

HEALTH AND CONTROL COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 12 January 2000 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Attwood (Chair); Councillors Aujla, Butler, Caborn, Mrs Clayton, Cleaver, Mrs Compton, Copping, Crowther, Gifford, Gill, Golby, Mrs Goode, Harris, Jackson, Mrs Leddy.

(Councillor Caborn substituted for Councillor Doody)

585. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 1999, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

PART I

(Matters not the subject of powers delegated to the Committee by the Council)

NIL

PART II

(Matters delegated to the Committee by the Council)

586. EFFECT OF TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS ON HEALTH

The Committee considered a written report in response to the motion referred by Councillor Mrs Goode, at the last meeting, requesting a report with a view to a District wide ban on telecommunication masts being sited in residential areas.

The report pointed out that there was a distinct lack of conclusive epidemiological studies into this subject. Further studies were currently being undertaken in order to produce clear and replicable conclusions. In view of the lack of conclusive evidence, an objection to a planning application for the installation of a telecommunications mast on health grounds would be difficult to sustain. The report referred to the "precautionary principle" which, in essence, meant that in the absence of conclusive evidence to prove that radio waves from telecommunication masts did not cause ill health, authorities should err on the side of caution and not permit their installation, or require the applicant to consider other sites away from sensitive properties. This "precautionary principle" had been used by a number of local authorities, but this approach had not stood up to scrutiny when examined at planning inquiries.

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More research into the subject was being undertaken and it was possible that the guidance given to local authorities would change in response to further information.

RESOLVED that this Committee notes that the current scientific research raises sufficient doubts concerning the possible effects of microwave radiation on human health and therefore the Committee believes that the "precautionary principle" should be able to be used on planning applications for telecommunication masts. A further report is to be brought to this Committee when/should more substantive evidence or Government guidance on this issue become available.

(In accordance with Standing Order 14(2) Councillors Caborn and Mrs Compton requested that it be recorded that they abstained from voting on this issue).

587. IMPLEMENTATION OF PART 11A ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1990 - DRAFT DETR CIRCULAR - CONTAMINATED LAND

Members considered a written report from Environmental Health and received a presentation from Richard Hall informing them of details of the proposed implementation of new legislation with respect to contaminated land and the approach being taken by the Environmental Health Business Unit to address the new legislative changes.

The Government had made funding available in the SSA towards the general revenue costs of running the new regime to meet staffing costs. This amounted to £12 million in this year and £18 million for each of the next two financial years. A bid for resources of £25,000 for next year had already been made to cover this authority's likely expenditure, although the real costs of implementing the scheme were not yet known.

As the resource implications from Environmental Health were considerable, it was intended to put the work of investigating the presence of contaminated land out to contract. Decisions on how to proceed after this could be made when more guidance from the Government became available. There would still be the need to prepare tender documents and undertake work to let the contract. It would be necessary to supervise the contract and handle information collected by the survey. At a later stage there would be the need to carry out a consultation process, prepare a strategy, prepare a public register and, if necessary, become involved with determining persons responsible for and then ensuring the remediation of any contaminated land identified.

RESOLVED that

- (1) Richard Hall be thanked for his informative presentation; and
- (2) the approach being taken towards dealing with the proposed legislation be supported.

588. FLOODING IN AREAS OF WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL

A written report from Engineering and Environmental Health was submitted which provided an update of the flooding issues which arose following the substantial rainfall on 8 August 1999.

The report informed members of actions which had been taken immediately following the flooding incident and set out possible ways forward to mitigate the flooding situation in some of the most severely affected flooded areas in the district. These areas were identified in the report. The report concluded that the flooding that had occurred was caused by the extreme weather conditions and exceeded the design of land drainage, public and private, highway drainage systems. Some flooding was exacerbated by operational problems in the drainage network and these were being investigated. Severn Trent had been informed of incidents where flooding had been caused by the hydraulic deficiencies of the public sewer system. A considerable amount of flooding was caused by land drainage problems and many riparian owners were unaware of their responsibilities under land drainage laws. Notional improvement schemes for solutions to hydraulic poor performance in the public sewerage system within the Leamington Spa catchment would form part of the recommendations to Severn Trent Water within the Leamington Spa Drainage Areas Study, which Engineering was currently undertaking for completion in March 2000.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted and this Committee gives it support to devoting future funding to carry out flood protection works and allow Engineering to lobby other agencies and riparian owners to do the same; and
- (2) this Committee, recognising the increasing frequency of flooding from storm water (viz item 2 of Appendix A), instructs the Head of Engineering to write to the Environment Agency, as the appropriate authority, asking that it makes representations at a national level for the nationally agreed design standards for drainage to be revised to reflect the changing weather patterns that are now being experienced.

589. RECYCLING INITIATIVES

Members considered a written report from Engineering which updated them of

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progress being made on recycling initiatives to meet both national and local targets, particularly those set out in the current and future service plans.

The report brought members up to date with the current position in respect of recycling initiatives, including a kerbside collection for newspapers, the provision of home compost bins and bring sites, and set out details of developments to these current schemes.

Details of proposals for new schemes in respect of water butts, compost bins, centralised composting and multi material kerbside collection were also set out in the report.

It was pointed out that in order to increase public participation in recycling schemes there was a need to raise awareness through publicity, education and actions. The Schools Litter Campaign had been developed to include an element of recycling and Waste Management leaflets had been handed out to all new residents. Local radio had been used to publicise the schemes and services and it was hoped that the latest relaunch of the paper collection scheme would prompt many into joining.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the following schemes be approved:-

- (1) The relaunch of the kerbside paper collection.
- (2) The development of a collection scheme for green waste.
- (3) A water butt/home compost sale.
- (4) The investigation and trial of a multi-material kerbside collection, looking at best practice and experience of other comparable authorities.

(This item was not included on the agenda as the Head of Engineering was awaiting further information and details of costs from Serviceteam and the Chair agreed to take it as a matter of urgency).

590. **GENERAL REPORT**

- (A) PUBLIC HEALTH - (CONTROL OF DISEASE) ACT 1984 - CASES 4 AND 5/99-2000

RESOLVED that the circumstances of the cremations which the Council had been required to carry out under the provisions of the above Act be noted.

- (B) WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL -v- AYLESBURY HOUSE HOTEL LIMITED - T/A AYLESBURY HOUSE HOTEL, AYLESBURY ROAD, HOCKLEY HEATH

RESOLVED that the prosecutions under the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995, Food Labelling Regulations 1996 and the Food Safety Act 1990 in respect of the

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above premises be noted.

- (C) WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL -v- FORTE (UK) LIMITED -
T/A LITTLE CHEF, A46 NORTHBOUND AND SOUTHBOUND,
WARWICK

RESOLVED that the details of the prosecution under the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995 in respect of the above premises be noted.

- (D) HOUSE RENOVATION GRANTS - 1999/2000

RESOLVED that the details of the number of applications for House Renovation Grants for the period from 1 April 1999 to 31 December 1999 inclusive, be noted.

- (E) WARWICK DISTRICT SAFETY FORUM

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Warwick District Safety Forum held on 9 December 1999, as set out in Appendix "B", be received.

- (F) LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 30 November 1999 and 8 December 1999, as set out in Appendix "C", be received.

(The meeting ended at 8.40 pm)

MINS/H&C12-1