

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON

8 July 2010

8pm -10.40pm

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Sue Livings (Chairman)
Mike Garnett (Vice-Chairman)

Simon Carter
Jean Clark
Manny Doku
Tony Hall
Andrew Johnson
Joshua Jolles
Chris Millington
Lesley Rideout
Paul Sztumpf

Joel Charles
Lee Dangerfield
Tony Durcan
Helen Hart
Eddie Johnson
Muriel Jolles
Guy Mitchinson
Clive Souter
Mark Wilkinson

Nick Churchill
Sarah Dangerfield
Mark Gough
Maggie Hulcoop
Shona Johnson
Patrick McClarnon
Russell Perrin
John Strachan

APOLOGIES

Mike Danvers
Rod Truan

Bob Davis
Edna Stevens

Nick Macy

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lesley Rideout declared a personal interest in agenda item 9.(3) as she was employed in the Highways Section of Essex County Council.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 25 May 2010 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman thanked everybody involved with the Civic Service which was held on 4 July 2010.

The Chairman requested Members to forward names to her of people they deemed worthy of a Civic Award.

19. **PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

20. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

21. **APPOINTMENTS TO PANEL**

The Chairman called for nominations for appointment to the Chief Executive's Appraisal Panel.

Cllrs Andrew Johnson, Eddie Johnson, Mark Wilkinson and Manny Doku were nominated to serve on the Panel.

22. **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Chairman called for nominations for appointment to the Advisory Panel for the Harlow Recreation Trust Fund.

Cllrs Tony Hall, Simon Carter, Maggie Hulcoop and Lesley Rideout were nominated to serve on the Panel.

23. **MOTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

(1) Cllr Tony Hall (seconded by Cllr Joel Charles) moved:

This Council wishes to support Essex Police in improving the quality of life experienced by Harlow residents.

Resolved: that the motion be agreed to.

(2) Cllr Andrew Johnson (seconded by Cllr Russell Perrin) moved:

That Harlow Council acknowledges Harlow's longstanding role as a centre for science, and welcomes the interest from the Health Protection Agency in a possible relocation of part of its operation to Harlow. Harlow Council also believes that such a move would have significant benefits for the town, the wider sub-region and the Agency itself, and calls upon Essex County Council, local MPs, the community and the private sector to support the proposed move.

Resolved: that the motion be agreed to.

(3) Cllr Jean Clark (seconded by Cllr Tony Durcan) moved:

Harlow Council sympathises with the concerns of the Student Union at Harlow College regarding the safety of pedestrians crossing Velizy Avenue, highlighted in their petition with well over 500 signatures.

A fatal accident occurred there several years ago. The potential danger of crossing Velizy Avenue can only be exacerbated, with the increasing number of pedestrians using the new Leisurezone and proposal for a University alongside the road.

Harlow Council welcomes recent improvements promised by Essex County Council for a Toucan crossing.

Nevertheless, problems still exist:

- there are no advance warning signs indicating large numbers of students and members of the public ahead, similar to schools;
- the speed limit of 40 m.p.h. is too high;
- pedestrian lights do not respond quickly enough to pushing the button;
- the green light for pedestrians lasts only about 5 seconds;
- slip roads on each side have no zebra crossings.

Harlow Council therefore urges Essex County Council to introduce necessary safety measures before the new academic year in September, including:

- providing advance warnings of large numbers of pedestrians ahead;
- reducing the speed limit;
- providing quicker responses to pressing the button;
- extending the time of the static green light for safer access.

Harlow Council believes that, in the longer term, traffic calming measures should be introduced. The safety of pedestrians can only be assured with the complete separation of motor vehicles and pedestrians, with a dedicated pedestrian bridge or underpass.

In order to prevent further accidents, Harlow Council therefore urges Essex County Council to implement these safety measures, alongside the new crossing as promised. We would also ask that all developments be reported to and monitored by Harlow Council.

Cllr Andrew Johnson (seconded by Cllr Eddie Johnson) moved the following amendments:

1. to delete "Harlow Council welcomes the recent improvements promised by Essex County Council for a Toucan crossing" and substitute:

Harlow Council welcomes the intervention of Conservative MP Robert Halfon and the consequential recent improvements promised by Essex County Council for a Toucan crossing

2. to delete "Harlow Council believes that, in the longer term, traffic calming measures should be introduced. The safety of pedestrians can only be assured with the complete separation of motor vehicles and pedestrians with a dedicated pedestrian bridge or underpass."

Cllr Andrew Johnson (seconded by Cllr Eddie Johnson) moved as a further amendment:

In the last paragraph, to delete "alongside the new crossing as promised" and to substitute "but to make the new crossing a Puffin crossing."

Amendments agreed to.

Resolved: that the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

24. **MAIN DEBATE**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17.3 the Chairman called upon the Leadership to introduce the debate on the work undertaken by the Council in the previous year together with any highlights, pressures and potential issues for the coming year.

25.

REFERENCES FROM COMMITTEE

(1) Executive Committee

10 June 2010

(i) Report on Changing the Council's Governance Arrangements

- (a) Cllr Paul Sztumpf (seconded by Cllr Jean Clark) moved as amendments:

It is recommended that Council approves the consultation process set out in this report, subject to the draft consultation document in Appendix 1 being scrutinised for 'impartiality' by the Scrutiny Committee at its 13th July meeting.

Furthermore any proposal which would involve moving to a 'Directly Elected Mayor' would be subjected to a referendum under the provision of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Amendments not agreed to.

- (b) Cllr John Strachan (seconded by Cllr Chris Millington) moved as an amendment:

In Appendix 1, on the third page, to include an additional column, 'Option Three – Existing Arrangements'.

Amendment not agreed to.

- (c) Cllr Andrew Johnson (seconded by Cllr Eddie Johnson) moved as an amendment:

In Appendix 1, on the third page, in Option Two, to delete 'him' and 'his' and to substitute 'them' and 'their'.

Amendment agreed to.

Resolved: that the proposed consultation process to change the Council's Governance Arrangements as set out in the report, as amended, be approved.

At 10:00 pm, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.1, the majority of Members present voted for the meeting to continue.

24 June 2010

(i) Report on the Review of Earmarked Reserves

Resolved: that

- (a) the report and portfolio of reserves held by the Council, which summarised the Appendix 1 of the report and which is now recorded in detail within offices of both Finance and Corporate Governance services, be noted;
- (b) the schedule of appropriations outlined in paragraph 44a), b) and c) of the report be approved subject to the addition of a 44 d) to read: 'Repayment of Church Langley infrastructure reserves of £259K';
- (c) in conjunction with Recommendation (b) above, integration of the landscaping Reserve, Landscape Leaseholders' Reserve and Commuted Sum Reserve into one reserve (see paragraphs 51 and 52 of the report); and
- (d) whilst no further transfers are proposed in respect of the earmarked reserves at this stage, it be noted that a further review will be conducted in two years time in order to review the requirements and scope for subsequent transfers.

Any references arising from Committee meetings held after the publication of this agenda will be circulated separately.

At 10:20 the meeting adjourned for five minutes,

26. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

Attached as Appendix A.

27. **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

(i) Members' Allowances Scheme

Resolved: that the amended Members' Allowances Scheme proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel be agreed to.

(ii) Standards Committee – 16 June 2010

(a) Annual Report 2008/09

Resolved: that the report be noted.

(b) Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee

Resolved: that the expanded Terms of Reference contained in Appendix B of the report be approved.

(c) Appointment of Independent Member

Resolved: that Mr Brian Spencer be re-appointed as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

28. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the following committee meetings be noted:-

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>
Executive Committee	10/06/10
*Audit Committee	24/06/10
*Executive Committee	24/06/10

* These minutes remain draft until agreed to at the next ordinary meeting of the relevant Committee.

29. **NON-CONTENTIOUS ITEM**

Resolved: that Item 16 on the agenda be treated as non-contentious.

30. **REFERENCE FROM COMMITTEE**

(1) Executive Committee -10 June 2010

Insurance Update – MMI (Confidential)

Resolved: that the recommendations in the report be agreed to.

31. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL