

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, CORKS LANE, HADLEIGH ON TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT: Mr B D Hurren – Vice-Chairman in the Chair

Mr P D Burgoyne

Mr J M Owen

Mr M Newman

Mr J R A Sayers

Mrs A M Norman

Mr D L Wood

Mrs J Antill and Mr J A B Long were unable to be present.

10 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr B D Hurren declared a non-pecuniary interest in the relevant part of the item referred to in Minute No 17 below in his capacity as a Director of The Quay Theatre and Chairman of the Board, but stated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the item.

Mr M Newman declared a pecuniary interest in the relevant part of the item referred to in Minute No 17 below because he had had business dealings with one of the grant recipients and was not present during the discussion of the item.

Mr D L Wood subsequently declared a non-pecuniary interest in the item referred to in Minute No 17 below by virtue of representing Suffolk County Council on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Dedham Vale AONB but stated that his interest was such that he was able to speak and vote on the item.

11 MINUTES

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

12 PETITIONS

None received.

13 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

None received.

14 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN

Martin King, Head of Housing reported that in April this year the Government introduced changes to the way in which council housing is financed. This has led to a significant shift in accountability of financial decision making, from central government to local authorities.

The Head of Housing gave a presentation on the HRA Business Plan which provided Members with:

- An overview of the Housing Revenue Account arrangements under the new self-financing system
- The role our tenants play in deciding the services we deliver
- Key elements of HRA Business Planning
- Objectives for the next 12 months.

Members noted that a similar presentation was made to the Overview and Scrutiny (Stewardship) Committee at its meeting on 20 September.

During consideration of this matter the following were among the issues and concerns raised:-

- Potential increases in Right to Buy sales
- Stock condition surveys
- Green Agenda
- Possibility of appointing a Member Champion – the Committee agreed that any Member appointed must be business minded.

15 BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL AND SOUTH SUFFOLK LEISURE – PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Head of Communities submitted a report ([Paper M85](#)) reporting on the performance and development of a key strategic and operational partnership between the District Council and South Suffolk Leisure (SSL), an independent leisure trust with responsibility for operating the Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury and the Hadleigh Swimming Pool. The report had been jointly prepared by Babergh District Council and SSL.

Tracey Copping, Chief Executive of SSL was present at the meeting to introduce the report and together with the Strategic Director (People) answered Members' questions on various issues including the following:-

- Marketing/publicity
- Olympic legacy – Be Inspired.

**RESOLVED**

**That the content of the report be noted.**

16 ANNUAL REPORT OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE 2011/12

The Chairman of Development Committee and the Corporate Manager – Development Management presented [Paper M88](#) summarising the work of the Development Committee for the year 2011/12.

Members were asked to adopt the Annual Report as recommended by the Development Committee. During the course of the discussion Members requested that future reports include the following:-

- Information/data regarding applications not determined on time in table 5 of the report
- Details of business developments in commercial areas in Appendix 1
- Parish details in Appendix 2
- Green Agenda/Conservation issues
- Building Control finances.

The following issues were also discussed:-

- Member Training
- Staff resources
- S106 agreements
- Planning Improvement Plan.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted and adopted as the Annual Report of the Development Committee for 2011/12.**

#### 17 REVIEW OF BABERGH'S DISCRETIONARY GRANTS SCHEME 2011/12

The Head of Communities submitted a report ([Paper M86](#)) providing an overview of the activity funded under the Council's Community Grants Scheme in 2011/12 and setting out future plans for the scheme in broad terms.

It was noted that the Council's current criteria/policy for the allocation of grants will not continue beyond 2012/13. A joint Grants Policy and allocation process is being developed with Mid Suffolk DC following a review of both Councils' grant policies.

During the course of the discussion various queries and issues were raised including the following:-

- More information to be provided in the appendices to the report
- Funding of Sudbury CAB
- Dual Use Leisure facilities.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the report be noted.**

#### 18 6-MONTH REVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING WORK PLAN

The Head of Communities submitted a report ([Paper M87](#)) providing an update on Emergency Planning and Business Continuity activity since January 2012.

During the course of the discussion various issues were raised including the following:-

- Training for Members
- Maintenance of water courses
- Sandbags.

**RESOLVED**

**That the report be noted.**

19 WORK PLAN

The Head of Corporate Organisation submitted a report ([Paper M89](#)) which provided details of the Committee's anticipated work for the remainder of 2012/13.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Work Plan submitted as Paper M89 be noted.**

Note: The meeting adjourned between 11.10 a.m. and 11.25 a.m. for refreshments.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 1.15 p.m.

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Chairman