



**MINUTES of
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
15 JANUARY 2019**

PRESENT

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| Chairman | Councillor R G Boyce MBE |
| Vice-Chairman | Councillor Mrs B D Harker |
| Councillors | Miss A M Beale, A T Cain, Miss M R Lewis and Mrs N G F Shaughnessy |
| Ex-Officio Non- Voting Member | Councillor B S Beale MBE |
| Substitute Members | Councillors A S Fluker and M W Helm |

737. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman drew attention to the list of notices published on the back of the agenda.

738. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E L Bamford, H M Bass and Mrs M E Thompson.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 17 (9, 10) Councillor A S Fluker attended as a substitute for Councillor E L Bamford and Councillor M W Helm attended as a substitute for Councillor H M Bass.

739. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 20 November 2018 be approved and confirmed.

740. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs N G F Shaughnessy declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 Lease Proposal Blackwater Leisure Centre, as she knew the applicant.

741. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman informed the Committee that, having taken advice from the Monitoring Officer, there would be a change to the normal procedure regarding public speaking. He advised that it would be best to have the member of the public speak at the beginning of the Private and Confidential Agenda Item 10 Lease proposal, Blackwater Leisure Centre. This was to ensure confidentiality on the part of the other businesses involved in this agenda item.

742. CHAIRMAN'S GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that on Sunday 13 January 2019 in Promenade Park a new event was trialled called the Essex Historic Military Vehicle Association which was attended by approximately 600 members of the public. He said that given the success of this event the Council will look to repeating it in 2019/20.

743. REFUSE AND RECYCLING MISSED COLLECTIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery that had been compiled in response to the recommendation made by this Committee at its meeting on 20 November 2018 (detailed below). This report is to explain to Members how missed collections are reported and the opportunities and limitations on reporting in different ways.

That a detailed report be compiled for this Committee providing sound analysis on the agreed number of justified missed waste collections, a clear definition of what constitutes a 'missed' waste collection and clarity on the terms of the SUEZ contract (Minute No. 626 refers).

The Group Manager, Community & Living, took Members through the key areas of the report covering the rationale for 'justified missed' waste collections and those outside of this category. She then covered the performance monitoring of this area and the terms and conditions of the SUEZ contract. It was noted that both the Director of Service Delivery and the Group Manager, Community & Living, had met with the Directors from SUEZ to iron out recent concerns and ensure maximum efficiency going forward.

The issue of vehicle breakdown was discussed further as it had been reported that the modern vehicle exhaust was not capable of getting hot enough, resulting in shut downs. The Director of Service Delivery informed the Committee that SUEZ had been working with the engineers to address the problem and that the situation had already improved.

Whilst acknowledging the very successful rates of collection evidenced in the report there were some further queries regarding the total daily collections and how the figure was arrived at. In light of these comments the Group Manager, Community & Living, subsequent to the meeting, circulated confirmation of the data used to ascertain the average number of refuse/recycling collections per day.

The Chairman put the recommendation to note the report to the Committee and this was agreed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

744. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE DECIDES ARE URGENT

Councillor Miss M R Lewis raised the issue of the two outstanding matters from previous meetings, namely Minute 372 – Disabled Facilities Grant Report (DFG) and Minute 376 – Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme.

The Director of Service Delivery apologised for the delay in delivering on these items. He informed the Committee that, given the wide range of issues to be covered in the DFG report, requiring input from both staff and partner organisations, it had not been possible to complete in time due to lack of staff availability as a result of the Christmas break.

With reference to the Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme he reported that Officers were working with Essex County Council on the figures and he assured the Committee this would be available for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Disabled Facilities Grant report be circulated prior to the next Committee meeting on the 26 February 2019

745. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chairman put the proposal that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test, to the Committee.

The proposal was supported by Councillor A T Cain and duly seconded. Upon a vote being taken the proposal was carried.

In accordance with Council Rule 13 (4) Councillor Miss M R Lewis requested that her objection to the vote be minuted.

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that this satisfies the public interest test.

746. LEASE PROPOSAL, BLACKWATER LEISURE CENTRE

As agreed under Item 5 Public Participation and on advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Applicant for this agenda item addressed the Committee.

747. ADJOURNMENT OF THE MEETING

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8pm to enable the member of the public to leave the Council Chamber. The meeting reconvened at 8:03pm and continued in closed session.

748. LEASE PROPOSAL, BLACKWATER LEISURE CENTRE

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery, together with the comments from the applicant, regarding a request to site a nursery building at the Blackwater Leisure Centre and enable a proposal to lease a part of the Blackwater Leisure Centre site.

The Director of Service Delivery gave the Committee an overview of the report content and the Leisure & Community Development Manager presented the detail of the report.

Councillor A S Fluker declared in the interest of openness and transparency on this item as he knew the applicant.

A lengthy debate ensued during which further clarification was provided by Officers in respect of the detail surrounding the use of the land. There was discussion on both the merits and demerits of the proposal. However, it was agreed that this was not sustainable given the long-term implications for the Council of any development in this area.

Councillor A S Fluker proposed that the request be refused as the site was not a sustainable solution. This was duly seconded by Councillor Miss M R Lewis.

The Chairman put the proposal to the Committee and this was carried.

RESOLVED that the Community Services Committee does not agree the use of the land at Blackwater Leisure Centre as a site for a nursery as it was not a sustainable solution.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

R G BOYCE MBE
CHAIRMAN