

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 18th January 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, M Firmager, G Grandison, Mrs S Matthews and Miss J Rance JP.

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th October 2016 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

47. ESTIMATES

Consideration was given to the draft estimates of income and expenditure for 2017/18 and the revised estimates for 2016/17 which had been circulated with the agenda for Councillors' consideration. Members were reminded that, following any recommendations made by this Committee, the draft budget would be forwarded to the Policy & Resources Committee for comment to assist in the preparation of the Precept Working Papers.

The Town Clerk drew Members attention to the budget for Sol Joel Park CCTV upgrade and revealed that following examination of the quotations received to date, the cost of the equipment would be a maximum of £10,000 enabling the budget for this item to be reduced by £2,000.

The Town Clerk highlighted that the estimates presented had not made allowance for any work at the football pitches at Laurel Park as transfer of the area was still subject to negotiation.

In considering the capital budget for 2017/18 the Facilities Manager highlighted that some items of equipment were in excess of 20 years old and there was an increasing financial burden associated with the man hours and cost of repair. Replacement of the quadraplay and ride-on-mower would ensure continuity of maintenance at Sol Joel Park and also at other areas in the future.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

1. the revised estimates following the cost reduction for CCTV at Sol Joel Park for 2016/17 be approved
2. the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the draft estimates as amended for 2017/18

48. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

48.1 Community & Youth Centres' Working Group

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the contents of a confidential report from the Community & Youth Working Group previously circulated.

48.2 Radstock Community Centre

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

49. LAUREL PARK49.1 Potential Transfer from Wokingham Borough Council to Earley Town Council

The Town Clerk reported that draft Heads of Terms had been received from Wokingham Borough Council. He also reported that up-to-date figures had been received from the Borough for maintenance costs.

The Facilities Manager together with a number of Councillors expressed concerns regarding the poor condition of the Laurel Park football pitches. These centred around the lack of work which had been undertaken over the summer months to ensure the area continued to be preserved in a good condition for future use. Councillors considered that continued deterioration of the pitches could mean the costs of improvement would ultimately be borne by the Town Council once any transfer takes place.

Councillors discussed the possibility of the Council undertaking a topographical survey prior to handover of the area which would inform future budgetary requirements around improvement and ongoing maintenance of the pitches and it was

RESOLVED that Officers investigate the possibility of undertaking a topographical survey of the area to inform budgetary requirements.

50. REDHATCH COPSE

The Committee received a verbal update from the Senior Park Ranger.

It was noted that following a meeting involving Council and Borough Officers together with representatives from Persimmon Homes prior to Christmas, Persimmon Homes had been asked to provide a report outlining the actions required to complete the outstanding items on the S106 Management Plan. To date no further information had been received. Councillors expressed concern over the length of time being taken to handover the Copse.

Officers would continue to monitor the situation and put pressure on Wokingham Borough Council and the contractor to complete the outstanding items.

51. PUBLICATIONS

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

NAMM:	News – October/November 2016 News – November/December 2016 News – November 2016
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52. **PRESS RELEASES**

It was

RESOLVED that further information regarding the Council's disappointment at the length of time taken to handover Redhatch Copse by Persimmon Homes should receive special press attention.

53. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.07pm.