

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4

Minutes of a meeting of the Asset Development Committee held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on Wednesday 16th December 2015 at 4:13pm

PRESENT

Councillor Bill Hunt (Chairman)
Councillor David Chaplin
Councillor Steve Cheetham
Councillor Lorna Dupré
Councillor Coralie Green
Councillor Mathew Shuter
Councillor Lisa Stubbs

OTHERS

Maggie Camp – Legal Services Manager
Spencer Clark – Open Spaces & Facilities Manager
John Hill – Chief Executive
Phil Rose – Strategic Land Advisor
Adrian Scaites-Stokes – Democratic Services Officer

28. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

29. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

There were no apologies.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. MINUTES

It was resolved:

That the minutes of the Asset Development Committee meeting held on 30th September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

32. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- Due to potential conflicts of interest relating to Councillors James Palmer and Charles Roberts and their involvement with the Local Authority Trading Company, their places as Conservative Group Substitutes for the Committee would be changed, with Councillors Lis Every and Julia Huffer replacing them.

Councillor David Chaplin joined the meeting at this point, 4:15pm.

- Site visits would be arranged for the Committee on the morning of the next Committee meeting on 1st February 2016, expected to commence at 11:00am. It was hoped as many Members would attend as possible. Members would be written to with further details.
- Discussions had been held with officers relating to Agenda Item Number 8. As the report did not contain any financial details the report should be regarded as being non-exempt. Questions had been asked in reference to the matter within the report, which needed to be answered. The Chairman therefore proposed that Agenda Item 8 be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee. This was duly seconded and agreed.

It was resolved:

That agenda item number 8 be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee on 1st February 2016.

33. **ASSET MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2015-16**

The Committee considered a report, reference Q146, previously circulated, that updated Members on the Asset Management Planned Maintenance Programme for 2015/16 including spend to date.

The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager advised the Committee that the old reporting system was still being used but new software was being looked at to help manage assets and create reports.

Council Offices, The Grange Lifts

Contracts had been drawn up to obtain re-quotes for just the mechanical works. This had resulted in a reduction in the costs of £3K down to £24K. These works would be done after Christmas.

Council Offices, The Grange Boiler

This had been commissioned and would give more control over the heating of the building and was expected to provide a 30% saving. Unfortunately the mild weather had prevented a real test of the new system.

Council Offices, The Grange Car Park

The white lining of the car park was almost complete.

Footpaths

The footpath repair programme would commence in the New Year.

Bus Shelters, Ely

The bus shelters for Market Street Ely had been purchased but their installation was being held up by the County Council, but was expected to be completed in the New Year.

Councillor Bill Hunt was concerned that when work was being done on the lifts disabled visitors would not be able to access the Council Chamber for meetings. With regards the bus shelters, when would they be installed and would they include seats? The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager stated that the work to the lifts would be done around the meetings to keep the disruption to a minimum, as they did not want to deny access to anybody. The Council was awaiting permission to put the new bus shelters in place and they would incorporate seating.

Councillor Mathew Shuter thought it was fantastic that the maintenance programme was under budget and showed a large difference in the budget against the actual spend. Was it possible to find a better way of representing the data with a closer look at the budget set? The Open Spaces & Facilities Manager replied that the right questions needed to be asked about the budget and research done. The bus shelters would cost less than anticipated due to a slightly different design being chosen.

Councillor Lisa Stubbs explained that the Open Spaces & Facilities Manager was now specifying the works beforehand, meaning estimates were closer to the actual cost figures leading to a more accurate budget.

It was resolved:

That the actual spend to the end of November 2015 as set out in Appendix 2 be noted.

34. **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. 9 to 11 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 item(s) 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).

35. **LAND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSET DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE 2015/16**

The Committee considered an Exempt report, reference Q148, previously circulated, providing an update on land development opportunities and the asset development programme.

The Chief Executive and Strategic Land Advisor updated the Committee on a number of land opportunities. Further areas of land had been identified for potential development and the Committee was recommended to instruct officers to explore the possibilities for these. Progress on other sites was disclosed with recommendations given to progress them further.

It was resolved:

- (i) That the relevant officers be instructed to take the actions as per the recommendations within the report;
- (ii) That the update in relation to previously identified land opportunities and asset development programme (as set out in Appendix 1) be noted.

36. **FORWARD AGENDA PLAN**

The Committee considered its forward agenda plan.

The forward agenda plan was received.

37. **EXEMPT MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Asset Development Committee held on 30th September 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

The meeting concluded at 5:04pm.