



MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

9 MARCH 2011

PRESENT:-

P.M. Posnett (Chairman)
P.M. Chandler, S. Dungworth, A. Freer
M.R. Sheldon, J. Wyatt, D.R. Wright

Strategic Director (KA)
The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods
Chief Accountant, Planning Policy Officer (SF), Democracy Officer (DB)

C58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean, Graham MBE and Holt.

C59. MINUTES

(a) Minute C53 (Council Housing Car Parking)

That resolution (2) be amended to delegated authority be granted to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods.

Subject to (a) above the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2011 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

C60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Stephen's Footprints Memorial Garden

Councillor Dungworth declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the above item.

C61. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMITTEES

Petition referred from Full Council : 2 February 2011

The Young Mayor, David Dowling, who was the organiser of a petition, attended the meeting and spoke in support of his petition which was received on 24 January 2011 and contained 263 signatories. The petition stated the following:-

'In my manifesto I promised to try to keep free swimming for the under 17's. I would like to campaign for free swimming for the under 17's in the school holidays. For me to take this forward to Melton Borough Council I need your support.'

Councillor Posnett stated that the Young Mayor could not be at the Committee and explained the background to the petition.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that :-

- on average the cost of provision would be approximately £1000 per week
- work could be started on a business case as well as investigating match funding
- the fee of £1000 per week was an estimate on revenue lost and was negotiated around the timetable

Members raised the following issues/concerns :-

- if the Council could contact Parish Councils and Residents Groups about funding
- if the charge made by the swimming pool was variable

RESOLVED that the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods develop a business case for the scheme, investigate possible opportunities for match funding and bring the options back to the Community and Social Affairs Committee for consideration.

C62. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – BUDGET MONITORING 1 APRIL – 31 DECEMBER 2010

The Chief Accountant presented a report on behalf of the Head of Central Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010.

RESOLVED that the financial position on the Housing Revenue Account to 31 December 2010 be noted.

C63. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 JANUARY 2011

The Chief Accountant presented a report on behalf of the Head of Central Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to update the Committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31 January 2011.

RESOLVED that the progress made on each capital scheme be noted.

C64. **BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO DECEMBER 2010**

The Chief Accountant presented a report on behalf of the Head of Central Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to provide information on actual expenditure and income incurred on this Committee's services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 December 2010.

Members raised the following issues / concerns :-

- why there was an underspend on the Customer Services Centre
- why more of the funds had not been spent on the Grantham Canal
- if the underspend in sports development could be put towards free swimming

RESOLVED that the financial position on each of this Committee's services to 31 December 2010 be noted

C65. **QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE 2012**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to seek Members support for Melton Country Park to be put forward as a nomination with regard to the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

Members raised the following issues / concerns :-

- that the Playing Field Association was contacting all the Parish Councils
- the responses would be coordinated and sent to the organisation
- that the Community Forum had been identifying green spaces

RESOLVED that Members supported the proposal for Melton Country Park to be put forward as a nomination for the Queens Elizabeth II Fields Challenge.

C66. **STEPHEN'S FOOTPRINT MEMORIAL GARDENS**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to :-

- (a) provide Members with an overview of Stephen's Footprints baby loss support group and the voluntary service they provide to the local community;
- (b) seek approval for Stephen's Footprints Baby Loss Group's proposal, to create a baby loss memorial garden in Melton Country Park with the support and endorsement of Melton Borough Council

RESOLVED that

- (1) the proposal to create a 'baby loss' memorial garden in Melton Country Park be approved;

- (2) Members agree a further report be brought back to the Community and Social Affairs Committee regarding a financial contribution towards establishment costs.

C67. HOUSING STRATEGY STATEMENT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to seek approval from Members on the Melton Housing Strategy Statement 2011-2014.

RESOLVED that the Melton Housing Strategy Statement 2011-14 be approved.

C68. CONSULTANTS FOR THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REFORM AND OTHER WORK

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to seek Members' approval to waive contract procedure rules to secure the professional consultative work required to ensure the Council fully identifies the implications of the Housing Revenue Account reform, when they come into place in April 2012.

RESOLVED that the contract procedure rules be waived to secure the professional consultative work required in relation to the Housing Revenue Account reform.

C69. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

(Councillor Freer here left the meeting.)

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information : Exempt Information) under paragraph 3.

C70. EXTENSION OF HOUSING RESPONSIVE HOUSING REPAIRS CONTRACT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members).

RESOLVED that

- (1) the implementation of a 1 year extension (from 1 April 2011) to the current Responsive Maintenance Contract that the Council has with Jeakins Weir Ltd, rather than the 6 month extension approved previously; add in legal obs..

- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Head of Central Services, to negotiate the terms for the extension and to explore efficiencies and bring in noticeable improvements to the service during the term of the extension;
- (3) Members noted, that as part of the 1 year extension, the Council (and its Task Group) would not progress the Scape (empa) route, until a report back was presented to Members

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m. closed at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman