

CABINET, 5 MARCH 2012

Present: Councillors Barlow, Beaver, Birch (in the Chair),
Chowney, Cooke, Finch, Kramer, Lock, Scott, and Webb.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Beaver who arrived at 6.05 pm.

MATTERS FOR CABINET DECISION

104. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following councillors declared their interests in the minutes as follows:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Barlow	107 – Adoption of New Allotment Tenancy Agreement and Rules	Prejudicial – An allotment holder
Birch, Lock, Scott and Webb	100 – Hastings Local Plan – Proposed Submission Planning Strategy (in so far as any matter related to highways was discussed)	Personal – Members of the East Sussex County Council

105. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meetings held on 6 February and 20 February 2012 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

106. ORE VALLEY URBAN DESIGN CODES

The Borough Planning Officer presented a report outlining the problems experienced with the operation of the Ore Valley Urban Design Codes. He also reported on the public consultation undertaken between 23rd December 2011 and 3rd February 2012 and responses received as a result of that consultation. He recommended that the Codes were rescinded.

Councillor Chowney moved approval of the recommendations to the report which was seconded by Councillor Lock.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that: -

- (1) the Ore Valley Hastings Millennium Community Urban Design Codes be rescinded and the document no longer be used for development control purposes and as a basis for consideration of planning applications;**

- (2) the green space within the Ore Valley Urban Design Codes area will continue to be protected by planning policies contained in the existing Local Plan and similar policies in the emerging Local Plan; and
- (3) a review of the policies contained in the Ore Valley Urban Design Codes will be undertaken to determine the extent to which they should be incorporated in the policies of the new Development Management Plan.

The reason for this decision was:

It was considered that there was a strong case for withdrawing the Ore Valley Urban Design Codes for the reasons set out in this report.

107. ADOPTION OF NEW ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENT AND RULES

The Environment and Natural Resources Manager presented the report of the Head of Amenities and Leisure on a proposed new Allotment Tenancy Agreement and set of Rules for adoption. The new agreement and set of rules, aimed at providing clear definitions of acceptable levels of cultivation as well as outlining good practice for tenants, was appended to the report.

Throughout the process of review the Council had worked with the Site Secretaries of the allotments and undertaken consultation with tenants. The overwhelming feedback on the rules had been constructive and positive and had informed the final draft of the document.

During debate Councillor Scott referred to paragraph 6.15 b) of the proposed rules relating to the use of chemicals and asked if the wording could be strengthened. The Environment and Natural Resources Manager agreed to discuss this with the Site Secretaries with a view to strengthening the wording at the next review.

Councillor Webb moved approval of the recommendations to the report which was seconded by Councillor Scott.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – that: -

- (1) Cabinet adopt the new Tenancy Agreement and Rules to come into effect for existing tenants on 1st April 2013 and for new tenants immediately;**
- (2) Officers undertake an allotment rent review in consultation with Site Secretaries and tenants during 2012;**
- (3) Officers consider options for future management of allotments during 2012;**
- (4) Cabinet thank the Site Secretaries of the Allotments for their positive contribution to developing the new Agreement and Rules and recognise the many positive contributions received from allotment holders.**

The reasons for this decision were:

CABINET, 5 MARCH 2012

The Council's Corporate Plan for 2011/12 included a commitment to review allotment arrangements in the Borough;

Our current Tenancy Agreement was poorly worded and did not adequately clarify our expectations on levels of cultivation, provide sufficient clarity over enforcement or allow us to review rents above inflation; and

The current tenancy agreement required 12 months' notice for changes to take effect therefore requiring Cabinet to adopt the new Tenancy Agreement in March 2012 in time to send to every tenant on or before the 6th April 2012 to become effective in April 2013.

(Councillor Barlow left the meeting during consideration and voting on this matter having declared his prejudicial interest)

108. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the Traffic Management Committee held on 15 February 2012 were submitted.

RESOLVED – that; -

- (1) the minutes of the meeting of the Traffic Management Committee held on 15 February 2012 be received; and**
- (2) the recommendations contained in minutes nos. 8 and 9 be approved.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.05 pm)