

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA



THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING

Date: Wednesday 26th January 2011

Time: 7.15pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Causeway House, Braintree

Membership:

Councillor J. Baugh	Councillor A. M. Meyer
Councillor G. Cohen	Councillor R. Ramage
Councillor M. Dunn	Councillor D. E. A. Rice
Councillor Dr. R. L. Evans	Councillor A. F. Shelton
Councillor M. G. Gage (Chairman)	Councillor Mrs. J. A. Smith
Councillor J. E. B. Gyford	Councillor F. Swallow

Members are requested to attend this meeting, to transact the following business:-

1. Apologies for Absence.

2. Member Declarations.

- (i) To declare the existence and nature of any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 8 to 12 (inclusive) of the Code of Conduct for Members in Part 5 of the Constitution and having taken appropriate advice (where necessary) before the meeting.
- (ii) Any member with a 'personal and prejudicial' interest to indicate whether he/she intends to make representations in accordance with paragraph 12 (2) of the Code of Conduct as part of Question Time.
- (iii) To declare the existence and nature of any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote on any particular matter.

[Note: A member with a personal and prejudicial interest must withdraw from the room or chamber whilst the item of business the

subject of such prejudicial interest is being considered]

3. **Question Time.** (See paragraph below).
4. **Minutes.** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 5th and 6th January 2011 (copies to follow).
5. **Scrutiny Review – Silver End Village Hall**

To conduct the scrutiny review into the Council's handling of issues concerning the future of Silver End Village Hall.

A copy of the Information Pack containing replies received in response to the consultation is enclosed.

(1). The following persons have made written submissions as set out in the Information Pack and have been invited to attend if they so wish, either as observers or as witnesses:

Parish Cllr. R. D. Feltham
Ms. J. Stubbs, Secretary of Crittall Athletic and Social Club
Miss N. Wheatley, Silver End Christian Fellowship
Ms. D. Sullens Smith, Secretary of 1st Silver End Scout Group

(2). The local Ward Members (who were also the original organisers of the Silver End Village Hall petition) have been asked to attend specifically as witnesses:

Cllr. J. Abbott
Cllr. P. Hughes

(3). The relevant Cabinet Member and her deputy, and the Head of Community Services have been asked to attend specifically as witnesses:

Cllr. Mrs. W. Schmitt, Portfolio Holder for Clean and Green
Cllr. C. Siddall, Deputy Cabinet Member
Charmaine Dean, Head of Community Services

(1) to (3) above indicates the 'batting order' in which the Committee will question the witnesses. Witnesses will be asked initially if they wish to make any brief opening statement, and this will then be followed by Members of the Committee asking questions.

6. **Urgent Business.** To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.
7. To agree the exclusion of the public and press for the consideration of any items for the reasons set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.
At the time of compiling the agenda there were none.
8. **Urgent Business.** To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in private by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

S. Bore
Scrutiny Manager

If you require any further information relating to this agenda or wish to forward your apologies for absence, please contact Steve Bore on (01376) 551414 extension 2003 or e-mail stebo@braintree.gov.uk

QUESTION TIME

Immediately after the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved there will be a period of up to 30 minutes when members of the public can speak about Council business or other matters of local concern. During this period, councillors who have declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any item of business on the agenda may also speak as permitted by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members . Whilst members of the public can remain to observe the whole of the public part of the meeting, councillors with a prejudicial interest must withdraw whilst the item of business in question is being considered. Members of the public wishing to speak should contact the Council's Democratic Services Section on (01376) 552525 or email stebo@braintree.gov.uk prior to the meeting.

The Council's "Question Time" leaflet explains the procedure and copies of this may be obtained at the Council's offices at Braintree, Witham and Halstead.