

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON MONDAY, 16 MARCH 2009

*Cllr J Barfoot (Vice-Chairman)

*Cllr A Burlton

Cllr Mrs D Hollebon

*Cllr C Horner

*Cllr Mrs Symonds

Cllr R Taylor

*Cllr C Woodward (Chairman)

*Cllr J Wyllie

* denotes present.

In attendance: J Ingham – Town Clerk

627. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Hollebon (business commitment) and Cllr Taylor (prior engagement).

628. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

629. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No representations had been received from members of the public.

630. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2009**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

631. **BISHOP'S STORTFORD TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

Cllr Barfoot had submitted the attached document. The document, he said, had been produced as part of the Green Energy Working Party and was something which would need to be adopted by both management and staff of the Council. It was a means of setting standards and to be successful in its achievements would need to be championed by a member of staff who would initially carry out an environmental survey to establish where and how the activities impacted on the services of the Town Council. To some extent, it was accepted that a lot of what was being suggested was already being covered and Cllr Barfoot commended the document for acceptance by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDATION: that the document be approved

632. **ENERGY AND WATER STATEMENT**

As part of the Environmental Policy as referred to in Agenda item 5 above, Cllr Barfoot submitted the above document which, he stated, complemented the Environmental Policy.

633. **VISION BOARD/TOWN PLAN UP-DATE**

Cllr Barfoot had compiled the attached report which had been circulated to all members for information. A further meeting had been convened since 28 January 2009 and details of the discussion would be tabled for a future meeting of the Environment Committee. Progress, stated Cllr Barfoot, was slow. Nevertheless, the data received to date was currently being analysed by the East Herts Council.

634. **BISHOP'S STORTFORD 2020 – UP-DATED REPORT**

Members had been circulated with a copy of the report compiled by the Leader of East Herts Council, for submission to the Executive on 6 January 2009.

Reference was made to Page 18.9 of the report - 'Risk Management Implications' – and to the statement that the development of an influential vision for Bishop's Stortford would significantly reduce the risk of ad hoc developments and improve the likelihood of developing a sustainable Town. It was felt that, if this was to be the outcome of the 20/20 Vision Board, then it would have more than achieved its brief.

Concern was expressed that there would appear to be no timescale for the completion of the work and that this was something which should be requested from East Herts Council. The master plan document was something the Town Council should support and it was agreed that any input which members felt to be relevant should be fed through to the Town Council representatives on the Board (Cllr Barfoot or Cllr Peek).

RESOLVED: that the contents of the report be noted

635. **ADVERTISING BANNERS ON RAILINGS AT CAUSEWAY**

Members' attention was drawn to an e-mail received from a resident complaining about the number of advertisements appearing on the Causeway railings. This, it was stated, set an undesirable precedent and was something which the Town Council should not condone.

The general feeling of members was that the Rhodes Complex had a problem in that there were no suitable advertising outlets in the Town, although it was recognised that what was being perpetrated was against planning policy and that Rhodes should be requested to regularise the situation by submitting a planning application.

It was agreed that the content of the above be referred to the Rhodes Management Committee for action.

636. **TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT**

Members were informed that the East Herts Council's Executive had agreed to defer consideration of the Town Council's proposals, pending analysis of the public consultation. Once the results of the consultation had been analysed, the Council would be in a position to re-consider the proposals.

It was reported that other towns would appear to have had a positive response from East Herts Council and that the proposals of the Town Council had been put on hold until the outcome of the Vision Board/Town Plan.

The Chairman stated that he had pursued the matter with East Herts Council and an early meeting had been convened with Simon Drinkwater, the Town Centre Manager and the Town Clerk to discuss progressing the Council's proposals.

A number of other issues were raised, namely the conditions of the roads in and around the Town and, in view of the opening of Shopmobility, that the implications of disabled access throughout the Town be investigated. A request was made for a copy of the list emanating from the meeting to be forwarded to all members for information.

637. **BRITISH WATERWAYS – STUDY OF THE RIVER STORT – A VISION FOR THE FUTURE – WATERSCAPE AND LANDSCAPE STRATEGY**

Members had been circulated with a copy of the above document and were pleased with the general content, although a number of specific matters were raised with regard to parking arrangements, access for river maintenance and land ownership, which members were informed were being pursued by the Town Centre Manager. A question was raised as to what was the next stage vis-à-vis funding and future planning and the timescale for implementation. Cllr Barfoot suggested that British Waterways be invited to give a presentation. Cllr Burlton stated that arrangements were being made for such a presentation to be made to a future meeting of Community Voice. Members welcomed the report.

638. **REMIT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REGARDING FOOTPATHS**

It was generally agreed that this matter had been overtaken by events and that there was a degree of overlapping between the Planning and Development Committee and the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: that a review of the remit be considered at the commencement of the next civic year

639. **BSTC GRASS CUTTING SCHEDULE**

Members had been circulated with a copy of the current grass cutting schedule which members accepted in principle and agreed to keep under review.

640. **SANDPIPER COURT**

A letter had been received from a resident of Sandpiper Court drawing members' attention to the car washing activities carried out by Associated Taxis, the noise emanating from such activities and the light pollution from the establishment.

Members were informed that this matter was under investigation by East Herts Council's Licensing Officer.

641. **PAYPHONE – K6- DEVOILS LANE**

Members were informed that there were no plans to remove the telephone box and therefore there was no need for the Town Council to consider its adoption. The Chairman confirmed that the box was inspected by the Town Council's staff periodically and any litter removed.

642. **GATEWAY ENTRY SIGNS TO BISHOP'S STORTFORD**

A letter had been received from Hertfordshire Highways which stated that, with regard to town nameplate signs, Hertfordshire Highways would only look to replace the existing 'Bishop's Stortford' nameplate signs if they were at the end of their serviceable life and required replacing. In addition, there was no evidence that the signs need to be replaced at present. However, if the Town Council was willing to fund the type of gateway signs identified, then the possibility of installing such signs at the entrances to the Town would be investigated.

RESOLVED: to seek information as to whether funding was available from the East Herts Council from the money allocation for environmental improvements

643. **UPDATED REPORTS**

- i) **Provision of Waste Bins - (first raised 29/9/08)**
Dog Bin Footpath 66 Plaw Hatch Close/Raynham Road
Litter Bin at bus stop adjacent to No. 157 Dunmow Road
Chase letter sent to Mr Kellet, dated 6/1/09
Chase letter sent to Mr Kellet dated 27/4/09
- ii) **Local Air Quality Review and Assessment: Action Plan**
Letter sent to Ms Williams, East Herts Council (14/1/09), requesting progress report on Environment Committee's comments
- iii) **Listed Buildings**
E-mail sent to Russ Craig, East Herts Council (12/1/09), with amendments to Listed Buildings list and additional suggestions for listing

644. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None.

645. **URGENT BUSINESS**

Waytemore Green – Play Area

Concern was expressed that two children had recently been bitten by a dog and as the Green was a childrens' play area, what action could be taken. It was agreed to draw the matter to the attention of the Dog Warden.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.