

Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee
held in the Council Chamber, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely on
Wednesday, 28th June 2017 at 5.30pm

P R E S E N T

Councillor Lis Every (Vice Chairman in the Chair)
Councillor Allen Alderson
Councillor Lorna Dupré
Councillor Lavinia Edwards
Councillor Mark Hugo
Councillor Dan Schumann
Councillor Stuart Smith

OFFICERS

Emma Grima – Director, Commercial
Tracey Harding – Tourism & Town Centres Manager
Janis Murfet – Democratic Services Officer

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

5. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Christine and David Ambrose Smith.

There were no substitutions.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

8. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced that following a By-election on 22nd June 2017, Mark Goldsack had been elected as a Member for the Soham North Ward of the District Council. Councillor Goldsack was replacing former District Councillor James Palmer, who was now the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority.

Members were asked to note that a new piece of play equipment, a ship, was in the process of being installed in the Country Park; this had come about as a result of public consultation with young people.

It was also noted that toilets would again be in place in the Country Park from the end of July.

9. **EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE (OFF STREET PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2017**

The Committee received a report, S33, previously circulated, from which Members were asked to approve the East Cambridgeshire (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2017.

The Tourism & Town Centres Manager reminded Members that at its meeting on 17th May 2017, the Commercial Services Committee had approved the draft Order for a statutory 21 day consultation period, beginning on 22nd May and concluding on 12th June 2017; she then reiterated the list of changes proposed.

It was noted that Cambridgeshire County Council had consented to the Order (this being a statutory requirement), and no objections had been received from the statutory consultees or members of the public.

At this point it was proposed by Councillor Hugo and seconded by Councillor Smith that the Officer's recommendation be revised to read as follows:

'Members are requested to approve the final East Cambridgeshire (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2017 as attached in Appendix 1, subject to revising the Penalty Charge Notice to £60 (ref: paragraph 16 (2-3)).'

In proposing the motion, Councillor Hugo said he could see no reason to increase the Penalty Charge Notice, as he believed that £60 was a fair penalty for someone who abused the City's free parking. Councillor Smith said he did not have any comments to add.

When put to the vote,

It was resolved:

To approve the final East Cambridgeshire (Off Street Parking Places) Order 2017, as attached in Appendix 1 of the report, subject to revising the Penalty Charge Notice to £60 (ref: paragraph 16 (2-3)).

10. **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES & ANNUAL REPORTS**

The Committee received a report, S34, previously circulated, from which Members were asked to receive the Annual Reports from appointed Council representatives for those bodies which fell within the responsibility of the Community Services Committee.

Members were also asked to appoint to the vacancy on the Soham & District Sports Association, and to note the Council's Lead and Substitute representatives on the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel.

The Democratic Services Officer stated that on 27th June she had received an email from the Deputy Leader in which it was confirmed that Councillor Alan Sharp was the Council's Lead representative, and Councillor Andy Pearson the Substitute representative on the Panel.

Members' attention was also drawn to three tabled Annual Reports which had been received after the publication of the Agenda.

Councillor Schumann said that while he would be content to serve as the second representative on the Soham & District Sports Association, he wondered if it would be considered appropriate, given that his brother, Councillor Joshua Schumann, was already appointed to the body. It was duly agreed that this would be discussed and the Committee would be updated at its next meeting.

Councillor Dupré raised a number of points. She noted that a report had yet to be submitted in respect of the Community Safety Partnership, and asked when this might be received. The Chairman said the report would be submitted by the end of the next week.

Turning next to the East Cambs & Fenland Children's Trust, Councillor Dupré expressed concern that the Member representative appeared to be questioning the need for Council representation on this body. Given the profound links between health, housing and educational attainment, and especially children's mental health, she thought that the Council's continued involvement was vital.

Councillor Schumann asked if there was Officer representation on the Children's Trust and was advised that Angela Parmenter, Housing & Community Safety Manager attended meetings as necessary. Councillor Dupré interjected to say that if the current Member representative was questioning whether representation worthwhile, then perhaps a change of representative should be considered.

Councillor Schumann agreed, adding that he strongly felt the Council should have someone on the Children's Trust. The choice of Member could be more cleverly made in order to allow better representation.

Taking up on this latter point, Councillor Dupré referred to the comments in the report on the Paradise Centre Management Committee and suggested that the appointment of representatives should be reviewed to ensure that each one would be the right person to fulfil the role. She then asked who had made the decision to remove the City of Ely Perspective from the list of outside bodies.

The Chairman responded, saying it had been a District Council decision. The Ely Perspective had originally been a vibrant organisation, but with funding having been spent and initiatives ceased, its activities had greatly diminished. In the last two years it was felt that it would not be appropriate for the Council to appoint to the organisation. However, the Perspective was now regenerating and this decision could be revisited.

Councillor Schumann added that there had been a time when the District Council was part of the Market Towns Initiative, which had been funded by the now defunct East of England Development Agency. His own feeling was that the Ely Perspective should remain withdrawn from the outside bodies list until a case for reinstatement presented itself.

It was resolved:

- 1) That the Annual Reports from appointed Council representatives on the activities and manner in which funding is spent by the outside bodies within the responsibility of the Community Services Committee be noted;
- 2) That Members will be updated on the appointment to the vacancy on the Soham & District Sports Association at the next meeting of the Community Services Committee; and
- 3) To note that Councillor Alan Sharp is the Council's Lead representative, and Councillor Andy Pearson the Substitute representative on the Cambridgeshire Police & Crime Panel.

11. FORWARD AGENDA PLAN

The Committee reviewed the Community Services Forward Agenda Plan.

It was proposed by Councillor Hugo that, with the new leisure centre being the District Council's flagship, the Service Delivery Champion for the Leisure Centre should bring a report (written or verbal) to every meeting of the Committee until the facility had been delivered. The motion was seconded by Councillor Alderson and agreed unanimously by the Committee.

Councillor Dupré enquired about the current position regarding the award of grant to ESACT that had been held back. The Director, Commercial replied that due to ongoing discussions at the County Council, she was unable to advise the exact position at this time, but she would provide Members with an update at the next meeting.

Referring to the presentation given by VCAEC to the Commercial Services Committee in January 2017, Councillor Schumann said it would be

useful for Members to be updated on the organisation's activities. He also thought it would be helpful for the Committee to receive regular updates regarding Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 receipts. The Director reminded Members that CIL was reported to the Resources & Finance Committee every six months, so to bring it to Community Services would be a duplication of work. Councillor Schumann replied that much of the money was focused on community projects, so it would be useful for the Committee to know what resources were, or were not there. The Director repeated that it would be a duplication of work because the information was available to Members; however, she would give the matter some thought. Councillor Hugo asked if the parishes reported back to the District Council on what the monies had been used for. The Director stated that the parishes were required to publish this information annually, and it could come to this Committee.

Councillor Schumann then continued, saying he believed it was really important that the Community Services Committee should have the ability to champion the work of the Tourism Section and Oliver Cromwell's House. To this end, he would like to see a biannual presentation from the Tourism & Town Centres Manager and her team.

Councillor Hugo next enquired about the review of the Tourist Information Centre (TIC). The Chairman said that a decision had been taken at Group not to continue with the review because the review had started and been extended but then it was felt that the ways to manage the TIC were broader than the scope of the review.

On a general point, the Chairman suggested that Members should give consideration as to what they wished to come to Committee in the future. The Forward Plan could then be populated accordingly.

Councillor Schumann wondered how often the grants schemes were reviewed, as there were various schemes, all of which came before the Committee as recommendations; he thought a biannual review could be useful. The Director replied that she would not recommend a biannual review as it would cause uncertainty, but she could ask the Community Safety Officer to conduct an annual review and bring a report to Committee.

The Chairman said that it had been the intention for Committee Members to visit the sports centres in the District, but this was yet to be arranged. Councillor Hugo suggested that the smaller, lesser known facilities should also be included in any visit to ascertain what issues they were facing and what help they might need.

Councillor Schumann recalled there being talk of the Leisure Strategy being wider reaching and more holistic, and to this purpose he asked that a first draft of the Strategy be added to the Forward Plan. He also requested that the Committee receive an updated and refreshed Community Facilities Audit at some point.

The Chairman informed Members that the Chairman of the Commercial Services Committee had always held a pre-Committee briefing, to which relevant Service Leads and Officers were invited. She had found the briefings

to be very useful and recommended that they should continue for Community Services. The Chairman also suggested that the Forward Plan should be critically reviewed at each meeting of the Committee.

There being no further comments,

It was resolved;

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

The meeting closed at 6:10pm.