

AMENITIES & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Reading on Wednesday 24th May 2017 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, Dr N Brock, T Chambers, D Chopping, Mrs M De Jong, Ms P Dunn and B Wedge.

Also in Attendance Councillor Miss J Rance (left at 8.05pm)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Firmager, Mrs S Matthews.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2017 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Miss L K Blumenthal be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Amenities & Leisure Committee for the ensuing Municipal Year.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES

Consideration was given to the appointment of Sub-Committees and Working Parties for the ensuing year.

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED that the following be appointed:

Culver Lane Allotment Working Party – The Mayor (Councillor M Firmager), Deputy Mayor (Councillor B Wedge) together with Councillors Dr N Brock, Ms M C de Jong, Mrs S Matthews and Miss J Rance together with a co-opted member nominated by the Horticultural Society

Local Nature Reserve Advisory Group – Councillors Dr N Brock, Mrs L Chambers, Ms M C de Jong and Miss J Rance

Mays Lane Cemetery Working Party – Councillors M Ahmed, A Bradley, D Chopping, Ms P Dunn and M J Firmager.

Community & Youth Centres Working Group – Councillors G Grandison, Mrs M De Jong, Mrs L Chambers, T Chambers and Miss J Rance

4. LAUREL PARK

4.1 Potential Transfer from Wokingham Borough Council to Earley Town Council

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2017**

Councillor Miss J Rance JP gave a verbal update from the Christmas Celebrations Working Party and reported that following the inaugural meeting, a number of ideas were to be followed up and these would be progressed at the next meeting to be held on 15th June 2017 in the Council Chamber.

6. **REDHATCH COPSE**

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of this item.

7. **COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES**

7.1 Community & Youth Centres Working Group

The Town Clerk advised that a report had been received from the marketing consultant for consideration but the report had not been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Consequently, it was

RESOLVED that once the report had been circulated, any comments be forwarded to the Working Group to collate and report to the next meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee for further discussion.

7.2 Radstock Lane Community Centre

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of this item.

8. **MAYS LANE CEMETERY**

Further to Minute 56, the Town Clerk reported that he had written to a number of organisations both nationally and locally from the Muslim Communities, but to date had not received any responses. It was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk agreed to write a follow-up letter to these organisations for official guidance on Muslim burials in consecrated ground, and also to pursue a further organisation whose details had been passed to him.

9. **CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS**

9.1 Best Allotment Competition

Following the appointment of the Culver Lane Allotment Working Party, Members were asked to consider dates for site meetings of the Working Party and it was

RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk allocate five dates, between June and October for the site meetings and circulate these to members of the Working Party.

10. **MAIDEN ERLEGH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**

10.1 Angling Matters

Councillors noted the following dates for angling events in 2017 as follows:

Competitions

Saturday 9 th September	Adult Fishing Match	10am – 4.00pm
Saturday 23 rd September	Charity Fishing Match	10am – 4.00pm

Open Event

Saturday 29 th July	EA Family Fishing	10am – 2.00pm
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It was further noted that this event was designed for people of all ages who wished to try fishing but who may not have previously participated, to come along for a free day and included tuition.

10.2 Complimentary Fishing Permits

Members were advised that there had been occasions in the past when complimentary permits had been issued, usually in recognition of past services as a Bailiff. Accordingly, consideration was given as to whether any complimentary permits should be approved for the forthcoming fishing season.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

10.3 Water Bailiff Applications

Members were asked to consider the appointments of Water Bailiffs for 2017/18.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

10.4 Honorariums

Members were asked to consider the payment of honorariums to Water Bailiffs for 2017/18. It was noted that last year, the Council agreed to pay £100 for those Bailiffs who have attended in excess of ten Working Parties. Other Bailiffs receive a pro rata payment if they complete a minimum of five Working Parties.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

11. **FINANCIAL REVIEW**11.1 Sol Joel Park

The Committee was reminded that this item formed part of the ongoing review of amenities as previously agreed by the Committee.

Members were further advised that the Town Council managed the Park under a Lease arrangement from Reading Borough Council. The Lease was signed in 2001 and the facilities comprised of a children's play area, multi-sports areas, a skateboard facility and a large field which could be used for football and cricket. There was also a Pavilion on the site.

The income and expenditure for the Park is as follows:

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u>	<u>Est. 16/17</u>	<u>Rev. 16/17</u>	<u>Act. 16/17</u>
	£	£	£	£
Maintenance	13,906.87	11,000.00	10,500.00	12,269.15
Wages	52,000.00	54,288.00	40,000.00	32,456.85
Training	900.00	920.00	1,000.00	818.00
Clinical Waste Disp.	1,183.34	1,500.00	1,750.00	1,229.42
Water Rates	904.57	765.00	525.00	453.82
Lighting & Heating Costs	2,148.71	3,000.00	3,000.00	2,740.89
Supplies	1,945.10	2,500.00	4,500.00	4,690.09
Repairs	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Staff Mobiles	266.95	260.00	275.00	255.01
Telephone	800.44	410.00	520.00	698.12
Signage	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bark/Safety Surfacing	876.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00
Tree/Hedge Planting	0.00	500.00	250.00	186.12
Play Equip. Maint.	2,134.44	1,500.00	11,000.00	8,678.12
TOTAL:	77,166.42	78,443.00	75,120.00	64,575.59

<u>Income</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u>	<u>Est. 16/17</u>	<u>Rev. 16/17</u>	<u>Act. 16/17</u>
	£	£	£	£
Sol Joel Park Fees	10,279.57	10,100.00	9,900.00	10,532.04
Sol Joel Park Contracts	3,758.61	4,000.00	3,650.00	2,316.50
Sol Joel Ins. Claim	0.00	0.00	7,887.00	7,887.00
Sol Joel Park Resale Inc.	82.88	0.00	82.88	0.00
Sol Joel Park 106 Monies	98,883.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sol Joel Park School Cont.	4,285.00	4,370.00	4,370.00	4,370.00
Sol Joel Park Misc. Inc.	12,051.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	12,9340.77	18,470.00	25,889.88	25,105.54

Members were requested to note that there is no Local Authority Rate to be paid on the Park, because the Borough Council had exempted sports pavilions from rating.

The major overhead is wages but, if taken out of the equation, a significant contribution is made to the other running costs by the income from fees and from various sub-contracts that the park staff undertakes largely for schools and other Parish Councils.

The S106 funding for 2015/16 was for the installation of the Inclusive Play Area, which has proved very popular.

Provisions made in the capital budget are shown in the table below:

<u>Capital Items</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u>	<u>Est 16/17</u>	<u>Rev 16/17</u>	<u>Act 16/17</u>
	£	£	£	£
SJ CCTV Upgrade	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00
SJ Improvement Fees	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00
SJ Car Park & Footpath	0.00	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00
SJP Further Development	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00
SJP New Machinery	0.00	1,500.00	1,252.50	1,252.50
S106 Inclusive Play Area	98,529.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	98,529.56	30,000.00	41,752.50	1,252.50

Councillors are asked to note all entries for 2016/2017 are on a cash basis, prior to end of year adjustments.

Planned capital expenditure for 17/18 is as follows:

Sol Joel Park Further Development	£12,000
Sol Joel Park Improvement Fees	£2,500
Replacement Equipment	£8,500

12. **PUBLICATIONS**

The Committee noted that the following item had been received and was available for viewing in the Council Chamber.

NAMM :	News – February, March & April 2017
Swan Lifeline Newsletter	Spring 2017
Fields in Trust	Field Notes Spring/Summer 2017

13. **PRESS RELEASES**

RESOLVED that

1. the item relating to the appointment of Councillor Miss L Blumenthal as Vice-Chairman of the Amenities & Leisure Committee should receive emphasis
2. the item relating to the appointment of Councillors to the following sub-committees and working parties should receive emphasis

Culver Lane Allotment Working Party
 Local Nature Reserve Advisory Group
 Mays Lane Cemetery Working Party
 Community & Youth Centres Working Party

3. the items relating to the dates for the 2017 angling events should receive emphasis.
4. the item relating to Nigel Burkitt's photograph of 'An Urban Roadside Poppy Meadow' winning first prize in the Greening Grey Britain category of the RHS Photographic Competition

14. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.57pm.