

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 2006, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Compton, Copping, Mrs Edwards, Ms Flanagan, Mrs Knight and Short.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Begg and Holland.

111. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Compton be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing year.

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

113. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 March 2006 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

114. ENERGY MANAGEMENT

The Committee received a report from Property Services about the potential for improving energy efficiency and conservation of Council buildings.

An assessment of the Council's general energy management procedures had been undertaken by the Carbon Trust who had compiled a list of recommendations to help increase the Council's level of energy efficiency.

As an outcome of the recommendations of the Carbon Trust the Energy Manager of the Council had identified the possibility of introducing Biomass heating at Oakley Woods Crematorium. An evaluation of this proposal was being undertaken and was due to be submitted a future meeting of the Executive.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) a presentation be made to the July meeting of this Committee on the introduction of Biomass heating; and
- (3) a report be submitted to this Committee describing how the council's policies relate to the wide range of energy projects and initiatives

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (Continued)

115. TENDER PROCESS FOR MARKET CONTRACT

The Committee considered a report from Leisure and Amenities which sought to establish the criteria against which the tender documents could be judged.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) EG Skett and Company be invited to the next meeting to update Councillors on the current operation of markets within the district;
- (3) Councillors Mrs Edwards; Ms Flanagan and Mrs Knight be appointed to work with the Amenities Manager on the tender list and specification when the expressions of interest have been received.

116. REVIEW OF IMPACT OF HIGH HEDGES LEGISLATION

A report from Planning and Engineering was submitted on the impact of the high hedges legislation on the Planning and Engineering Business Unit and to pass any comments on to the Executive if appropriate.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) that a note be circulated to members of this Committee and the Executive before their meeting on 12 June explaining why 18 complainants' applications were not valid; and
- (3) the officers involved be congratulated for their work and guidance provided both on the website and in the leaflet.

117. REVIEW OF COUNCIL'S POLICY TOWARDS THE SITING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT ON COUNCIL OWNED LAND/PROPERTY

The Committee received a report from Environmental Health which sought approval of the proposed policy with regard to telecommunications equipment sited on Council owned property.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The report outlined the proposed policy which had been produced in consultation with the working party of Councillors Mrs Blacklock and Holland. The working party had reviewed the Council's current policy, and the most recent planning policy and guidance. The findings of the Stewart Report, All Party Parliamentary Mobile Group report, the policies of other authorities such as Warwickshire County Council and Birmingham City Council, were also taken into consideration.

The Head of Environmental Health informed the meeting that following further legal advice the proposed wording of the policy needed to be amended to read as follows:

"As a matter of policy this Council will reject any proposals from mobile phone companies to put antennae, microwave dishes and other telecommunications equipment on, or, land attached to, any dwellings owned by Warwick District Council".

RESOLVED that the policy as approved be submitted to the Executive for approval.

118. REVIEW OF SCRUTINY OF FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT AND PROMOTION

The Committee received a report from Environmental Health updating them on the progress made to date following the recommendations made following the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's scrutiny of Food Safety Enforcement and Promotion which had been approved by the Executive.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) a further update report be submitted in 12 months time;
- (3) the application for funding of a student post within the section be resubmitted this year with the support of this Committee; and
- (4) the Section's work on the Hampton Review be commended.

119. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered its work programme for 2006/07.

The following amendments were made to the work programme:

- Tourism – report to Committee in July and Executive in September
- Energy Management – further report and presentation in July
- High hedges policy – Remove as now complete
- Telecommunications masts – remove as now complete
- Scrutiny of refuse – Remove as now complete

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC POLICY COMMITTEE (Continued)

- Licensing Act 2003 – Report in December 2006
- Crime and disorder – start date October 2006
- Review of Planning Enforcement – Councillors Mrs Compton and Copping appointed
- Residential design guide – Lead Officer Alan Mayes
- Refurbishment of Railway Arches – Working group has now started, Councillors Ashford, Copping, Falp and Hatfeild are on the working party and has a target completion date of March 2007.
- Tendering for Markets contract – Councillors Mrs Edwards; Ms Flanagan and Mrs Knight be appointed to Work as a small working party to assist in the process.
- Gambling Act 2005 – One off report to the July meeting to comment on the Council's draft Gambling Policy, lead officer Colin Tubbs
- Update report on the Scrutiny of Food Safety Enforcement and Promotion.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the work plan be amended to reflect all the above;
and
- (2) the Strategic Director (Environment) circulate the amended work programme to the relevant officers.

(The meeting ended at 8.03 pm)

I:\secs\members\Minutes\Environment and Economic\environment 7.6.06.doc