Minutes of the Meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND SAFE COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held on 29 January 2019

PRESENT -

Councillor Peter O'Donovan (Chairman); Councillor Tella Wormington (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Alex Coley, Chris Frost, Rob Geleit, Jane Race, Mike Teasdale and Peter Webb

In Attendance: Councillor Tina Mountain (Items 21-24 only)

Absent: Councillor Steve Bridger and Councillor Lucie Dallen

Officers present: Damian Roberts (Chief Operating Officer), Ian Dyer (Head of Operational Services), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Richard Chevalier (Parking Manager), Sue Emmons (Senior Accountant), Tony Foxwell (Senior Surveyor), Jon Sharpe (Trade & Waste Services Manager) and Tim Richardson (Democratic Services Officer)

21 QUESTION TIME

No questions had been submitted or were asked by members of the public.

22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors regarding items on the agenda.

23 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Safe Communities Committee held on 23 October 2018 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24 HALF HOUR FREE PARKING IN BOROUGH COUNCIL CAR PARKS

In accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure (contained within Part 4 of the Constitution), the Committee received a report detailing a motion referred to it by the meeting of the Council held on 11 December 2018 for debate and resolution. The wording of the Motion was as follows:

"The Council should agree that the first half an hour of parking in all Epsom & Ewell Borough Car Parks should be free".

The report highlighted that in considering the viability of the motion, the Committee would need to consider what service expenditure within its remit could be reduced to meet the cost of the proposal of approximately £240,000 per annum.

In accordance with the Committee Rules of Procedure (also contained within Part 4 of the Council's Constitution) Councillor Tina Mountain spoke to the Motion, as its proposer. Following this, the Committee considered the Motion and it was resolved:

That the Committee rejected the Motion that the Council should agree that the first half an hour of parking in all Epsom & Ewell Borough car parks should be free.

25 ASHLEY CENTRE CAR PARK SAFETY FENCING

The Committee received a report requesting agreement of additional funding to complete the Ashley Centre Car Park safety fencing scheme. The Committee was informed that an increase of £23,000 was required to fund the safety fencing scheme due to the need to urgently expedite the works.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

(1) That the Committee supported the budget increase of £23,000 to the Ashley Centre Car Park safety fencing scheme, subject to the agreement by Strategy and Resources committee to the funding from the capital receipts reserve.

26 GARDEN WASTE REVIEW OF OPTIONS

The Committee received a report providing a high-level review of the garden waste service and options for consideration going forward.

The following matters were considered:

- a) Variations amongst Surrey Authorities and opportunity to review. The Committee noted that garden waste recycling services varied across local authorities in Surrey. Epsom and Ewell Borough Council had last reviewed its garden waste service several years ago, and undertaking a review at the present time would enable Officers to identify proposals for the service's future development.
- b) Success of current service. Officers informed the Committee that the existing service was successful and made approximately £200,000 per annum contribution to the Council's finances net of costs.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

(1) That the Committee authorised officers to explore opportunities to improve the garden waste service as outlined in the report.

27 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Committee received a report summarising the proposed 2019/20 capital programme for Environment & Safe Communities Committee. The report sought approval to the programme to be submitted to Council in February 2019. The programme included two projects: Upgrade of parking pay and display machines; and Hope Lodge Car Park expansion.

The following matter was considered:

a) Additional planting around fencing for Hope Lodge Car Park expansion. The Committee requested Officers to consider whether additional shrub planting could be included around the fencing for the project. It was noted that Officers would investigate whether this could be accomplished within the proposed budget.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

That the Committee:

(1) Agreed to submit the Capital Programme for 2019/20 as identified in section 4 of the report to the Council for approval on 19 February 2019.

28 FEES AND CHARGES 2019/20

The Committee received a report recommending fees and charges for which it is responsible, with the new charges being effective from 1 April 2019.

The Senior Accountant informed the Committee of a correction to the text of Annex 1 to the report. The wording "NEW SUBSCRIBERS" was incorrectly included for the charge for fortnightly collection of a small garden waste bin (non-direct debit payment) listed on page 62 of the agenda, and should be deleted.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

That subject to the approval of Council, the Committee:

- (1) Agreed the fees and charges for 2019/20 as set out at Annex 1 and Annex 3 subject to the wording "NEW SUBSCRIBERS" being deleted from the charge for fortnightly collection of a small garden waste bin (non-direct debit payment), listed on page 62 of the agenda;
- (2) Noted the parking fees and charges agreed by this Committee on 23 October 2018 as set out in Annex 2.

29 REVENUE BUDGET 2019/20

The Committee received a report setting out estimates for income and expenditure on services in 2019/20.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

(1) That the Committee recommended the 2019/20 service estimates, for approval at the budget meeting of Full Council in February 2019.

30 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee passed a resolution to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

31 TRADE WASTE REVIEW

The Committee received a report providing a high-level review of the trade waste service and options for consideration going forward.

Following consideration, it was resolved:

(1) That the Committee noted the contents of this report, which supported the Council's service delivery plan.

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.37 pm

COUNCILLOR PETER O'DONOVAN (CHAIRMAN)