



## ORDINARY COUNCIL MINUTES

**25TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council of the Borough of Castle Point held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kiln Road, Thundersley on 25th September 2013.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillors Mrs A.M. Iles (The Worshipful the Mayor), Mrs J.E.E.Govier, (Deputy Mayor), L.J. Barrett, D.A. Blackwell, P.M. Burch Mrs P.A. Challis, S.Cole, D.T. Cross, W.J.C. Dick, Mrs B. Egan, Mrs P.D. Freeman, Mrs W. Goodwin, P.C. Greig, S.Hart, R.C. Howard, G.I. Isaacs, J.APayne, Mrs.J.Payne, A. Partridge, C.G. Riley, W.K.Sharp, A.G.Sheldon, T.F. Skipp, J.A. Stanley, M.J.A. Tucker, A.C.Walter, Mrs G. Watson and N. Watson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Anderson Ms G.Barton, C.N. Brunt, B.Campagna, A.R. Cole, E. Egan, N.R. Harvey, Mrs.J.King, N.E.Ladzrie, Mrs J. Liddiard,P.J. May, N.G. Smith and Mrs L. Wass,

### **26. MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interest

### **27. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Ordinary Council held on 23rd July 2013 were taken as read and signed as a correct record. The Mayor signed the Minutes.

### **28. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported on events, activities and visits undertaken since the last Council meeting. These included a visit to Coastwatch; attendance at the St.Peter's Flower Festival; attending a performance by the Yardarm Folk Orchestra; attendance at the event held by the British Legion on Canvey Island to commemorate the end of the Korean War; unveiling a plaque in remembrance of the Cockershell Hero Bill Sparks at the Bay Museum on Canvey Island; the formal reopening of Waterside Farm Leisure Centre and performing the opening ceremony with Danny Crates; presentation of trophies to those who took part in the London Marathon to raise funds for Link Radio.; an interesting trip to the Essex Record Office ;a return visit while on holiday to Vanessa Baugh County Commissioner for District 5 Manatee County Government Florida .

Finally the Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending events during the Mayor's absence on holiday in particular the event held on 21st September 2013

to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Salvation Army Corps at Hadleigh Temple.

**29. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC OF WHICH NOTICE HAD BEEN RECEIVED**

There were none

**30. ANY EXPLANATIONS FOR URGENT DECISIONS TAKEN BY CABINET**

There were none.

**31. ANY REFERENCES FROM THE POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES/ REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

There were none.

**32. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET.**

There were none.

**33. REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

The Leader of the Council was pleased to report the good news that the Council continued to meet the requirements of the Investors In People (IIP) Standard for the gold award with a strong record of transformation, service improvement and a motivated work force with good leadership and partnership working.

The Leader in congratulating all staff offered her personal thanks to the staff and officers who spent time in discussion with the inspectors which resulted in the report which stated 'the culture of the Council is that of a flexible workforce that can and does face challenges, supporting staff development and improving services'.

The IIP Gold Award accreditation would be maintained until 2016.

The Leader referred to the success of the Waterside Farm Leisure Centre which had recorded some 15,000 visitors in the first four week since the Centre had reopened. These numbers were increasing.

The Leader reported that a new Leisure Strategy for the Borough was being prepared as part of this young people were being encouraged to take up a new sport to enable them to keep fit . Older people's wellbeing continued to be encouraged through walking and other suitable exercises. Residents were particularly enjoying the new swimming facilities. The Leader, on behalf of Councillors offered thanks and appreciation to all staff involved for their hard work in retaining residents' custom.

**34. FINANCIAL RESULTS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2012/2013**

The Council considered a report containing the financial out-turn results and audited Statement of Accounts for approval by Council.

The Statement of Accounts had been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012/13 and associated guidance.

The accounts had been audited by the Council's External Auditors BDO LLP and had been available for public inspection.

In order to ensure that the accounts were subject to robust scrutiny additional guidance had been produced. This included at Annexe A to the report a high level interpretation of the accounts including explanations of account variances. Annexe B to the report set out the purpose of each of the key financial statements and provided an analysis of figures, changes and movements between years. The Council's Treasury Management Activity for 2012/13 had been scrutinised by the Audit Committee in June 2013 and Cabinet in July 2013.

Following a presentation by the Head of Resources and a summary and explanation of the accounts by the Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council examined and discussed the audited accounts.

In concluding the debate on the accounts the Deputy Leader reminded the Council of the uncertainty facing local government finance and the likely reduction in government grant which would require tough decisions to be taken in the future. All Councillors would be involved in that process.

The Deputy Leader thanked the Head of Resources and her team for their work in preparing the accounts.

The Council concurred with the view that the overall financial results for 2012/13 generally indicated sound budgeting and good budgetary control.

**Resolved** – Following scrutiny:

1. To note the financial results for 2012/13 and explanation for budget variances.
2. To approve the audited Statement of Accounts.

The Mayor signed the Accounts.

## **35. NOTICES OF MOTION**

Councillor Sheldon had given notice of the following:

As part of the response to Sir Michael Pitts' report on the Review of the Summer Floods of 2007, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 Essex County Council as the lead flood authority will become responsible for approving all future construction work which has surface water implications.

This Council welcomes this measure and in anticipation of the 1st April, moves that Essex County Council be consulted as the lead

flood authority on all planning application on sites over one hectare on surface water drainage issues as a quasi-formal consultee.

The Motion was MOVED by Councillor Sheldon and Seconded by Councillor Cross. Debate took place at the conclusion a vote was taken which was CARRIED and RESOLVED accordingly.

**36. PETITIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

There were none.

Mayor