



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 7th November 2018 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Dr N Brock, Ms P Dunn and Mrs S Matthews

In attendance: Jo Friend (Town Clerk), Jo Shaw (Deputy Town Clerk), Stewart Walton (Facilities Manager), Ashley Prior (Park Ranger) and Councillor Mrs J Rance JP

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, A Bradley, T Chambers, D Chopping, Mrs M De Jong and B Wedge.

30. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

31. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

31.1 Silverdale Centre

The Town Clerk reported that the Music Fusion Project has proved to be successful with an average of 10-15 young people attending each week. They are writing and practising their own songs at the Music Fusion Youth Group, using instruments and equipment in the practice room and music studio, and will be performing some of their work at a gig to be held at the Readipop studio on 10th December 2018.

31.2 Centrepoint

The Town Clerk recently met with Sam Ruck who advised that the first session of the Youth Club to be held at Centrepoint would be on Friday 2nd November between 7.30 and 8.30pm. The target age range is 11-16 but this may be changed in the future depending on the numbers attending. Sam reported that 10 volunteers from local churches had been recruited. The first session had been quiet but successful. Posters advertising the group would be available soon.

31.3 Radstock Lane Community Centre

The Town Clerk reported that the independent expert had submitted the Town Council's case for the determination of costs which would be conducted by the RICS appointed Arbitrator. It was noted that Wokingham Borough Council had agreed to pay the Arbitrator fees.

32. REDHATCH COPSE

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the representative from Persimmon was due to meet

with their own landscape contractor to arrange the remedy of outstanding items. Borough Officers had requested a detailed programme following that meeting.

33. LAUREL PARK

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.

34 CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

34.1 Best Kept Allotment

The members of the Working Party had visited the site several times during the year to decide the winner of the Best Allotment and Most Improved Allotment Competition 2018.

Councillors were asked to receive details of the recipients of the Awards in 2018 and noted that the winners would be invited to the Mayor's Christmas Reception on 12th December 2018.

The winners were as follows: Best Allotment – Plot 50
Most Improved Allotment – Plot 48

35 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Following liaison with Asda, the Working Party reported that five local schools will be attending the 4.30pm and 5.30pm sessions on 4th, 5th and 6th December in the Asda foyer to sing Christmas songs. The children have also been invited to provide small, decorated paper plates which Asda's Community Life Champion will hang on the foyer Christmas tree. Councillors and Officers of the Council, wearing festive jumpers, will attend to collect donations for the Mayor's charities.

36. LOWER EARLEY SCARECROW TRAIL

The Town Clerk reported that Earley Town Council submitted two entries into the Lower Earley Scarecrow Trail and that Council staff had enjoyed getting involved with this community event. The Scarecrow Trail had been very successful and proved very popular with residents. It was agreed that Andrea Pollard, the organiser, be invited to the Mayor's Reception.

37. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH 2025 – PLAN UPDATE

Members of the Amenities & Leisure Committee were requested to identify their top three priorities for submission to Full Council and the Borough Plan Consultation. Following some discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Amenities & Leisure Committee priorities be -

1. Clean, green & enjoyable spaces
2. Tackling traffic congestion
3. Health and well-being

38 PUBLICATIONS

No publications had been received.

39. PRESS RELEASES

RESOLVED that the following items should receive special press attention

1. The Lower Earley Scarecrow Trail
2. Schools Christmas Celebrations to be held at Asda

40. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting as declared closed by the Chairman at 8.40pm