updated the Sub-Committee on a land development opportunity within the parish of Ely. The details were still being worked on and a number of proposals for its future development were summarised. The Chief Executive requested authorisation to bring back further proposals for this site.

It was resolved:

That the Chief Executive be authorised and instructed to act as per the revised recommendations within the report.

36. **ANGEL DROVE COMMUTER CAR PARK, ELY**

The Committee considered an Exempt report, reference P152, previously circulated, relating to the commuter car park at Angel Drove, Ely.

The Chief Executive updated the Sub-Committee on recent action taken and the results of a business case and its financial implications. Further action was proposed to progress this project, as it was now becoming more urgent.

The Team Leader, Tourism and Town Centres revealed that, since the new ticket machines had been installed, monitoring of occupancy levels had been undertaken at a time later in the day. This has revealed that occupancy levels were higher than previously reported.

It was resolved TO RECOMMEND TO COMMERCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:

- (i) That the Chief Executive, the Team Leader, Tourism and Town Centres and the Corporate Unit Manager be instructed to act as per the recommendations within the report;
- (ii) That the Commercial Services Committee review the tariffs at the Angel Drove commuter car park for 2015/16.

37. **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES, FOUNTAIN LANE, SOHAM**

The Committee considered an Exempt report, reference P1531, previously circulated, relating to the public conveniences in Fountain Lane, Soham.

The Chief Executive advised the Sub-Committee about the latest situation and the financial implications. Discussions had been ongoing with Soham Town Council and two options were available. A further response from the Town Council was awaited. This matter had raised the issues over other public conveniences within the district, therefore it was recommended that a review of these be undertaken by the Corporate Unit Manager.

It was resolved TO RECOMMEND TO COMMERCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE:

- (i) That the actions regarding the public conveniences in Fountain Lane Soham, as per the recommendations within the report, be agreed;
- (ii) That the Corporate Unit Manager presents a Stage 1 report to the January meeting of the Commercial Services Committee to initiate a Service Review of public conveniences within the district.

38. **ASSET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE – 2014/15**

The Committee considered an Exempt report, reference P154, previously circulated, which gave an update on the Council's operational and non-operational assets.

The Chief Executive advised the Sub-Committee as to the current status of the assets listed within the development programme.

It was resolved:

That the Chief Executive be instructed to provide a further programme update to the next meeting.

39. **FORWARD AGENDA PLAN**

The Sub-Committee received and noted the Exempt Forward Agenda Plan.

It was resolved:

That the Exempt Forward Agenda Plan be noted.

40. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 5:25pm.