

Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting

**Tuesday 14th January 2003 at 7.00 p.m.
at Bevan House, Camps Road, Haverhill**

PRESENT: **Chair:** **Cllr Maggie Lee**
 Town Councillors: **M Dane, P French, E Goody, P Hanlon,**
 G Kiernan (except items 1 & 2), and A Smith

BY INVITATION: **M Graham, E Jarred and M Woodley**

ALSO PRESENT: **One member of the public.**

MINUTES

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Maggie Lee declared an interest as an elected Member of both St Edmundsbury Borough Council and Suffolk County Council. Cllrs French, Hanlon, and Smith declared an interest as elected Members of St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Cllr Goody declared an interest in the Chalkstone speed humps issue as a resident of that estate.

3. Minutes

Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Hanlon seconded that the minutes of the meeting held 17th December 2002 be adopted as a true record, all being in favour.

4. Matters arising

a) School Governor Appointments

The Clerk reported that a member of the public had expressed an interest in being appointed Minor Local Authority Governor to Coupals Community Primary School. Cllr French expressed an interest in being appointed Minor Local Authority Governor to New Cangle Community Primary School, and his nomination was agreed by the Committee.

b) Speed Humps, Chalkstone Estate

The Clerk reported that he had received no further correspondence on this matter. Cllr Hanlon reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council were employing

consultants to advise on the express nature of the traffic calming measures required. Cllr Hanlon reported that he had been promised details of the outcome of the consultant's investigations by 20th December 2002, but had to date not received such information. Cllr Dane reported that he had received lots of complaints about the speed humps, and that more information was required from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, including timescales for changes to the humps. The Clerk was asked to chase St Edmundsbury Borough Council for details of the consultant's recommendations and likely timescale for implementation.

5. Correspondence

- a) The Boundary Commission for England – Periodic Electoral Review of Suffolk County Council

The Clerk advised that there was to be a review of County Council Electoral Wards to reflect population changes. Cllr Maggie Lee reported that there were likely to be three County Councillors to represent Haverhill if the review was to be based on current population and existing County Council Membership size, but that it would be difficult to correlate the Borough Council Electoral Wards (four) with potentially three County Council Wards. It was agreed that no comment would be made regarding potential Ward changes at this time.

6. Matters Raised by Councillors

- a) Orbit Housing Issues – Cllr Mick Graham

Cllr Graham reported that Orbit Housing Association were not responding to matters raised by their tenants in the town. Cllrs Maggie Lee and Smith both agreed that they too had been contacted by tenants of Orbit Housing Association regarding matters that were taking a long time to resolve. Cllr Gerry Kiernan suggested that the Town Council ask the Borough Council to include reference to the problems experienced by tenants in their report to the Housing Corporation. Cllr Maggie Lee proposed that a representative of St Edmundsbury Borough Council be invited to the March meeting of the Town Council to explain their role as strategic housing authority. Cllr Hanlon proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the Clerk invite Orbit Housing Association representatives to a meeting to be chaired by the Town Council at which tenants or their representatives can raise the outstanding issues, all being in favour.

- b) Prevention of Underage Drinking – Cllr Mabon Dane

Cllr Dane reported that with so many ways that young people could obtain alcohol it was going to be difficult to prevent underage drinking, but suggested that the Town Council could review how to reduce the number of underage drinkers. Cllr Maggie Lee reported that experience had shown that the use of I.D. cards was not foolproof, although the Town Council could promote the use of the "Prove It" cards by issuing them from the Town Hall Arts Centre. Cllr Maggie Lee advised that the Police already had, and used, powers to confiscate alcohol and prosecute, but that perhaps did not publicise their successes in this area well enough. Cllr Dane advised that much of the underage drinking was occurring in areas where Police patrols were not so frequent. Cllr Gerry Kiernan suggested that perhaps the Police be encouraged to review the situation in Jubilee Walk, where the number of drinkers was of concern to those using the area in the evening. It was agreed to invite the newly-appointed Police Inspector to the March meeting of the Full Council to discuss the issue.

- c) Chewing Gum, Graffiti, and Bus Station Shelters – Cllr Alan Smith

Cllr Alan Smith raised these three issues, which cumulatively detracted from the appearance of the town. There were over fifty panes missing in the bus station

shelters, and these were not being replaced by the Borough Council until after April. In addition there had been no clearance of graffiti or chewing gum marks for some time. Cllr Smith reported that he had raised these matters with the Borough Council and asked for a regular pattern of graffiti and chewing gum removal. Cllr Smith stated he would pass confirmation of this to the Clerk for circulation.

d) Sewage Overflowing from Manhole – Cllr Alan Smith

Cllr Smith stated that the recent occurrence of sewage overflowing from a manhole was not the first such occasion, and asked that the Town Council seek explanation from Anglian Water, together with a plan to prevent further instances. Cllr Smith asked that in addition the Town Council ask the Borough Council's Environmental Health Department what enforcement action was being taken against Anglian Water. Cllr Smith added that he intended to ensure that publicity was given to the matter. Cllr Smith proposed and Cllr Graham seconded that the Clerk write to Anglian Water and St Edmundsbury Borough Council accordingly, all being in favour.

7. **Authorisation of payments**

Cllr Graham proposed and Cllr Goody seconded that the payments as shown on the following list be authorised for payment, all being in favour.

Date	Item Numbers	Cheque Numbers	Total of Schedule
7.01.03-10.01.03	1-21	000136-000156	£8,987.66

Cllr Dane was invited to undertake a random check of paid invoices.

8. **Matters of report**

Cllr Maggie Lee reported the imminent withdrawal of the Post Office facilities on the Parkway estate.

Cllr French complained that the building works in Manor Road were causing the road to be covered in mud. In addition part of the Railway Walk had been closed without notice. Cllr French also raised the question of the footway in Manor Road; it stopped short of Westfield Community Primary School, and also had been deeply rutted opposite Manor Farm Dairies.

Cllr Dane reported that the trees opposite 31-59 Lordscroft Lane required trimming.

Cllr Dane reported that there were a large number of street lights not working, and that he had logged them with the Borough Council. Cllr Dane was asked to notify Borough Councillors of lights not attended to within a reasonable period.

Cllr Dane reported that Advantage Windows had two large advertising displays on telegraph poles in Wratting Road, and that he was working with St Edmundsbury Borough Council regarding parking issues in Girton Road.

Cllr Dane reported that residents wanted Bloor Homes to remove the obstruction on the unadopted section of Cleves Road.

Cllr Graham asked for Chainey Pieces footpath to an item on the next agenda.

9. **Closure**

The meeting was closed at 9.34 p.m.