

Minutes



Council Meeting

14th October 2013

These minutes principally record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. A webcast of the meeting is available for 6 months at www.braintree.gov.uk.

Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
Councillor J E Abbott	Yes	Councillor D Mann	Yes
Councillor J S Allen	Yes	Councillor J T McKee	Apologies
Councillor M J Banthorpe	Yes	Councillor R G S Mitchell	Yes
Councillor P R Barlow	Yes	Councillor J M Money	Yes
Councillor J Baugh	No	Councillor Lady P Newton	Yes
Councillor J C Beavis	Yes	Councillor J O'Reilly-Cicconi	Apologies
Councillor D L Bebb	Yes	Councillor I C F Parker	Yes
Councillor E Bishop	Yes	Councillor J A Pell	Yes
Councillor R J Bolton	Apologies	Councillor R P Ramage	Yes
Councillor L B Bowers – Flint	Apologies	Councillor D M Reid	Apologies
Councillor G Butland	Yes	Councillor F Ricci	Yes
Councillor C A Cadman	Apologies	Councillor D E A Rice	Yes
Councillor S Canning	Yes	Councillor W J Rose	Yes
Councillor T G Cunningham	Yes	Councillor V Santomauro	No
Councillor J G J Elliott	Yes	Councillor W D Scattergood (Chairman)	Yes
Councillor Dr R L Evans	Yes	Councillor W Schmitt	Apologies
Councillor A V E Everard	Yes	Councillor A F Shelton	Yes
Councillor J H G Finbow	Yes	Councillor L Shepherd	Yes
Councillor M J Fincken	Yes	Councillor C E Shute	Yes
Councillor T J W Foster	Yes	Councillor C Siddall	Yes
Councillor M E Galione	Apologies	Councillor G A Spray	Yes
Councillor C Gibson	Yes	Councillor J S Sutton	Yes
Councillor M Green	Yes	Councillor J R Swift	Apologies
Councillor P Horner	Yes	Councillor P Tattersley	Apologies
Councillor S A Howell	Yes	Councillor C M Thompson	Yes
Councillor H D Johnson	Yes	Councillor M Thorogood	Apologies
Councillor S C Kirby	Apologies	Councillor L S Walters	Yes
Councillor M C M Lager	Yes	Councillor R G Walters	Apologies
Councillor C Louis	Yes	Councillor S A Wilson (Vice- Chairman)	Yes
Councillor D J Louis	Yes	Councillor B Wright	Yes

39. **CHAIRMAN'S AND/OR LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman's announcements covered the following:

- Welcoming Ian Hunt, new Head of Governance;
- Letter of thanks received from Kensington Palace in response to the card sent on behalf of the Council to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge following the birth of Prince George of Cambridge;
- The Charity Golf Day on 7th August had raised £4,043 for the Chairman's charities;
- Invitations to Members to various Remembrance Services in the District;
- Invitations to Members to the Chairman's Civic Carol Service;
- Congratulations to all Members of Halstead in Bloom on their recent successes in Britain in Bloom and Anglia in Bloom. She also congratulated Council staff involved;
- The recently restored Finchingfield Guildhall as a tourist attraction and events venue.

The Leader announced that feedback from the Peer Challenge carried out with the Council the previous week had been very good and that the results would be made available publicly. He thanked Members and officers involved for their support.

40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: The following interests were declared:

- Councillors Abbott, Butland, D Louis, and Lady Newton declared non-pecuniary interests in Agenda item 6, Motion submitted by Councillor Butland on Essex County Council's submission to the Airports Commission, 'Flights of Fancy: Getting Real on Aviation' and Agenda item 7, Motion submitted by Councillor Beavis, "Who will care?" report as Members of Essex County Council;
- Councillor D Louis also declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7, Motion submitted by Councillor Beavis, "Who will care?" report as a Director of Provide.
- Councillor Lady Newton also declared a non-pecuniary interests in Agenda item 6 Motion, submitted by Councillor Butland on Essex County Council's submission to the Airports Commission, 'Flights of Fancy: Getting Real on Aviation' as her daughter is Director of Regulatory Affairs at Heathrow Airport;
- Councillor Ricci declared a non-pecuniary interests in Agenda item 6, Motion submitted by Councillor Butland on Essex County Council's submission to the Airports Commission, 'Flights of Fancy: Getting Real on Aviation' as a senior manager employed of Heathrow Airport Ltd.
- Councillor Pell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7, Motion submitted by Councillor Beavis, "Who will care?" report as a Trustee of Halstead Day Centre.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members remained in the meeting for this item and took part in the debate and decision thereon.

41. **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29th July 2013 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 23rd September 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

42. **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: One question was asked listed in Appendix A. The speaker was advised that he would receive a written response to his question.

43. **SUBMITTED MOTION – ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO THE AIRPORTS COMMISSION - 'FLIGHTS OF FANCY: GETTING REAL ON AVIATION'**

INFORMATION: Councillor Butland moved the motion as stated in the Agenda regarding Essex County Council's (ECC's) submission to the Airports Commission - 'Flights of Fancy: Getting Real on Aviation'. The motion was seconded by Councillor Mitchell.

Councillor Barlow moved an amendment to add that the submission aligned with the Council's longstanding cross-party policy concerning the future of Stansted airport. This was seconded by Councillor Dr Evans.

The amendment was accepted by Cllr Butland. Several Members spoke in support of the amended motion.

Councillor Abbott said that the Green Group wished to support the amended motion but sought the addition of opposition to the establishment of a second runway. Councillor Butland moved the addition of the following at the end of the motion "including opposition to the establishment of a second runway". Councillors Barlow and Abbott both agreed to the addition of this text which became the substantive motion.

On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was supported unanimously and declared carried.

DECISION: "This Council notes the publication by Essex County Council of its submission to the Airports Commission. It supports the case made by the County Council in its document 'Flights of Fancy: Getting Real on Aviation' as this Council's longstanding cross-party policy aligns entirely with the findings concerning the future of Stansted airport including opposition to the establishment of a second runway".

44. **SUBMITTED MOTION – HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN ESSEX "WHO WILL CARE?"**

INFORMATION: Councillor Beavis moved the motion as stated in the Agenda on a local integrated approach to health and social care, as documented in the "Who will care?" Commission's report led by Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett. This was seconded by Councillor Spray.

Councillor Barlow moved an amendment to reword the last paragraph of the motion to read as follows: "The Council also recognises that integration means that all authorities need to work effectively together, and pledges to develop, with partners, the methods and mechanisms to achieve the aims set out in the Commission's report". This was seconded by Councillor Dr Evans.

The amendment was accepted by Councillor Beavis and became the amended motion.

Several Members spoke in support of the amended motion. Councillor Lager proposed replacing the word "authorities" with "agencies" in the amended motion to recognise the contribution of various organisations. Councillor Barlow proposed that the wording be revised to "authorities and agencies" in recognition of the role of both. This was accepted by Councillor Beavis and became the substantive motion.

On being put to the vote, the substantive motion was supported unanimously and declared carried.

DECISION:

"This Council recognises that our population is getting older, larger in number, and that an ageing population has greater and more complex health needs.

It supports a local integrated approach to health and social care, as documented in the Commission's report led by Sir Thomas Hughes-Hallett, to sustain and improve health and social care in Essex.

The Council also recognises that integration means that all authorities and agencies need to work effectively together, and pledges to develop, with partners, the methods and mechanisms to achieve the aims set out in the Commission's report".

45. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013 – SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT 2013 – LICENCE FEES AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION.**

DECISION:

1. That the proposed fees set out in section 4 of the report be agreed and that the fees to come into effect from 1st October 2013.
2. That the Constitution be amended as set out in the report.

REASON FOR DECISION: To ensure that the Council has procedures and fees in place in order to discharge the licensing function under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 for 2013/14

46. **RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013 – TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13 AND MID-YEAR REPORT 2013/14.**

DECISION: That the Treasury Management Combined Annual Report 2012/13 and Mid-Year Report 2013/14 be accepted.

REASON FOR DECISION: The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice for Treasury Management in Public Services which requires that Full Council receive an annual report and mid-year review of its treasury management function.

47. **REFERRAL FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2013 – TASK AND FINISH GROUP, AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

INFORMATION: Councillor Barlow presented the report as Chairman of the Task and Finish Group. Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Planning and Property, thanked Councillor Barlow for the report and the work of the Group. She advised that she will be bringing a response to the report for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting in December.

DECISION:

1. That the report, the work of the Task and Finish Group and the recommendations be noted.
2. That the report be referred to Cabinet.

REASON FOR DECISION: To consider the Task and Finish report reviewing affordable housing in the district.

48. **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS**

(i) **Reports from the Leader and Cabinet Members**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to the reports of the Leader and Cabinet Members.

The Leader added to his report that the list of Members who attended a press conference at the proposed minerals extraction site at Rayne should include Councillor Tattersley.

Councillor Bebb, Cabinet Member, Performance and Efficiency, added to his report that in the light of difficulties with Lloyds in taking forward the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme, the Council is investigating taking the Scheme forward with a building society as an alternative.

Councillor Lady Newton Cabinet Member, Planning and Property, added to her report that a meeting for Members on the Essex Minerals Plan would be held on 16th October with the recently appointed consultant. The public examination of the Plan would be taking place at Anglia Ruskin University in November. She also added that the campaign on registering interest in superfast broadband had generated over 4,500 responses and that roll-out in the district is due to commence in October 2014.

Councillor Mitchell, Deputy Cabinet Member, Place, added the following to Councillor Schmitt's report:

- Contracts for the Cordons Farm, Waste Transfer Station, have been exchanged and completion is due soon between the owner and Essex County Council;

- He requested that Members who have not done so, complete an online survey on waste and recycling;
- There is a BBC Panorama programme involving Councillor Schmitt and the Council's work on anti-littering in the making;
- Braintree district is a finalist in 3 categories in the national Keep Britain Tidy Awards.

Councillor Siddall, Cabinet Member, Prosperity and Growth, added to his report that the pop-up shop had generate 3 new retailers for Braintree town.

Members asked several questions arising from the reports. A webcast of the questions to and responses of Cabinet Members is available on the Council's website at: www.braintree.gov.uk.

Main topics covered were as follows:

- Allocation of funds to authorities from the New Homes Bonus;
- Payments to Town and Parish Councils from the Localism Fund;
- Cross party support to opposing the Essex Minerals Plan;
- Adding a performance measure on the value of underwriting housing projects which ensure they proceed and which might not appear as being of value as the funds are not spent;
- A reported submission of a planning application at a mineral extraction site on the Witham – Rivenhall border for a ready-mix operation on the site;
- Clearing up of litter at Moat Farm Chase, Witham.
- The development of sites on the A120-A12 corridor including the Skyline 2 site;
- Improvements to the appearance of Braintree town market;
- Traffic management during the redevelopment of the South Street – Fairfield Road junction;
- Slip roads on and off the A12 at Rivenhall End;
- Terms of Reference for a Business Leaders Group for the district.

The following actions were agreed in response to questions raised by Members:

- Councillor Bebb, Cabinet Member, Performance and Efficiency, agreed to provide Councillor Dr Evans with information on the framework of the apprenticeship scheme and the progression of apprentices in the Council;

- Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Planning and Property, agreed to provide Councillor Pell with an update on progress to alleviate traffic problems at the A120 –A131 Marks Farm Roundabout;
- Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Planning and Property, agreed to provide Councillor Dr Evans with an update on when work is due to commence on the development of affordable housing in Forest Road, Witham;
- Councillor Mitchell, Deputy Cabinet Member, Place, agreed to provide Councillor Dr Evans with details on how Members would be advised on the refresh of the Braintree District Community Safety Partnership Action Plan and Terms of Reference;
- Councillor Siddall, Cabinet Member, Prosperity and Growth, agreed to provide Councillor Rose with details on how flooding at Newlands Precinct, Witham, is dealt with.
- Councillor Siddall, Cabinet Member, Prosperity and Growth, agreed to provide Councillor Everard with details on whether there is a market inspector for the Braintree town market.

(ii) **Oral Questions Without Notice**

INFORMATION: The following matters were raised:

- In response to a question from Councillor Canning, Councillor Mitchell, Cabinet Member, Place, confirmed that he was aware that a large number of residents in Bocking and Blackwater are in favour of the cycleway in the area which will be of benefit to cyclists and many other users;
- In response to a question from Councillor Abbott on issues related to the Braintree District Local Highways Panel, the Leader of the Council advised that the Chief Executive had taken the issues up with the Chief Executive of Essex County Council;
- In response to a question from Councillor Lager, Councillor Lady Newton, Cabinet Member, Place, agreed to advise if the Council had been consulted on the proposed doubling in size of Chipping Hill Primary School, Witham.
- In response to a question from Councillor Lager, the Leader advised that the copy of the Council's Constitution on the website would be updated.

(iii) **Chairmen's Statements**

INFORMATION: No statements were made.

(iv) **Minutes of Meetings (Public Session)**

INFORMATION: No matters were raised.

49. **BUSINESS OF EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

INFORMATION: There were no reports received from Council representatives on external organisations, or issues raised.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 9.27pm.

W D Scattergood
(Chairman)

APPENDIX

COUNCIL MEETING 14TH OCTOBER 2013

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Details of Questions Asked / Statements Made During Public Question Time

1 Question Relating to the North East Essex Partnership

Question by Mr Roerig, Braintree