

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 Monday 27th February 2017 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Dr N Brock, T Chambers, D Chopping (from 8.15pm), M Firmager, G Grandison, Mrs S Matthews and Miss J Rance JP.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, Mrs M De Jong.

54. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

55.1 Radstock Community Centre

Further to Minute 48.2, wherein the Town Clerk reported on recent communications with Wokingham Borough Council concerning the level of rent to be paid by the Town Council as Tenant of Radstock Community Centre, Councillors were requested to consider a report from the Town Clerk on the lease rental terms.

In view of the subject matter to be discussed, Councillors were requested to consider this item as confidential business.

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

56. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

At the request of a Member, Councillors considered the allocation of 'Muslim grave space' in the extension area of the Cemetery which was subject to development in the foreseeable future. Councillors also considered the allocation of space for residents of both Earley and Woodley.

The Town Clerk reported that the unconsecrated area of the cemetery currently specified for Muslim burials for residents of Earley and Woodley was a small space and if this were opened to a wider residential area this would quickly become full. He reported that the entire extension area of the cemetery had been consecrated and would be in use within the next 5-7 years given current trends. The Town Clerk further reported that the Church of England rules had recently changed and whereas previously only practising Christians were entitled to be buried in consecrated land, the rules had been relaxed and that burials could now take place where the deceased was from another faith. Following discussion on the diversity of the Muslim faith it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk write to an official Muslim body at national level for official guidance on burials in consecrated ground.

57. LAUREL PARK

57.1 Potential Transfer from Wokingham Borough Council to Earley Town Council

The Town Clerk circulated draft Heads of Terms for consideration by Councillors.

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

58. REDHATCH COPSE

The Town Clerk reported that an update had been received from Persimmon Homes but this was not in line with the detailed S106 Management Plan requirements and a response had been forwarded to Borough Officers. Additionally, the Town Council had received a map which outlined the area of responsibility for the Town Council following transfer and whilst this showed progress, it was considered to be lacking in detail and further information had been requested.

59. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2017

A Member requested that Councillors consider the possibility of a wider community Christmas event in December 2017 at a suitable location in the Town and it was

RESOLVED that a Working Party be established consisting of three or four members of the Council to consider the idea further.

60. COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Councillors noted the written report on the Laurel Park Orchard circulated at the meeting from the Earley Community Orchard Group and the verbal update on the orchard at Paddick Drive and also at Bulmershe open space area owned jointly with Woodley Town Council and maintained by them. The Paddick Drive orchard is thriving despite some damage to the bark of the trees by deer and it was reported that the Park Ranger and Volunteers had installed some fencing to try to reduce this problem. The trees in the orchard at Bulmershe were still very small and it was highlighted that currently no volunteers are involved in this area.

61. FINANCIAL REVIEW

61.1 Cemeteries & Allotments

61.1.1 Cemeteries

Members were reminded that the Town Council managed the Cemetery in Mays Lane. Different fee scales are charged, dependent on the place of residence as agreed by the Committee

The Income and Expenditure for the Cemetery for 2016/17 was as follows:

Expenditure

<u>CEMETERY</u>	<u>Est.16/17</u> £	<u>Act. to</u> <u>30/11/16</u> £	<u>Rev.16/17</u> £	<u>Est.17/18</u> £
Rates	195.00	193.60	193.60	200.00
Maintenance	2870.00	1773.78	2675.00	3400.00
Spoil Disposal	530.00	315.12	500.00	500.00
Tree Removal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wages	20480.00	11571.96	18500.00	20780.00
Gatekeeper	2200.00	1564.80	2350.00	2375.00
Grass Cutting	7380.00	7584.00	8532.00	8600.00
Unsafe Memorial Repair	156.00	0.00	156.00	156.00
Water Rates	250.00	194.66	300.00	350.00
Memorials/Trees	250.00	241.50	300.00	300.00
Sundries	50.00	166.75	500.00	50.00
New Spine	1150.00	0.00	1150.00	2000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	35,511.00	23,606.17	35,156.60	38,711.00

Income

<u>CEMETERY</u>	<u>Est.16/17</u> £	<u>Act. to</u> <u>30/11/16</u> £	<u>Rev.16/17</u> £	<u>Est.17/18</u> £
Cemetery Charges	51000.00	38579.87	54000.00	58650.00
Licence Fee	8197.76	8197.76	8197.76	8197.76
TOTAL INCOME	59197.76	46777.63	62197.76	66847.76

NET EXPENDITURE	-23,686.76	-23,171.46	-27041.16	-28,136.76
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Councillors were requested to note that £2,500 had been included in the 2017/18 Capital Budget for resurfacing the access road, plus £1,500 for signage.

61.1.2 **Allotments**

Councillors were reminded that the Town Council managed an allotment site in Culver Lane. The Income and Expenditure for the allotments for 2016/17 was as follows:

Expenditure

<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>	<u>Est.16/17</u> £	<u>Act. to</u> <u>30/11/16</u> £	<u>Rev.16/17</u> £	<u>Est.17/18</u> £
Maintenance	2000.00	798.27	1850.00	2000.00
Pest Control	520.00	230.00	500.00	520.00
Wages	1710.00	1068.75	1600.00	1735.00
Water Rates	615.00	641.79	950.00	1000.00
Sundries	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,895.00	2,738.81	4,900.00	5,305.00

Income

<u>ALLOTMENTS</u>	<u>Est.16/17</u> £	<u>Act. to</u> <u>30/11/16</u> £	<u>Rev.16/17</u> £	<u>Est.17/18</u> £
Charges (income from rental)	3200.00	96.25	3200.00	3300.00
TOTAL INCOME	3,200.00	96.25	3,200.00	3,300.00

NET EXPENDITURE	1,695.00	2,642.52	1,700.00	2,005.00
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The Committee was requested to note that the estimated income is based upon the expectation of uptake of the allotment plots and that the allotment year ran from 1st January. Therefore, this estimate had to be made almost one year in advance. Nevertheless, the actual income from allotment rents was £3,178.00 as at 20th February 2017.

Members were also advised that a differential rate was charged for new plot holders in order to move towards the allotments being self-funding.

Members noted that the wages outturn for both the Cemetery and the Allotments was a reflection of the apportionment of time between different aspects of the services across the Committee.

62. PUBLICATIONS

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

NAMM:	News – January 2017.
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63. PRESS RELEASES

No press releases were requested.

64. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.17pm.