

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2019**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Derek Levy, Huseyin Akpinar, Tolga Aramaz, Gina Needs,
Lee David-Sanders and Edward Smith

**STATUTORY
CO-OPTES:** *1 vacancy (Church of England diocese representative), Mr
Simon Goulden (other faiths/denominations representative),
Mr Tony Murphy (Catholic diocese representative), Alicia
Meniru & 1 vacancy (Parent Governor representative) - Italics
Denotes absence*

OFFICERS: Doug Wilkinson (Director of Environment & Operational
Services)
Jessie Lea (Head of Strategic Property Services)
Susan O'Connell (Secretary)
Elaine Huckell (Scrutiny Secretary)

Also Attending: Councillor Joanne Laban (Leader of the Opposition),
Councillor Lindsay Rawlings, Simon Allin, (Newsquest North
London)

1064

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair, Councillor Levy welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from Councillor Susan Erbil, Councillor Ahmet
Oykener (Cabinet Member Property and Assets), Mark Bradbury and Wesley
Pemberton.

1065

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1066

**CALL IN: PROPOSED MARKETING AND LEASEHOLD DISPOSAL OF
WHITEWEBBS PARK GOLF COURSE**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Law and Governance
outlining details of a call-in received on the Portfolio decision taken on -

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Proposed marketing and leasehold disposal of Whitewebbs Park Golf Course (Report No:210).

NOTED that this report was considered in conjunction with the information in the part 2 agenda.

Councillor Levy reminded everyone that discussion on the call-in should be about the specific reason for call-in given in the papers and response to this. He asked Councillor Laban if Overview and Scrutiny Committee were being asked to revert the decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Property and Assets and Councillor Laban gave confirmation to this.

All the discussion on the item took place in the part 2 section of the meeting.

1067

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2019

AGREED the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2019.

1068

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved in accordance with the principles of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of the Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

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PROPOSED MARKETING AND LEASEHOLD DISPOSAL OF WHITEWEBBS PARK GOLF COURSE

The Committee received the information provided on the Proposed Marketing and Leasehold Disposal of Whitewebbs Park Golf Course, which had been included in the part 2 section of the agenda.

NOTED

The information was considered in conjunction with the report on the part 1 agenda.

The Chair invited Councillor Laban to outline the reason for call-in.

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Councillor Laban referred to the Delegated Authority Report which requested that a more flexible approach be taken to marketing and agreeing the property transaction of Whitewebbs Golf Course to optimise the delivery of the Council's wider corporate objectives. The reason given for call-in was that the report failed to go into any detail as to why the current business model is failing.

Councillor Laban highlighted the following:

- The report did not give details of the type of interest that is expected for maximising the level of commercial interest in Whitewebbs Park Golf Course.
- No reference is made in the report to Whitewebbs Park being in the heart of the Green Belt area which is greatly valued by Enfield residents.
- If losses had been made over previous years it was questioned why efforts had not been made sooner to improve the situation.

The responses given were as follows:

- Doug Wilkinson said details relating to this property asset had been included in a previous report, this was the second report on this issue.
- The Council had improved marketing and reduced costs. All efforts had been made to improve finances, but the model was failing.
- One reason the model was failing may be due to licensing restrictions.

Other points discussed included:

- This was a great community asset.
- Although numbers appeared to be declining a reduced loss was shown for 2018/19.
- Whether money should have been invested to improve facilities. It was stated that the Council was becoming more commercially focused, as it needed to ensure an enterprise was financially viable.
- A leisure related facility/ opportunity is anticipated for consideration. A lease would be limited to twenty-five years. No development to be considered if not planning compliant.
- The report shows that attempts had been made in the past to improve finances and this decision was an attempt to make the asset an economically viable one.
- Consultation would include 'Friends of Parks Group'

Following the discussion and noting the answers given, Councillor Laban said she would be happy for the decision to stand.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the reason provided for the call-in and responses provided. Having considered the information provided the Committee agreed to confirm the original Portfolio decision:

2.1 Agrees to the proposed marketing and disposal process described within the report, for Whitewebbs Park Golf Course.

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2.2 Delegates the authority to the Director of Property and Economy to instruct the Director of Law and Governance to draw up legal agreements for a suitable property transaction for Whitewebbs Park Golf Course.

2.3-2.4 Recommendations detailed in the Part 2 report

Councillors Levy, Akpinar, Aramaz and Needs voted in favour of the above decision. Councillors David-Sanders and Smith voted against. The original Portfolio decision was therefore agreed.

Councillor David-Sanders said he would like it noted that he voted against the decision because he thought that this should have been undertaken once the new Property Strategy was agreed.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

NOTED the dates of future meetings as follows:

Call-In Meetings

- Tuesday 23 April 2019
- Wednesday 1 May 2019