



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, 27th February 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chairman - Councillor L Chambers

Councillors A Bradley, Dr N Brock, T Chambers, D Chopping (from 8.07pm), M De Jong, P Dunn, S Matthews and B Wedge.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), J Shaw (Deputy Town Clerk), G Hawker (Senior Park Ranger), A Prior (Park Ranger) and Councillor W Luck.

The first twenty minutes of the meeting were set aside for members of the public to pose questions to the Council. There were no members of the public present.

58. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Blumenthal.

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

61. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

61.1 Maiden Place Community Centre

The Town Clerk reported that the sub-lease with Maiden Place Social Club would expire during March 2019 and that the Social Club had expressed interest in renewing the lease. In addition, following the Club's submission of a planning application for a smoking shelter, Council Officers had met with Club representatives to discuss the plans and it had been agreed that further design details would be supplied to the Council in due course. Councillors were of the opinion that the Social Club was well used by residents and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk pursues a lease renewal with Maiden Place Social Club and instructs Solicitors to draw up a draft lease taking note that an amendment to the lease may be required once the planning application is concluded.

62. SIBLY DEVELOPMENT

Councillors noted the contents of the written report on the current position of the S106 transfer which highlighted that Persimmon were willing to accept the transfer boundary identified but wished to include two footpaths which served as direct access to properties on the development. The two footpaths were not covered by the S106 transfer to the Town Council and, therefore, Town Council Officers had contacted Borough Council Officers to suggest the Borough Council adopted these pathways.

63. SOL JOEL PARK

Councillors noted that the annual play inspection had been completed and that the Inspectors were impressed with the standard of the equipment and had graded all risks as low or very low.

64. FLOWER BED - REQUEST

Councillors discussed the request from Whitegates Residents' Association, ACER, for wild flower planting on the triangle of grass bounded by The Drive and Erleigh Court Gardens and

RESOLVED that, on condition of approval from the landowner, Wokingham Borough Council, the Town Council will construct and plant up a flower bed in this location.

65. VISUAL AUDIT

Councillors noted that the next Visual Audit, arranged by Thames Valley Police, would take place on 5th March 2019 and would cover the Chalfont Park area. The Town Council's Facilities Manager would attend.

66. HUGE EARLEY LITTER PICK

Councillors noted that the annual Huge Early Litter Pick will take place on Sunday, 24th March. Groups of volunteers will be working in the vicinity of the Interpretation Centre and also in the area around McDonalds. The Town Council will be in attendance with a team of volunteers comprising of both Officers and Councillors.

The Town Clerk reported that the Borough Council had agreed to clear the brambles in Elderberry Way and that this would enable the unsightly litter to be collected from the area on a regular basis.

67. PUBLICATIONS

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

NAMM:	News Bulletin – January 2019.
Thames Valley Police	Police and Crime Online Bulletin – February 2019.
Fields in Trust	February 2019 Update – e-bulletin

CCB (Connecting Communities in Berkshire <i>formerly</i> Community Council for Berkshire)	Action for All News – February e-bulletin
--	---

Councillor D Chopping arrived at the meeting.

68. LOCAL ARTS LOAN SCHEME

This matter was referred to the Amenities and Leisure Committee by Council at its meeting of 20th February 2019.

Members discussed the continuation and scale of the Town Council’s participation in the Local Arts Loan Scheme. Councillors were of the opinion that the benefits derived from membership of the scheme were not commensurate with the costs involved. It was

RESOLVED that

1. the Council’s participation in the Local Arts Loan Scheme would cease.
2. the Council to consider how it may provide alternative creative and artistic activities and/or opportunities, especially ones involving local schools.

69. PRESS RELEASES

It was requested that the following items receive special press attention:

1. Successful play equipment inspections at Sol Joel Park.
2. Huge Earley Litter Pick (HELP).

70. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting as declared closed by the Chairman at 8.21 pm.