

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD  
ON TUESDAY 25 MARCH 2008, AT  
6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor A P Jackson (Chairman/Leader).  
Councillors M R Alexander, M G Carver,  
T Milner, R L Parker and M J Tindale.

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, W Ashley, A L Burlton,  
N Copping, J Demonti, R Gilbert,  
Mrs M H Goldspink, J Hedley,  
Mrs D L E Hollebon, M P A McMullen, J K Mayes,  
D A A Peek, N C Poulton, W Quince, P A Ruffles,  
S Rutland-Barsby, R Taylor and J P Warren.

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Drinkwater	- Director of Neighbourhood Services
Allen Gales	- Deputy Section 151 Officer
Philip Hamberger	- Director of Internal Services
Martin Ibrahim	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Pulham	- Parking Manager
George A Robertson	- Director of Customer and Community Services
Nick White	- Communications Officer

597 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor L O Haysey.

RESOLVED ITEM598 CALL-IN: BUSINESS PERMIT PARKING SCHEME – SOUTH STREET, BISHOP'S STORTFORD

The Executive recalled that, at its meeting held on 5 February 2008, a report regarding a proposed business permit parking scheme at South Street, Bishop's Stortford was considered. The Executive had agreed that:

- (A) the summary of objections received in respect of the above proposed scheme, as now detailed, be noted;
- (B) the actions of Officers in overruling these objections, as now detailed, be endorsed;
- (C) the recommendations of the Highways Joint Member Panel meeting held on 14 January 2008, in respect of the Council's proposals, be received; and
- (D) the continued implementation of the proposed business permit parking scheme and ancillary single yellow line restriction, be supported.

In accordance with the Constitution, these decisions had been called in by four Members of the Council (Councillors Mrs M H Goldspink, A M Graham, R Taylor and M Wood) following publication of the Executive Decision Sheets. The Environment Scrutiny Committee meeting on 26 February 2008 had considered the call-in. As well as hearing from Members who had submitted the call-in request, the Committee received representations made on behalf of the Bowls Club and were informed of two letters of objection from local residents. The Committee agreed

to refer the matter back to the Executive for reconsideration and requested that Officers continue to investigate how parking problems for residents, visitors and Bowls Club members can be ameliorated.

The Executive Member for Planning Policy and Transport thanked the Environment Scrutiny Committee for its robust scrutiny of this matter. He referred to the various questions raised by Members and the responses to these as detailed in the report now submitted.

He confirmed that the piece of land on the north side of the bridge was in the freehold ownership of Network Rail and leased to One Railway. A licence had been issued to East Herts Council for its temporary use as an overspill car park for Millars 3, for the duration of the bridge construction only. It would not be available for this purpose once the construction works had been completed and there was no other land available to the Council on the north side of the river, in the vicinity of Millars 3, to accommodate the 13 lost parking spaces.

The Executive Member also confirmed that Officers had examined alternative options for the provision of these 13 spaces at Rhodes Arts Complex and Crown Terrace. Neither of these options was suitable.

The Executive Member referred to the concerns of the Bowls Club and suggested that a “stop and drop” bay could be provided on the basis suggested in the report now submitted. Officers could create this by means of an Amendment Order to the proposed scheme.

Finally, the Executive Member recommended that the original decisions taken by the Executive on 5 February 2008 be reaffirmed, subject to the addition of a recommendation that Officers be instructed to review the scheme constantly should circumstances change that would alleviate the situation.

Councillor D A A Peek, whilst referring to the wider benefits of the bridge scheme, suggested that the proposed instruction to Officers should contain the word “actively”. The Executive Member accepted this suggestion.

In reply to a question from Councillor R Taylor, the Parking Manager clarified that a previous response he had given the Member related to a question on a specific resident parking scheme, which would be inappropriate to apply to the business scheme being considered here.

Councillor Mrs M H Goldspink suggested that the proposed scheme was wrong in principle and in practice. She did not believe that spaces on the public highway should be allocated free for business use. She also believed that the area was already congested and suggested that the area being used for parking on a temporary basis should be looked at as a permanent solution once the bridge was completed.

In response, the Executive Member suggested that as a brownfield site, the suggested use for car parking, might not be looked at favourably by the Government. Councillor W Quince reminded Members that the proposed provision of 13 spaces was not “free” and that the Council was required to honour a legal agreement with Reedside Ltd. The Leader reminded Members of the circumstances of the bridge construction and the funds obtained by the Council in its original bid.

In response to a comment by Councillor A L Burlton on the specifics of the proposed scheme, Officers undertook to refer these to Arup, the scheme designers, for clarification.

The Executive agreed that the decisions taken on 5 February 2008, be reaffirmed and that Officers be instructed to review the scheme actively, should circumstances change that would alleviate the situation by enabling this reciprocal parking arrangement to be created elsewhere.

RESOLVED – that (A) the decisions taken on 5 February 2008, be reaffirmed as follows:

DCCS

- (1) the summary of objections received in respect of the above proposed scheme, as now detailed, be noted;
- (2) the actions of Officers in overruling these objections, as now detailed, be endorsed;
- (3) the recommendations of the Highways Joint Member Panel meeting held on 14 January 2008, in respect of the Council’s proposals, be received;
- (4) the continued implementation of the proposed business permit parking scheme and ancillary single yellow line restriction, be supported; and

(B) Officers be instructed to review the scheme actively, should circumstances change that would alleviate the situation by enabling this reciprocal parking arrangement to be created elsewhere.

DCCS

The meeting closed at 6.36 pm

K:\BSWP\NPS\Executive\25 March 2008\Minutes 25 Mar 2008.doc

Chairman	.....
Date	.....