

Minutes

Environment and Enforcement Committee Wednesday, 26th September, 2018

Attendance

Cllr Parker (Chair)	Cllr Morrissey
Cllr Bridge (Vice-Chair)	Cllr Naylor
Cllr Mrs Fulcher	Cllr Tierney
Cllr McLaren	Cllr Wiles

Apologies

Cllr Poppy

Substitute Present

Cllr Mrs Pound (substituting for Cllr Poppy)

Also Present

Officers Present

David Carter	-	Environmental Health Manager
Mike Dun	-	Trade Waste Officer
Darren Laver	-	Operations Manager, Operational Services
Tracey Lilley	-	Enforcement Manager
Zoe Borman	-	Governance and Member Support Officer
Stuart Anderson	-	Deputy Operations Manager
Greg Campbell	-	Director Of Operations

143. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Poppy and Cllr Mrs Pound was substituting.

144. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes from the Environment and Enforcement Committee held on 4th July 2018 were approved as a true record.

145. Chair's Update

Members noted updates from Officers set out in the agenda.

The following clarifications were provided by the Chair and appropriate officers answered questions posed by Members and advised as follows:

- Performance indicators would not be used at this point to measure a service that had only recently been set up and was not fully functional at present. However, these could be developed in the future to support the service delivery. In the meantime, relevant updates and progression of the service would be reported to this committee, along with an internally produced newsletter for information.
- It was confirmed that the Council's Community Safety Accredited Officers do not have the powers of arrest afforded to Police Officers.
- The Community Safety Accredited Officers, once trained, will enhance and support the work carried out by the Civil Enforcement Officers.
- Help and engagement with homeless and working alongside homeless charities and Police is ongoing. Aggressive begging and anti-social behaviour in the High Street will be targeted, ensuring the High Street is a safe place for all.
- There is no future scope to broaden the range of parking offences in the borough. These powers lie with the Police and what is classified as a parking obstruction is based on their case by case risk assessment.

Members noted the contents of the report.

146. Recycling Contract

The current contract for processing our mixed dry recyclables is to end 3 May 2019 and it is necessary to commence the procurement process to ensure that a contractor is in place as from the 6 May 2019.

It was proposed to join a procurement partnership exercise, which is led by Basildon Borough Council; the other partners are Castle Point Borough Council, Rochford District Council and Uttlesford District Council.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Parker and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bridge to approve the recommendation in the report.

Cllr Fulcher questioned whether this item should be referred to Policy, Performance and Resource Committee given the high cost of the contract. It was advised that it was under the power of this Committee to approve the contract but may be ratified at Policy, Performance and Resource Committee at a later date.

Cllr Fulcher voiced her frustration in tracking this contract's history through past Agendas and Minutes as this Committee has gone through three recent name changes; and requested this be noted. Cllr Fulcher asked whether other borough's recyclables would be handled at the depot and was advised that it would be purely Brentwood waste handled from the Brentwood depot.

A vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Committee delegate authority to the Director of Operations to lead on the procurement exercise and to finalise the contractual agreement with the successful bidder, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer.**

Reasons for Recommendation

Members were requested to concur with the recommendations set out in 2.1, as this will enable the Council to react to scenarios and agree, or act, upon solutions; ensuring the procurement process is seamless.

147. Winter Maintenance Local Plan

In the event of adverse weather conditions during the winter, a winter maintenance local plan is activated. This report outlines the steps to be followed in such an event.

The main actions are to ensure minimal disruption to the waste and recycling collection services, and to offer support to the Essex County Council's gritting activities.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Parker and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bridge to approve the recommendations in the report.

Cllr Wiles requested a record of his appreciation to staff, especially those at the depot, for the superb work undertaken with regards to gritting in the borough during the particularly bad weather experienced last year.

After a full discussion a vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

- 1. That the Committee approve the Winter Maintenance Local Plan for 2018/19.**
- 2. That the Committee agree to delegate authority to the Director of Operations on issues concerning the deployment of resources.**

Reasons for Recommendation

Members were requested to approve the recommendations to ensure that effective decision making is undertaken within the framework of a structured approach.

148. Amendment to the Cemetery Regulations in respect of Floral Tributes

In 2014 the Council reviewed the cemetery regulations to govern the Cemeteries in London Road, Woodman Road and Lorne Road.

The 2014 review proved beneficial to both informing residents and the bereaved of their rights as set out in the Exclusive Right of Burial (ERB) holder.

However, since the introduction of the ERB there has been a noted increase in the trend to place pots, containers, plants and ornaments on a burial plot.

Often these items are left on a burial plot even after the plants have perished or ornaments have deteriorated. This can result in numerous empty pots/containers remaining on or around a grave.

This gives an unkept or neglected look to the cemetery, detracting from its appearance for all users.

An amendment to the current Cemetery Regulations was sought in order to take a sympathetic but practical approach to address the issue of excessive or uncared for items being left on a burial plot.

Further, it was clarified that the approach to the introduction of the amendment would be sympathetic and achieved over a period of time through contact with plot holders and appropriate signage.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Parker and **SECONDED** by Cllr Bridge to approve the recommendations in the report.

Following a full discussion a vote was taken by a show of hands and it was **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY**:

- 1. That Members approve the amendment to the current cemetery regulations as set out in Section 4.2 of the report.**

Reasons for Recommendation

Cemeteries are a sensitive and emotionally emotive area of operation within the Council. As such, any actions taken must be carried out first and foremost with the families of all those buried in the cemetery in mind, and the feelings of those individuals. For this reason, it is important that the Council act as an intermediary in controlling what is placed on a grave within one of its sites.

To allow for greater control and regularisation of the placing of ornaments, pots, containers and floral tributes on graves.

To ensure that the visual appeal of the cemetery is preserved for all those visiting the facility.

149. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting concluded at 20:08