
**MEETING OF THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE
HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 7.30 P.M. AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, WEELEY**

Present: Councillors Griffiths (Chairman), Councillor V E Guglielmi (Vice-Chairman), Aldis, R Callender, Colbourne, D Oxley, Simons and Talbot.

Also Present: Chairman of the Council (Councillor D R Mayzes), Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock), Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder (Councillor Halliday) and Councillors Broderick, Johnson, King, P J Oxley, Tracey and Winfield.

In Attendance: Head of Public Experience (June Clare), Democratic Services Manager (Colin Sweeney), Streets and Seafronts Manager (Ian Taylor) and Democratic Services Officer (Janey Nice).

20. WELCOME

The Chairman of the Committee welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the procedure that would be followed when considering Agenda Item 5 (Hazlemere Road Car Park, Holland-on-Sea) which had been Called-in. He apologised for the lack of microphones for the meeting due to technical problems. Councillor P J Oxley expressed his displeasure at the continuing problems with microphones both in the Council Chamber and at full Council meetings in the Princes Theatre. Councillor Stock undertook to see what actions could be undertaken to resolve this long-standing issue.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Cossens (with Councillor D Oxley substituting) and Sambridge (Technical Services Portfolio Holder).

22. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 3 September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED MINUTES

There were none.

24. QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 15.3

There were none.

25. TRIAL USE OF OVERNIGHT PARKING FOR MOTOR HOMES ON HAZLEMERE ROAD CAR PARK, HOLLAND-ON-SEA (CALL-IN)

The Committee had before it a report to enable it to scrutinise the Cabinet's decision (Executive Decision No. 2191) on the Trial Use of Overnight Parking for Motor Homes on Hazlemere Road Car Park, Holland-on-Sea, which, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16 had been called in for scrutiny by Councillors P J Oxley, Broderick and Winfield.

The Committee was informed that the decision which had been called-in was as follows:

Executive Decision No. 2191 – Decision taken by the Technical Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Sambridge)

“To trial use of Hazlemere Road Car Park, Holland-on-Sea for overnight parking by motor homes and that the trial be for up to 28 days, each stay limited to not more than two nights at a time at a fee of £5.00 per night.”

On behalf of the Technical Services Portfolio Holder (Councillor Sambridge), the Leader of the Council (Councillor Stock) and Finance and Asset Management Portfolio Holder (Councillor Halliday) briefly outlined the background behind Decision 2191 to trial the use of Hazlemere Car Park at Holland-on-Sea for overnight parking by motor homes. Councillor Stock said that he had been contacted by the National Motor Homes Association to enquire about overnight parking for motor homes in the Clacton area and it had been decided to trial the use of Hazlemere Road Car Park at Holland-on-Sea for a period of 28 days. Consultation, he said, was to have taken place after the 28 day trial to see how it had been received.

Councillor P J Oxley made a statement declaring that he had been concerned over the fact that Decision 2191 had not been published correctly. He also raised concerns over the fact that residents, ward members and local businesses had not been consulted over the decision. He asked the Committee to refer the decision back to full Council for an honest and open debate to be held.

Councillor Winfield also made a brief statement over the lack of consultation with interested parties.

Councillor Broderick said that the decision had been ill thought out with the long-term implications not being considered and also wished the decision to be referred back to full Council for debate. Councillor Broderick had received an email from Mr Rob Turner, the General Manager of Park Resorts Limited, a multi-national company which had invested a large amount of money in the Tendring District, and which highlighted a number of concerns in respect of the proposed trial.

The Chairman then invited questions to the Cabinet Members by the three Councillors who had Called-in the decision and vice versa on what had been said.

During the questions and ensuing discussion, a number of issues were raised:

- an apparent lack of consultation with residents, local ward members and local businesses;
- the continuing problem of motor home parking along Clacton seafront;
- adequate overnight parking was available at a number of local official sites;
- noise nuisance to local residents from generators and other equipment;
- a whole strategy needed to be taken to encompass the issue of motor home parking along Clacton seafront, not just a 28 day trial on a car park at Holland-on-Sea;
- a recent weekend where Gainsford Avenue playing field site was taken over by Travellers' vehicles where local children had been denied access to playing field equipment and other antisocial behaviour;
- Travellers would find it easy to gain overnight parking and then move onto other car parks;
- illegal parking on fields was a major issue and needed to be look at as part of a strategic approach.

The Chairman asked Councillor Stock if he would be happy for Decision 2191 to be rescinded and a report be brought back to the Committee for a full discussion.

Councillor Stock stated that he would be happy for the decision to be rescinded as there was no longer a need for a 28 day trial as it was now the time of the year where motor homes were unlikely to be visiting Clacton. He confirmed that he would be happy to commission a report to look at the wider issues as there was now time to have this done during the winter months.

The Chairman said there were three options the Committee could decide to take, which were:

1. That the Committee did not object to the decision and that the decision comes into force forthwith; or
2. That the Committee disagrees with the decision and refers it back (setting out in writing the nature of its concerns) to the decision maker who must determine within fifteen working days whether to proceed with, amend, or rescind the decision; or
3. That the Committee disagrees with the decision and (having had regard to the advice of the Monitoring Officer) believe that it was contrary to the Council's Budget and Policy Framework, in which case, it had the power to refer the matter to the next practicable meeting of the Council, subject to the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 3.

The Committee did not have the power to amend the decision.

After further discussion, it was therefore proposed by Councillor Talbot, seconded by Councillor V E Guglielmi and:

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Committee adopt Option (2), that the decision be referred back to the Technical Services Portfolio Holder asking her to rescind the decision; and
- (b) that the Committee request the Portfolio Holder to commission a wide ranging strategic report on the whole of the seafront area for the benefit of tourism and that the report comes back to the Service Development and Delivery Committee for scrutiny once it had been completed.

26. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING OF THE SERVICE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Committee asked that the issues of on-street and off-street parking be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.

Chairman