

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE
**(Royston and Ermine Ward – Parishes of Barkway, Barley, Kelshall, Nuthampstead,
Reed and Therfield)**

**Meeting held at Royston Town Hall, Melbourn Street, Royston
on 17 June 2009 at 7.30p.m.**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillors: Mrs F.R. Hill (Chairman), H.M. Marshall (Vice-Chairman),
P.C.W. Burt, A.F. Hunter, Liz Beardwell and F.J. Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mary Caldwell – Planning Control and Conservation Manager
Andy Beavan – Local Development Framework Manager
Alan Fleck - Community Development Officer
Susanne Gow – Committee and Member Services Officer

1 member of the public.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Robert Inwood.

5. MINUTES – 18 MARCH 2009

It was pointed out that in Minute 98, Flooding in Royston, reference to “St John’s Street” should actually read “John Street”.

RESOLVED: That subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Royston and District Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2009 and also the report of the election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Royston and District Committee on 30 April 2009, be approved as a true record of the proceedings, and be signed by the Chairman.

6. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be discussed at this Committee Meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman began by welcoming everybody to this first Royston and District Committee of the Civic Year 2009/2010.

She also welcomed the Planning Control and Conservation Manager (PCCM), who had attended the Royston and District Committee Meeting to present the report on Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Undertakings. She stated that as the PCCM also had to present the report at the meeting of the Southern Rural Committee which was being held at the same time and date as this Committee meeting, she proposed to take that item straight after Public Participation and before the presentation on the Royston Museum. Item 7 of the Agenda would therefore precede Item 6.

The Chairman stated that she would like to put on record the Committee’s grateful thanks to Mr Doug Drake for his consistent and welcome support and help for the Royston and District Committee during the time that he had been a Herts County Councillor. A letter of thanks and best wishes for the future would be sent to him from the Committee. **Action: Committee Clerk (done).**

The Chairman then revealed that a late report by the Project Manager, Leisure Division, had been tabled regarding Royston Leisure Centre – Drainage. The Committee’s debate and decision on this would be taken as the last item of the evening (Item 13), and it would then be referred to the forthcoming Cabinet Meeting on Tuesday 23 June 2009.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no participation from the public at this Committee Meeting.

9. SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS AND UNILATERAL UNDERTAKINGS UPDATE

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager (PCCM) presented the report of the Head of Planning and Building Control. She thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to address the Committee, and confirmed that the presentation of the report had been changed, in order to make it easier to understand.

She went through the appendices to the report with the Committee, and drew attention to the monies received by Hertfordshire Highways (HH) that had potential payback clauses. The traffic light system allowed Hertfordshire Highways to give an overall view over the District. The PCCM explained that the flow chart at Appendix E showed how the money fed into a project, and stated that the money collected had to mitigate the development to which it gave rise.

The Planning Control and Conservation Manager (PCCM) explained that she had presented the updated report on Section 106 Agreements and Unilateral Undertakings to the Senior Management Group, to the Community Development Officers and to all five Area Committees. She had also reported to the Performance Audit and Review Committee, and they had suggested an amendment to the recommendation as follows, which, it was proposed, also be adopted by the Area Committees with appropriate wording:

“That the Head of Planning and Building Control be requested to present to PARC at the meeting on 15 October 2009 a comprehensive list of Section 106 and unilateral undertakings and to include a summary of the report to be circulated to each of the Area Committees during the September cycle of meetings, which will set out the details of any strategy/project development involving the use of Section 106 monies. A report to be presented to PARC on an annual basis.”

The Committee discussed the report and asked pertinent questions, such as whether Members had an input as to where the s106 money went; would small amounts have to go towards another project in the same area; whether work could be done under the sustainable transport route. The PCCM assured the Committee that some of the funds could be used as provision to encourage bus route plans, a cycle network etc, and that it should be used for sustainable transport. Members proposed that work should be done to connect the adopted cycle route, which is currently small, to the new Railway Underpass from the date of opening, and the PCCM agreed that this was an obvious way of using the small sums of money available.

The Committee thanked the Planning Control and Conservation Manager and commended her on an excellent report which fulfilled the need for clarity.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Planning Control and Conservation Manager be thanked for her hard work and for presenting the report to the Committee;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee:
 - i) note the contents of this report;
 - ii) are presented with a report on an annual basis;
- 3) That the Head of Planning and Building Control be requested to present to PARC at the meeting on 15 October 2009 a comprehensive list of Section 106 and unilateral undertakings and to include a summary of the report to be circulated to each of the Area Committees during the September cycle of meetings, which will set out the details of any strategy/project development involving the use of Section 106 monies. A report to be presented to PARC on an annual basis;
- 4) That the Royston Cycle Network is incorporated in line with the Royston Underpass scheme;
- 5) That the Royston and District Committee be presented with a further update at their meeting on 30 September 2009.

10. ROYSTON MUSEUM

Mr Les Baker addressed the Committee on the Royston Museum, which has been

open for 25 years and is currently housed in the former Congregational Church Schoolroom on Lower King Street. He informed them that he was currently Vice-Chairman of the Museum Committee, had been Chairman until recently, and was in his 20th year as a member of the Royston Town Council's Museum Sub-Committee.

The Museum was seen locally as a valuable resource in the historic market town of Royston, and as such needed to be "preserved, protected and cherished".

Mr Baker stated that the Museum was run by Royston Town Council, and that once the basic bills were paid, the Museum was left with £1,400 per annum for projects, activities, exhibitions etc. He admitted that the Museum Committee comes to the Royston and District Committee regularly for alternative funding, and that this is likely to continue in the future. Other funding was currently being sought from Lottery grants and the Esme Fairburn Foundation.

Members were informed that the collection of exhibits was at the heart of the Museum, and was its legacy for the future. The centrepiece of the collection was the Royston Tapestry, which was unique, both nationally and internationally. The current problem was how to adequately display the Tapestry on its completion, and solving this would offer the opportunity to refurbish the whole Museum. What was currently needed urgently were new display cases, more display items and to move the position of the Museum shop. Ideally, the Museum should be in premises three times the size of the current building.

Mr Baker updated the Committee on: through the number of visitors to Royston Museum; the number of hits on its website; the number of exhibitions laid on each year; and the activities which had been arranged for visitors. He also declared that Royston Museum had gained Accreditation from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Association.

The Committee were informed that a designer had visited the Museum to advise on the refurbishment, and that an architect was also being sought to carry out the work.

Members discussed Mr Baker's presentation and suggested that moving to another building might be the answer to the problem, as space and facilities in the former Congregational Church was limited. Storage space was tight and there was nowhere to run workshops or any activities that required a modicum of space. Suggestion was made that the Museum be moved to the Priory Cinema site or to a residential home building in one of the villages nearby. The Committee commented that a purpose-built Museum would be ideal, but the owner of the current premises was a great supporter of the Museum, as was his family, so there appeared to be no danger of the lease not being renewed when it expired.

The Committee recorded their support for Mr Baker and his work on behalf of Royston Museum as well as the staff and volunteers who worked there, and the Chairman thanked him for his informative presentation. She reiterated that the Royston and District Committee fully supported the Royston Museum, and agreed to assist where required with additional funding.

11. ROYSTON TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The report was presented by the Local Development Framework Manager (LDFM) on behalf of the Planning Projects Manager. He took the Committee through the Action Plan Update at Appendix 1, and sought Members' agreement to request that Cabinet investigate the appropriate resources to assist with the delivery of the Action Plan as part of the Council's Corporate Business Planning Process.

The LDFM reminded the Committee that completion of the Retail Study currently being undertaken by the consultants would enable officers to work upon items in the Action Plan with up-to-date information.

The Royston and District Committee then discussed the Action Plan Update, and proposed that the Consultants should start work on the Civic Centre site in this financial year (2009/2010), along with the viability assessment of proposed

development options for the Warren Car Park and the preparation of a Planning Brief for the area around the Royston Cross. The LDFM stated that the Primary Care Trust was undertaking a review of its future requirements in the district and as a result there could be renewed interest in the Civic Centre site. Comment was made that no actions appear to have been marked as 'completed' and it was pointed out that the report stated that "the Action Plan would be monitored on an annual basis and reported to the Royston and District to prioritise actions to inform the Corporate Business Planning Process." The Committee had previously requested a report back to enable them to regularly monitor progress (Minute 9 of the Royston and District Committee Meeting on 11 June 2008 refers). Regular updates as and when required were to be requested.

An amendment was suggested to one of the officer's recommendations, to incorporate all the sites involved, and this was agreed.

As the Updated Action Plan had been agreed by the Committee, Cabinet would be requested to investigate resources as part of the Corporate Business Planning Process.

The Chairman thanked the Local Development Framework Manager and his colleagues for the report and for his presentation.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the report be noted, and the updates to the Action Plan at Appendix 1 be agreed as a supporting document to the adopted Royston Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document;
- 2) That the Royston and District Committee receives regular updates as and when required;
- 3) That the Local Development Framework Manager and his colleagues be thanked for the report and its presentation.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

That Cabinet be requested to authorise officers to investigate available resources and additional funding as part of the Corporate Business Planning Process to progress those sites in which the Council has ownership interests, as a matter of priority.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To enable the Council to work in partnership with key stakeholders in delivering the projects as set out in the updated Action Plan in accordance with the aims and objectives of the adopted Royston Town Centre Strategy Supplementary Planning Document.

12. MELBOURN STREET AND THE ROYSTON CAVE

The Community Development Officer presented the report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services. A member of the public had suggested to Royston Town Council that the highway and footway in Melbourn Street and around Royston Cave be strengthened to help preserve the Cave and Royston Town Council had referred this to the Royston and District Committee.

The Committee discussed the report and agreed that in the first instance the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel should request that Hertfordshire Highways provide an estimate of the likely cost of a feasibility study as to how best to protect Royston Cave from traffic damage from vehicles passing above it.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Royston and District Committee ask the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel to request that Hertfordshire Highways provide an estimate of the likely cost of a feasibility study for works to strengthen the highway and footway over and immediately around the Cave;
- 2) That all other issues of safety in the area of Royston Cave and Melbourn Street be examined.

RECOMMENDED TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP-

JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

That the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership-Joint member Panel be requested to approve a feasibility study and cost estimate for works to strengthen the highway and footway over and immediately around the Royston Cave and that other issues of safety in this area be considered.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure the ongoing preservation of the Royston Cave and to improve safety in the area.

13. REPORT FROM THE NORTH HERTS HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP-JOINT MEMBER PANEL

The Community Development Officer presented the report of the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services. He took the Royston and District Committee through the Highways Work Programme at Appendix A, showing progress made to date, and asked the Committee to suggest any additional works which they considered should be added.

The Committee discussed the report and the Highways Work Programme, and in addition agreed to ask the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel to consider the option of installation of traffic lights at the junction of the B1368 and B1039 in Barley village when undertaking the feasibility study.

Members agreed that apart from this proposal and a request to the NHHP-JMP for a feasibility study for works to strengthen the area around Royston Cave (referred to NHHP-JMP separately at Minute 12), it was imperative that those work projects already on the Highways Work Programme for Royston and recommended below, be completed before any further proposals be made.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Committee note the works under way and suggest any additional projects for consideration by the North Herts Highways-Joint Member Panel;
- 2) That Members commission a feasibility study to rejuvenate the paving in Royston Town Centre;
- 3) That Members ask the North Herts Highways-Joint Member Panel to establish a scheme for Briary Lane;
- 4) That Members agree to commit Capital Visioning to the "A10 London Road" scheme;
- 5) That Members indicate how they wish to proceed with the "A10 Melbourn Road/Garden Walk junction" scheme;
- 6) That the Royston and District Committee ask the North Herts Highways Partnership-Joint Member Panel (NHHP-JMP) consider the option of installing traffic lights at the junction of the B1368 and B1039 in Barley village when undertaking the feasibility study;
- 7) That the Committee agreed it was imperative that the items regarding Royston already on the Highways Work Programme and those referred to the meeting of the North Herts Highways-Joint Member Panel to be held on 29 June 2009, be completed before any further proposals be made.

RECOMMENDED TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS PARTNERSHIP-JOINT MEMBER PANEL:

That the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership-Joint member Panel be requested to consider the option of the installation of traffic lights at the junction of the B1368 and B1039 in Barley village when undertaking the feasibility study.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS:

To ensure that the Royston and District Committee have the opportunity to advise on the North Hertfordshire Highways Partnership-Joint member Panel work programme.

15. CHRISTMAS PARKING IN ROYSTON

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Committee through the report on Christmas Parking in Royston, and revealed that as a result of his enquiries the Parking Services Manager had provided last year's figures which gave an average total taking of £1,129 across all the Royston car parks for 19 December 2008.

The Committee discussed the possibility of free parking being provided from 2pm/3pm every day during the week before Christmas and the CDO informed the Committee that the figure provided by the Parking Services Manager for a 4pm start to free parking during the week before Christmas was £500 per day. Members were reminded that the Royston Christmas Carnival was to be held on the Sunday before Christmas and asked to consider whether the Saturday before should have charge-free parking.

It was suggested that all retail traders, the Royston Markets Manager, the Royston Town Centre Manager, Royston First, the Royston Chamber of Commerce, Royston BID etc were consulted for their opinions and figures and the results brought back to the Royston and District Committee Meeting on 29 July 2009. The CDO was also asked to compare the Royston car park charges for Christmas to those of Letchworth Garden City.

RESOLVED:

That the Community Development Officer seek as wide a range of views as practicable on the appropriate days for free parking in the run up to Christmas 2009, and report back to the Committee;

REASON FOR DECISION:

To ensure that the Committee are informed of the views of the Royston retailers and businesses regarding free parking just prior to Christmas 2009.

16. CHAMPION NEWS AND FINANCE REPORT 2009/2010

The Community Development Officer (CDO) took the Royston and District Committee through the activities and schemes with which he had been involved since the last meeting on 18 March 2009, and brought to their attention some important community-based activities which would take place over the next few months.

His report and updated information covered the following points:

- **BIDS** – the CDO reported on the first meeting of the Royston First Advisory Committee which manages the Royston BID.
- **Pigeons** – the Pest Control contractor felt that the matter was now serious and was preparing costings for dealing with the situation, including nest control, hawking and bird proofing buildings in Royston Town Centre.
- A report would be brought back to a future Royston and District Committee Meeting, and the cost of street cleansing would be obtained. **Action: CDO.**
- **The Youth Council** still meets regularly, and has seven firm members, with others taking part in occasional events. The Youth Council took part in the recent May Fayre and made a clear profit of £90.
- They are one of the largest Youth Councils in the area, and will be visiting the Houses of Parliament on 30 June 2009 as guests of Oliver Heald MP.
- **Young people's events** - An end-of-term event is currently being organised for young people in Priory Memorial Gardens, but it is unlikely to include live music.
- The Royston Youth Network meets regularly to ensure smooth liaison of all the organisations setting up events. Representatives from the Police, Children's Centre and the Town Centre Manager attend the meetings, which are hosted by Roysia School and chaired by Cathy Curtis, ESCO in Meridian School.
- **Citizenship classes** in primary or middle schools in Royston have been attended by the CDO, and the views of the young people will be brought to a future Royston and District Committee Meeting. **Action: CDO.**
- The **Members' Surgery** in Angel Pavement in April resulted in 14 topics being raised by 12 members of the public. The CDO listed some of the issues, which

included level of provision of salt bins, icy pavement surfaces, lack of reinstatement of double yellow lines after resurfacing, congestion at Barkway Road, excessive pigeon numbers, provision of activities for young people, vehicle speeds in Kestrel Way, slow adoption of roads on the Twigdens estate, Fire Service standards, excessive levels of street lighting and play provision in Redwing Rise.

- **Vandalism in Studlands Park** – the CDO will bring a report concerning the vandalism and lighting in Studlands Park to the next meeting of the Royston and District Committee on 29 July 2009. **Action: CDO**
- **Town Trail** – the Royston Town Trail leaflet has been reprinted and includes a change of route. The cost was £342 for 1,000 copies, and the CDO asked the Committee to authorise this sum, as he can authorise up to £250. The Committee agreed to authorise the additional expenditure.
- **Other Work** – the CDO outlined two further projects on which he was engaged (giving practical and advisory help with grant applications and investigating the whereabouts of some fencing missing from Somerfield's car park).
- **Three Year Work Plan** – the idea had been discussed early in 2009, at a meeting between Area Committee Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and the Head of Community Development and Cultural Services, in order to allow Members to have some input to a three-year Work Plan for 2009/2010 to 2011/2012. The table setting out updates to ongoing projects allows Members to see progress being made.
- **Baldock** – the Community Development Officer continues to support the Baldock Town Partnership, and has helped at their stall during the Baldock Festival. He will also be lending his assistance and electricity services. The reception centre in St George's Church closed just two hours after opening. The CDO also assisted in providing information about Disabled Facility Grants, and he informed the Committee that he had received letters of thanks for Committee grants from Barkway Village Hall and Royston Day Centre.

The Community Development Officer took the Committee through the Finance Report, beginning with the spreadsheet at Appendix A. He explained that some items as marked represented unspent or returned funds from funded projects. These totalled £4,068 and this sum would be lost to the Committee if not reallocated. Members discussed this and suggested that this amount be put towards cleansing Royston Town Centre of pigeon detritus, as this was an environmental as well as a safety issue and therefore very important to the residents of Royston.

Appendices B, C and D covered three grant applications: firstly, for 23 hanging baskets and their maintenance during the summer at a cost of £4,000 to which the Committee agreed; and secondly, the purchase of a replacement computer for the office at the Coombes Community Centre - £1,000 was requested but the Committee approved £500 (the Chairman declared a personal interest on this item).

A further grant application covered part funding of a covered area for work and play for Therfield School at a cost of £750. The Chairman declared a personal interest as a Friend of Therfield School (FoTS), since her daughter was a pupil there and as such all parents were members of FoTS. She informed the Committee that she had sought advice from the Legal Department, and although there was not thought to be any personal or prejudicial interest, to avoid any perception of bias, the Chairman spoke on this application and then left the room for the debate, which was led by the Vice-Chairman. The Committee approved the grant and Cllr Hill then returned, to resume chairing the Royston and District Committee Meeting.

The CDO asked for Members' approval of the expenditure of £342 for the printing of the updated leaflets for the Royston Town Trail, which had already been done. This was agreed.

Lastly, the CDO introduced the Work Plan to the Committee for their approval and further input. Discussion covered Minute 12 regarding a referral from Royston Town Council that the highway and footway in Melbourn Street and around Royston Cave be

strengthened to help preserve Royston Cave which the Committee referred to the NHHP-JMP; and Minute 13 regarding the option of installing traffic lights at the junction of the B1368 and B1039 in Barley village when undertaking the feasibility study, which was also referred to the NHHP-JMP. The Committee reiterated that apart from these two referrals to JMP they considered it vital that projects already on the list be completed before more were added to the Work Plan.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the budgetary expenditure, current balances and carry forwards from the Development Budgets 2008/09, the Small Area Grants Budget and the allocated Discretionary Budgets be noted;
- 2) That the outstanding sum of £4,068 be allocated to environmental improvements;
- 3) That Members approve the expenditure of £342 for reprinting the updated Town Trail leaflets;
- 4) That Members approve the expenditure of £4,000 on hanging baskets;
- 5) That Members approve the grant of £500 to the Coombes Community Centre;
- 6) That Members approve the grant of £750 to Therfield School;
- 7) That Members approve the suggested Work Plan;
- 8) That the Committee endorses the actions taken by the Community Development Officer to promote greater community capacity and well-being and thanks him for all his hard work in the interests of Royston.

REASON FOR DECISIONS:

To ensure that the Royston and District Committee are kept informed of the work of the Community Development Officer.

17. GRANT APPLICATION – NHDC INTERNAL BUDGETARY SUPPORT

RESOLVED: That the sum of £4,000 be awarded to NHDC Internal Budgetary Support for provision and maintenance of 23 hanging baskets in Royston Town centre.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

18. GRANT APPLICATION – ROYSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Prior to Committee discussion, the Chairman declared a personal interest in this item, as she is the North Herts District Council representative to the Royston Community Association.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £500 be awarded to the Royston Community Association for the purchase of a replacement personal computer for the Coombes Community Centre office. The original sum requested was £1,000.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

19. GRANT APPLICATION – FRIENDS OF THERFIELD SCHOOL

Prior to the item being discussed, the Chairman declared a personal interest in this grant application, as her daughter attends Therfield School. She explained that as such, all parents are automatically members of 'Friends of Therfield School'. She declared that she had sought advice from the Legal Department, and although there was not thought to be any personal or prejudicial interest, to prevent any perception of bias she would speak on this grant application and then leave the room, while the Vice-Chairman conducted the debate and the Committee voted.

The Committee, led by the Vice-Chairman, discussed the provision of financial assistance to build a covered area for the children of Therfield School, to use for outdoor work and play. The point was raised that a precedent had been established in other schools in Royston and the surrounding villages, and the Committee unanimously approved the granting of the sum of £750 to Friends of Therfield School for this purpose.

REASON FOR DECISION:

The allocation of funds would improve the services provided by the local organisations and groups available for the benefit of the community at large.

20. DRAINAGE ISSUES AT ROYSTON LEISURE CENTRE

The Project Manager, Leisure Division had tabled a report via the Community Development Officer, concerning an investigation that had been undertaken of drainage at the Meridian School site. The report stated that Consultants had presented the findings of the investigation findings to Herts County Council Property Management Consultants and the information then went to Herts County Council, who acknowledged that water leaving the site enters the depression on the eastern boundary. Therefore Herts County Council and NHDC officers are working together to investigate this issue. However, it was unlikely that a way forward would be agreed at their first meeting which is due to take place soon.

The aim was to report to the Cabinet Meeting on 23 June 2009 and provide options to improve the drainage at the Royston Leisure Centre. However, there were still issues outstanding to be resolved by Herts County Council (HCC) and North Herts District Council (NHDC), which meant that the report to Cabinet on 23 June 2009 would be an updated report.

A temporary solution of a bunding installation is being investigated and this short term measure would help to prevent water from leaving Leisure Centre land and entering the Twigden housing estate nearby if severe rainfall is experienced during the coming months. It was anticipated that this measure would be fairly cost effective, and could be funded by existing budgets, although the exact cost was not known at present.

The Committee discussed the report, and agreed that due to the urgency of the matter and possible severe rainfall during the summer months, the temporary solution of installing bunding was the most sensible course of action at the present time. A permanent solution to the problem could then be worked on, and the residents on the housing estate could be confident that there would not be a repeat of the severe problems they had suffered in the past.

A time frame for installation of the bunding was discussed, and the Committee agreed unanimously that this should be carried out in the very near future, the deadline to be given as 30 June 2009. The Committee reiterated that they supported the residents in the area, and were adamant that a solution would be put in place urgently.

The Committee discussed the problem of flooding in the Burns Road area, the contents of a progress report received by the Chairman, and ways in which Herts Highways and Anglian Water could move forward with this. It was confirmed that the Chairman of the Burns Road Residents' Association would be apprised of the situation, assured that the Committee were working to ensure that a solution was reached as quickly as possible, and passed a copy of the progress report.

RESOLVED:

That the Royston and District Committee called for an urgent temporary solution to the problem of surface water draining from the Royston Leisure Centre onto the adjacent housing estate, through the installation of bunding, and that the Committee requested the assistance of Cabinet to ensure that this solution was carried out by 30 June 2009.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

1) That Cabinet be requested to support the efforts of NHDC officers and the

Royston and District Committee to solve the problem caused by drainage of surface water from the site of Royston Leisure Centre and Meridian School onto the adjacent Twigden housing estate, which could be exacerbated at any time by inclement weather;

- 2) That Cabinet support the temporary solution of installing bunding by 30 June 2009 at this location, until such time as a permanent solution could be found to solve this problem.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To enable the Council to assist with assist in solving the issues caused by heavy rainfall and its impact on Royston and its residents.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

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Chairman