



**MINUTES of
COUNCIL
28 MARCH 2019**

PRESENT

Chairman Councillor H M Bass

Councillors Mrs B F Acevedo, E L Bamford, Miss A M Beale,
B S Beale MBE, R G Boyce MBE, Mrs P A Channer, CC,
R P F Dewick, Mrs H E Elliott, P G L Elliott, A S Fluker,
Mrs B D Harker, B E Harker, M S Heard, M W Helm,
J V Keyes, R Pratt, CC, S J Savage, Mrs N G F Shaughnessy,
D M Sismey, A K M St. Joseph, Mrs M E Thompson and
Miss S White

1981. CHAIRMAN'S NOTICES

The Chairman referred to the notices printed on the agenda.

1982. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J P F Archer, A T Cain, I E Dobson, M F L Durham CC, Miss M R Lewis, M R Pearlman, N R Pudney and Rev. A E J Shrimpton.

1983. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs P A Channer declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Essex County Council, particularly in relation to Agenda Item 11 - Discretionary Fees and Charges 2019 / 20.

Councillor R Pratt declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of Essex County Council.

1984. MINUTES - 14 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED

(i) That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 February 2019 be received

Minute 854 – Apologies for Absence

Councillor Mrs B F Acevedo advised that she had tendered her apologies for this meeting but they had not been recorded.

RESOLVED

- (ii) That subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 February 2019 be adopted.

1985. MINUTES - 28 FEBRUARY 2019 (EXTRAORDINARY - PLANNING)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the extraordinary Council meeting held on 31 January 2019 be received and adopted.

1986. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

1987. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that the Council was proud to have supported more than 20 apprentices since 2011 with the majority successfully securing permanent employment. As part of the National Apprenticeship Week celebrations four of the Council's apprentices had been awarded 'Blazing a Trail' Award, in recognition of the work they were doing and progress in their own career development. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman then presented these awards to Nicholas Whiteley, Mollie Johns, Rhian McLeod and James Coverdale.

The Chairman advised that he had attended a number of events (detailed below) and thanked the Vice-Chairman for attending some events on his behalf.

22/02/2019	Chairman's Awards Ceremony
23/02/2019	Scout and Guide Gang Show 2019 - Southminster Memorial Hall (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
24/02/2019	Royal National Lifeboat Institution Sherry Morning
03/03/2019	Essex County Council Chairman Civic Service
08/03/2019	Rochford Civic Dinner (<i>Vice-Chairman</i>)
15/03/2019	Burnham-on-Crouch Town's Annual Civic Reception
20/03/2019	High Sheriff Photo with Jacob (Back Pack Campaign)

1988. AUDIT COMMITTEE - 7 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Audit Committee held on 7 February 2019 be adopted.

1989. PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE - 7 MARCH 2019

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Licensing Committee held on 7 March 2019 be received.

Minute 930 – Local Development Scheme 2019 – 2011

RESOLVED

- (ii) That the Local Development Scheme (attached as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee) be approved as the project plan for key planning policy documents until February 2021.

Minute 932 – Maldon District Skills Strategy

RESOLVED

- (iii) That the Maldon District Skills Strategy 2018 – 2023 (attached as Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee) be adopted.

RESOLVED

- (iv) That subject to the above decisions, the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Licensing Committee held on 7 March 2019 be adopted.

1990. FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE - 12 MARCH 2019

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee held on 12 March 2019 be received.

Minute 950 – Updated Rate Relief Policy

RESOLVED

- (ii) That the proposed Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief Scheme attached as Appendix 1 to the Minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee be approved.

Minute 953 – Annual Review of Financial Regulations

RESOLVED

- (iii) That the Financial Regulations as set out in Appendix 2 to the Minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee be approved.

Minute 954 – Pay Policy Statement

RESOLVED

- (iv) That the Pay Policy Statement attached as Appendix 3 to the Minutes of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee be adopted for the financial year 2019 / 20.

Minute 953 – Disposal of Land at Springfield Road, Burnham-on-Crouch

RESOLVED

- (v) that the piece of land identified in the report at Springfield Road, Burnham-on-Crouch be sold for a value of £250,000 with a further option at a minimum price of £250,000 and uplift determined by the external valuer should any further residential development take place on the site

RESOLVED

- (vi) That subject to the above decisions, the Minutes of the meeting of the Finance and Corporate Services Committee held on 12 March 2019 be adopted.

1991. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council noted the list of Committees that had met before and since the last meeting of the Council, up until Wednesday 20 March 2019 for which Minutes had been published.

1992. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 6(3) OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

There were none.

1993. ADOPTION OF MALDON DISTRICT COUNCIL HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING STRATEGY

The Council considered the report of the Director of Strategy, Performance and Governance seeking Members' agreement of the adoption of the Homelessness and Housing Strategy (attached as Appendix 1 to the report).

Members were reminded that the draft Strategy had been approved for consultation by the Council in September 2018. During the six week period of consultation two responses were received and the detail of these was set out in the report. It was noted that the consultation process raised no real issues with the content of the Strategy and therefore it was recommended for adopted without the need for any amendments. However, Members were informed that since the drafting of the Strategy the Council had adopted a new Corporate Plan and therefore if Members were minded to adopt the Strategy further amendment would be required to reflect the newly adopted Corporate Plan.

In response to questions raised, the following information was provided by the Housing Options Team Leader:

- Under the Homelessness Reduction Act if a person is eligible for assistance and homeless within the legal definitions the Council must try and prevent their homelessness whether they have a local connection to the Maldon District Council are or not. People with have a local connection to Maldon if they have lived or worked in the area for a set period of time or have had relatives who have lived in the area for some time.
- If someone becomes homeless and does not have a local connection to Maldon District Council, then that person can be referred back to another Council where they have a local connection.
- The Council does not have an issue with London Councils placing people in the Maldon District Council area, unlike Harlow and Epping Forest Councils.
- Prior to the Homelessness Reduction Act if someone approached the Council for assistance due to homelessness their case would be looked at 28 days before they became homeless. Under the Homelessness Reduction Act the Council has to see what it can do to prevent homelessness 56 days before an applicant become homeless.

It was commented that the Strategy referred to the Strategic Housing Board which involved Members and the need for regular meetings of this Board.

RESOLVED that subject to the amendment (as detailed in Section 3.4 of the report) to update the Strategy to reflect the newly adopted Corporate Plan, the Maldon District Council Homelessness and Housing Strategy be adopted.

1994. QUESTIONS TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURE RULE 1 (3)(M)

Councillor S J Savage asked the Leader of the Council if he would agree that the current administration should be congratulated for having the lowest Council Tax rise in Essex. In response, the Leader of the Council agreed with Councillor Savage and advised that this demonstrated the hard work that the administration had put in to keep taxes low.

Councillor Mrs B D Harker asked the Leader of the Council if he was aware of any changes to the services delivered by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). In response the Leader of the Council advised that he was aware that the CAB were making efficiency savings and they would be continuing to deliver outreach in Maldon and Burnham-on-Crouch. He thanked Lucy Bettley and all the CAB staff (including volunteers) for their hard work.

Councillor R Pratt asked the Leader of the Council further to the announcement in the press regarding the closure of the Burnham-on-Crouch Tourist Information Centre what steps were being taken to provide a service in Burnham-on-Crouch for the future. In response the Leader advised that the Council had agreed to fund the service for 12 months and were hoping to enter into a community led partnership with Burnham Town Council but was awaiting their approach. He reported that in respect of Maldon the Council was working with a number of partners who were looking to bring forward a community led provision for the Maldon Town.

Councillor R P F Dewick asked the Leader of the Council if he could confirm that transformation would be completed by October. In response the Leader confirmed that Full Council Transformation project was on track and would be delivered on time. He advised that by this time next year the Council would be en-route to delivering £1.5 million savings per annum.

1995. CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL TO MAKE A STATEMENT

The Chairman read a statement thanking Members for electing him and their support during his term of office. He commented on the inspirational people he had met throughout the District, in the business sector as well as charities and other organisations including schools and some of the work he had done to promote and develop relationships. The Chairman thanked staff, including Directors for their support and made specific reference to Ms Hamdan, his personal assistant and Mr Dawes, Public Relations Manager. A copy of the Chairman's statement is attached at **APPENDIX 1** to these Minutes.

In response the Leader of the Council referred to the service that Councillor Bass and his family had given to the Council. On behalf of the Council he wished Councillor Bass a long and happy retirement. Following this a number of Members offered their individual thanks and congratulations to Councillor Bass.

1996. BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED BY THE CHAIRMAN TO BE URGENT

There was none.

1997. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items 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.

1998. MALDON HEALTH HUB PROJECT

The Council considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery seeking Members' consideration to invest further Officer time to reconsider the decision to develop the Maldon Health Hub, overseen by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).

The report provided background information regarding the Maldon Health Hub project which the Council, in February 2018, had withdrawn from due to a lack overall progress despite significant investment of senior officer time. At a recent meeting with the Clinical Commissioning Group and local patient user groups an update on the progress of the project was provided. At this time the Council was informed that should it wish to be involved in the delivery of the Maldon Health Hub its input was required and this report therefore sought reconsideration of the decision to withdraw.

Councillor A S Fluker declared an interest in this item of business due to a family member being treated at St. Peters Hospital.

Following a debate, Councillor Fluker, Leader of the Council, proposed that the recommendation as set out in the report be agreed. This was duly seconded and agreed.

RESOLVED that Officer time is invested to further consider future Maldon District Council involvement in the Maldon Health Hub project as determined by the Corporate Leadership Team with quarterly reports provided to the Council specifically on progress of the Maldon Health Hub Project, proposed service model and the Council's role in the future delivery of the project.

1999. PROMENADE PARK KIOSK LEASES UPDATE

The Council considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery informing Members of leases due to expire for kiosks in the Promenade Park and seeking their renewal. Appendix 1 to the report highlighted the location of the kiosks within the Promenade Park.

It was noted that the leases for the kiosks fell under the 1954 Landlord and Tenant Act and therefore they had the right to renew on the same terms and conditions of previous agreements.

RESOLVED that the leases for Kiosks 3 and 7 as shown on the map at Appendix 1 to the report be renewed until March 2022 subject to the terms and conditions of the previous agreements.

2000. EXTENSION OF STREET CLEANSING SERVICES AND GARDEN WASTE PROCESSING CONTRACTS

The Council considered the report of the Director of Service Delivery seeking Members' consideration an option to extend the existing contracts for Street Cleansing Services and Garden Waste Processing for four years until 31 March 2024.

The report provided background information to the procurement and award of these contracts. Further details of the current contractor's performance was also detailed. It was noted that the Council had not been able to complete soft market testing an in-depth evaluation carried out prior to the award of contract demonstrated value for money at that time. Members were advised that under the current contract 12 months' notice of the Council's intentions was required.

RESOLVED that the current contract for Street Cleansing Services with Appleton Contracts Ltd be extended for a further four years, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2024, in accordance with the provisions contained within the existing contract.

There being no further items of business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

H M BASS
CHAIRMAN

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Statement made by Councillor Henry Bass at the Council meeting on 28 March 2019

Members, this being my last Council meeting, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for electing me as chairman for the last two years.

Because of my family's connection with this Council it has been a real honour to wear this chain of office but also, a true privilege because it depicts the image of this wonderful district to which I am greatly attracted.

As you all know, as well as attending civic events outside of the district, I set myself a task of visiting businesses and organisations within the District mainly but not exclusively in the rural areas.

During these visits I have met many inspirational people who display vision and enterprise, in the business sector as well as charities and other organisations. Wherever I went I always received a great welcome.

With the help of the Press Office and Economic Development Team we were able to offer encouragement and support by signposting grant aid and support organisations. I have encouraged apprenticeships, liaison with schools and promoted the Council's Sense of Place initiative which is becoming widely adopted. My business awards and corporate breakfast events proved popular and encouraged networking and sharing ideas. We may have a major construction event on the horizon and I think it is vital that local talent is ready to take part to the obvious benefit of the District.

Members, I now turn my attention to the staff who are the backbone of this authority. I greatly appreciate the help and support I have received from the Directors and all staff members who I have worked with. I would like to offer my sincere best wishes for the future to all staff members.

I have to mention two names, first Alia Hamdan my PA who organised my diary and civic events with exemplar professionalism. I enjoyed her wit and practical jokes. And of course Russell Dawes who has been highly supportive in organising visits, issuing press releases almost weekly, which I hope have promoted the District and also kept you informed of my movements. I have valued his help and advice particularly with speech writing and protocol.

Finally I would like to say to those of you who, like myself, are not seeking re-election, I wish you a long and happy retirement.

The election will bring new faces and ideas which I am sure will sustain the Council's future in the years to come.

Over the past two years I have done my best to promote the Council, and at the same time learn a great deal about the District, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thank you for allowing this to happen.

I wish you all the best for the future.

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