

CULTURE AND SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20 July 2005, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Kirton (Chair); Councillors Davies, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Harris, Ms Hirsch and Mrs Mellor.

(An apology for absence was received from Councillor Smith).

260. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 263 – Responding to Anti Social Behaviour

Councillor Kirton declared a personal interest because he was a member of the Crime Reduction Panel and a Warwickshire County Council member of the Community Safety Committee.

261. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6 June 2005 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

With regard to no tenant representatives being invited to sit on this Committee, it was decided to look at this decision again in 6 months time to see if the present arrangement was working.

262. **GLENDALE**

Neil Simpson and Jim Strang from Glendale attended the Committee to answer any questions and queries the Committee had regarding the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Dale Best gave a brief overview of the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Jim Strang informed the Committee that with regard to the Golf Course, a drainage system had been implemented in the back and front 9 holes and this had resulted in a vast improvement in the quality of the greens, in response to a question from the Chair Jim Strang agreed that the improvements in the course would have taken place regardless of the change of contract. The cutting and maintenance regime was also clarified.

The Cemeteries were also discussed and the process for inspecting memorials and making them safe was explained.

RESOLVED that Neil Simpson and Jim Strang from Glendale be thanked for attending the meeting.

CULTURE AND SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

263. RESPONDING TO ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The Committee considered a report from Housing Services which informed the Committee of Housing Services' current response to incidents of anti-social behaviour perpetrated by its tenants or in or near its properties and planned measures to strengthen this area of operation.

A priority of the Corporate Strategy 2003-2007 was to promote and contribute to a safer and healthier community.

Community Safety, the generic term for the statutory responsibilities placed on the Council by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, was a key feature within the approach to meet that priority and included a strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour throughout the district.

The Housing Services Business Unit's response to anti-social behaviour had two priorities. Firstly it had to support the wider corporate strategy and secondly it had to meet the responsibilities placed on it by the Housing Act 1985 and the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Housing Services had always had robust policies and procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour. The term covers a multitude of differing types of behaviours and nuisance so the approach had been, over time, to develop a "toolkit" of differing responses. This allowed for an appropriate response to be selected to tackle the different types of issues presented.

This approach required regular amendment of policy and procedures to ensure that we keep abreast of any new measures implemented by Government in this area. This led to the Executive approving a revised policy in June 2004 which ensured we were equipped to deploy the range of measures provided by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003, and in particular the new provision for demoted tenancies.

Further revisions were approved by Executive in December 2004 when all the provisions of the 2003 Act finally came into force. This ensured we were able to meet the statutory requirement to publish a statement of our policies and procedures and make available a summary of these on demand. We also ensured compliance with current guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by inserting new sections within the policy that relate to Domestic Violence, Social Services' responsibilities to children and Protection of Staff.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) no further investigations on this subject be undertaken by this committee; and
- (2) no further reports be submitted.

CULTURE AND SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

264. WORK PLAN FOR 2005/2006

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director and Deputy Chief Executive which outlined the proposed Work Plan on a 6 month rolling basis.

RESOLVED that the Work Plan was agreed with the following amendments:

- (1) A presentation to the Committee on pension credit at the September meeting from Elaine Howard of the Pension Service;
- (2) A report on the Benefits Take Up Campaign to the Committee at the September meeting;
- (3) two site visits, one on Saturday 30 July 2005 and one on 1 August 2005, these site visits will incorporate the cemeteries, golf course, Harbury Lane and St. Nicholas Park;
- (4) Joy Evans be invited to attend the Committee in October regarding the Policy for Older People;
- (5) a report on cemeteries presented to the September Committee; and
- (6) Councillors Ms Hirsch and Ms De-Lara-Bond be appointed to the Joint Working Party for Affordable Housing.

(The meeting ended at 7.45 pm)