

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee
held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on
Wednesday, 13th September 2017 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T

Councillor David Ambrose Smith (Chairman)
Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith
Councillor Sue Austen (substitute for Councillor Lorna Dupré)
Councillor Lavinia Edwards
Councillor Lis Every
Councillor Mark Hugo
Councillor Andy Pearson (substitute for Councillor Allen
Alderson)
Councillor Dan Schumann
Councillor Stuart Smith

OFFICERS

Nick Ball – Neighbourhood Support Officer
Maggie Camp – Legal Services Manager
Emma Grima – Director, Commercial
Tracey Harding – Tourism & Town Centres Manager
Janis Murfet – Democratic Services Officer
Ian Smith – Finance Manager

I N A T T E N D A N C E

Councillor Christine Whelan

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

13. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen Alderson and Lorna Dupré.

It was noted that Councillor Pearson would substitute for Councillor Alderson, and Councillor Austen for Councillor Dupré for the duration of this meeting.

It was further noted that Councillor Schumann had been in touch to advise that he was on his way and would arrive in due course.

14. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

15. **MINUTES**

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- With Councillor Hobbs being away on holiday, the Chairman gave an update on the District Leisure Centre.

Great progress was being made on the construction, with the contractor reporting work was currently slightly ahead of schedule. Work on the external walls and roof was ongoing and work was now focussed on the internal structure and making the building watertight by the Autumn.

Work this month would include rendering the learner pool, testing of the main pool and completing work on the roof. Internal partitioning of the building would also continue.

A site visit for members of the Community Services Committee had been arranged for Tuesday, 19th September. If Members wished to attend and had not already said so, they should let Sally Bonnett or Councillor Hobbs know.

At this point Councillor Hugo asked why the Leisure Centre update was not included on the Forward Plan, as it had been agreed at the previous meeting that it would be a standing item and he wished to debate it. The Chairman replied that today's update was just for noting;

- Littleport Leisure Centre would open to the public on Monday, 18th September. As Chairman of the Trustees for the Leisure Centre, Councillor Ambrose Smith said he wished to take this opportunity to thank all the Officers, and the Senior Leisure Services Officer in particular, for playing such a big part in making the Centre a success;
- It had been a busy summer for the Council's Markets Team who had hosted two 'Flavours of the World' markets and two summer late markets. The events were very successful and drew in visitors from far and wide.

The next market event would be the Vegan Fair, which would take place on Saturday, 30th September.

17. **PSPO ELY(DESIGNATED AREAS)**

The Committee received a report, S94, previously circulated, from which Members were asked to consider a Public Spaces Protection Order for land designated at Angel Drove Car Park, The Dock Car Park and Cambridgeshire Business Park parking area in Ely

The Neighbourhood Support Officer commenced by reminding Members of the background to the issue. He said that rather than going through the report verbatim, he would take them through the salient points, and he reiterated that paragraph 3.3 was the key to decision making.

The Committee was reminded that the Anti Social Crime & Policing Act 2014 gave local authorities the power to designate public areas through the introduction of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs).

The Community Safety Group had commissioned the County Council Research Group to produce a report on the range and scale of antisocial driving at specified locations throughout East Cambridgeshire, and the vicinity of Angel Drove Car Park, The Dock Car Park and the Cambridgeshire Business Park were all identified as problem areas.

Appendix A provided photographic evidence of littering and dumping, Appendix B a summary of the pre-formal consultation process and Appendix C a summary of comments received via public consultation.

The Neighbourhood Support Officer said the formal consultation was carried out between July and August 2017 and during that time no overtly adverse comments were received regarding the implementation of the proposed PSPO.

Members' attention was also drawn to Appendix D of the report which contained a map and description of the area to be designated; Appendix E provided a draft version of the Order to be approved.

It was noted that an exact date had not been specified in paragraph 2.1 of the recommendation. This was because the date would have to be synchronised to fit in with the implementation of the CCTV system.

The Neighbourhood Support Officer said he wished to thank the Tourism & Town Centres Manager, as she had previously brought an Order to Committee and he had found her help invaluable in preparing this Order.

During the course of discussion, Councillor Every said she wished to thank Officers because a lot of work had been carried out in conjunction with the Tourism & Town Centres Manager and the Police to bring this Order before Members. There needed to be a vigorous process and so the scope of the Order had been shared with both District and Parish Members in order to agree what should be in the Order.

Councillor Every then asked if it was known when the CCTV cameras were likely to be in operation; The Neighbourhood Support Officer said it would be approximately the beginning of November and the Tourism & Town Centres Manager added that they would certainly be in place by Christmas.

Councillor Christine Whelan entered the Chamber at 5.45pm.

Councillor Hugo asked the Neighbourhood Support Officer whether he was confident the Police would be able to enforce the Order and if they would have the capability to do the job; he felt it was important that the Committee should receive feedback. The Neighbourhood Support Officer replied that there would be a multi tier response and he was very encouraged by the standard of facility that would be there. The Police would respond robustly and this Order would give them an additional tool to dismantle the problem. The core capacity would be to retrieve evidence and Members could be assured that the Police would jump on those causing the nuisance.

Councillor Pearson said his biggest fear was that of displacement, and he asked if the antisocial behaviour would be dealt with if it moved elsewhere.

He also raised a several points regarding the wording of the PSPO. He asked if 'dropping litter from a vehicle' could be changed to 'dropping litter' per se, and he thought that the revving of engines of static vehicles should be included. With regard to the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) template, he said it seemed to geared towards children, and if this was the case, there should also be one to be used for adults. The Neighbourhood Support Officer replied that the Order should cover some of the noise related activity, and there would be correlation with CCTV footage and the marks on the ground.

The Chairman said he believed monitoring was important and if possible, he would like to see a report on activity and displacement brought to Members on a monthly basis. Members confirmed that they would be content with this approach. It was agreed that the process would be managed by Officers and the information shared with the parish councils.

It was resolved unanimously:

- 1) To adopt the East Cambridgeshire District Council Crime and Policing Act 2014, Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 (Angel Drove car Park, The Dock Car Park and Cambridgeshire Business Park parking area in Ely) as set out in Appendix E to the report, to come into force from an exact date to be confirmed;
- 2) To receive proposals for future variations to the Order based on a monitoring period and public consultation feedback.

18. PSPO LITTLEPORT (DESIGNATED AREAS)

The Committee received a report, S95, previously circulated, from which Members were asked to consider a Public Spaces Protection Order for land designated at St George's Church (Church Lane), Harley Davidson war memorial green open space, and Parsons Lane Recreation Ground (Parsons Lane, Littleport.

The Neighbourhood Support Officer explained that this Order would be the same legislative tool as that outlined in the previous agenda item. However, this proposal had arisen from Cambridgeshire Constabulary; they had made an

initial representation to the District Council requesting the potential for a PSPO at the proposed sites in May 2017.

A series of meetings and email dialogues confirmed the key stages of the process with the Constabulary, and as they were requesting the provision of the Order, they were asked to build the evidence base of incidents and lead on witness interviews.

The Neighbourhood Support Officer said he himself had experienced the general antisocial behaviour and loss of amenity in the area. Whilst out cycling, he had had to take a significant detour past the Recreation Ground due to the behaviour of youths who were being verbally abusive and throwing litter about. This had also impacted on St George's Church, leading to a general loss of enjoyment of amenity for other members of the public.

Paragraph 3.6 of the report set out the proposed provisions of the Order, and Members noted that informal consultation and engagement with appropriate local interest groups had taken place during Spring and early Summer of 2017 to determine support or otherwise for the Order. The issues were considered at various Community Safety Partnership and Parish level meetings.

Formal consultation was conducted between July and August 2017, during which time no overtly adverse comments were received regarding the implementation of the proposed PSPO. It was noted that there had been a similar number of responses received as for Ely.

The Neighbourhood Support Officer reiterated that this was not just a paper exercise; he had walked the whole town and spoken to a wide range of people. The feedback he received was that people did not feel safe and secure and the current state of affairs was unacceptable.

It was therefore felt that an Order would be a proportionate response and that it should come into force on 1st October 2017, as the date did not need to be linked to anything else.

Councillor Christine Ambrose Smith commented that one of the most disturbing aspects of the problem was the age range of the youths involved. The youngest were about 12 years old and the oldest in their late 20's, and the former were easily influenced by the older youths. She was already aware that at the start of the new school term, a child had been found in possession of cannabis. The rubbish and damage to property was bad enough, but for youngsters to be exposed to this kind of influence was appalling.

The Chairman asked if it would be possible, at this stage, to modify the areas specified in the Order so they could be extended by a few hundred yards. The Neighbourhood Support Officer replied that in principle, it was a practical solution but the areas were pegged to what had been consulted on. However, this could be looked at during monitoring, as any requests could be flagged up. If there was an appetite from the other stakeholders, it would be necessary to consult again before taking any further action.

There being no further comments or questions,

It was resolved unanimously,

- 1 To adopt the East Cambridgeshire District Council Crime and Policing Act 2014, Public Spaces Protection Order 2017 (St George's Church (Church Lane), Harley Davidson war memorial green open space (Church Lane), Parsons Lane Recreation Ground (Parsons Lane), Littleport;
- 2) To receive proposals for future variations to the Order based on a monitoring period and public consultation feedback.

Councillor Schumann joined the meeting at 6.06pm.

19. **PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER ENFORCEMENT PROTOCOL**

The Committee received a report from which Members were asked to consider the Public Spaces Protection Enforcement Protocol.

The Neighbourhood Support Officer reminded Members that the need for a revised enforcement agreement (protocol) was identified in order to share the work between the Constabulary and the Council.

The Protocol, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, had come about through rigorous discussion and development with senior Constabulary management and through peer review and robust checking of other local authority area procedures.

Members noted that the process for developing the Protocol had been fully informed by the Legal Services Manager, and the Neighbourhood Support Officer said he had been very grateful for all her help.

The Protocol met the requirements of the Police and Crime Commissioner in promoting a shared enforcement capacity for new ASB interventions.

Having regard to Councillor Pearson's earlier question, the wording of the Protocol would be tweaked before going to press to cover youths as well as adults.

The Chairman thanked the Neighbourhood Support Officer for all his hard work in bringing the Protocol before Members. Whereupon,

It was resolved unanimously:

That the PSPO Enforcement Protocol, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

20. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT.

The Finance Manager presented a report which provided Members with details of the financial position for services under the Community Services Committee.

This was the first report for the 2017/18 financial year and detailed actual expenditure incurred as at 30th June 2017 and current projections as to the yearend position.

Tabled at the meeting was a fresh copy of Appendix 1 to the report. The Finance Manager apologised to Members saying that the print range had been incorrect on the published version, thus omitting the information relating to capital.

Paragraph 3.2 of the report set out two potential outturn variances in the revenue budget. These amounted to an underspend of £15,000 and related to marketing and grants and Oliver Cromwell's House.

It was resolved unanimously:

- 1) To note that this Committee has a projected under spend of £15,000 compared to its approved revenue budget of £1,350,069; and
- 2) To note that this Committee has a projected capital programme outturn of £14,245,651.

21. FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

The Committee reviewed the Community Services Forward Agenda Plan.

The Director, Commercial, said that the PSPO monitoring reports would be brought back to Committee.

Councillor Hugo asked whether the leisure centre would be an agenda item at future meetings, as he had proposed and it had been agreed that it should appear on the agenda. The Chairman replied that an update would appear on future agendas, and he reminded Members that the forward plan, by its nature, would be subject to change.

There being no further comments,

It was resolved;

That the Forward Agenda Plan, and the comments made thereon, be noted.

The meeting closed at 6:15pm.