

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 5th July 2017 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, Dr N Brock (from 7.50pm), T Chambers, Mrs M De Jong, Ms P Dunn, M Firmager, Mrs S Matthews and B Wedge.

There were no apologies for absence.

15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2017 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16. LAUREL PARK

16.1 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.

17. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2017

The Notes of a Meeting of the Christmas Celebrations Working Party held on 15th June were previously circulated and the contents were noted by Members. The Town Clerk explained that this was an opportunity to set the agenda and work had begun to organise the event.

18. REDHATCH COPSE

The Senior Park Ranger reported that following a long period of inactivity, work had resumed with some strimming having taken place. However, work remained outstanding including, but not restricted to, treatment of non-native sycamores, raising of drain covers at main entrance and fencing around the culvert area.

It was noted that despite efforts by Council staff and also Officers of Wokingham Borough Council to persuade Persimmon Homes to ensure that the work is completed, deadlines that the developer themselves have set are continually ignored. At a meeting of Wokingham Borough Council Executive held on 29th June 2017 Councillor Pauline Jorgensen, enquired what the Executive Member for Planning and Enforcement was doing to hold the developer to account for the appalling landscaping and completion of Sibley Hall development. The response was that the current estimated date for completion for all works was the end of June 2017, but this has not occurred.

Councillors expressed concern that there was a view from some members of public that Earley Town Council had already assumed responsibility for the Copse and they were adamant to point out that responsibility will only be passed over from the Borough once the S106 requirements are satisfactorily resolved.

19. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

19.1 Community & Youth Centres Working Group

The Town Clerk advised that following receipt of the Marketing Consultant's report, the Working Group met on 14th June to prepare a final report. A copy of the final report had been circulated to Councillors under separate cover, prior to the meeting.

Members noted that the report did not contain comments from current users and it was considered this may prove useful in subsequent years, to advise any future reviews.

The Town Clerk reported that as a consequence of the report findings, he would include additional information on Centre contact details in the Town Guide which was currently under review. The Town Council was using best endeavours to fill gaps at Centres, particularly the twilight period between 6 and 7.30pm. The Town Clerk explained that progress was being made on the Council's social media presence.

Members noted that the Council Community Centres were viable in aggregate but noted that Silverdale Centre showed a larger deficit due to its involvement in the provision of youth activities.

19.2 Radstock Lane Community Centre

19.2.1 Rent Review

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

20. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

Members noted that further to Minute 58, the Town Clerk had written follow-up letters to a number of organisations, nationally and locally from the Muslim Communities and, additionally, a further organisation based locally had been written to. A reply had been received from the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery containing an invitation to visit the large dedicated Muslim Cemetery in Ilford. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

1. Councillor L Chambers, Chairman, Amenities and Leisure together with the Town Clerk visit the Muslim Cemetery in Ilford
2. The Town Clerk request further information on the demographic data for Wokingham with regard to the Muslim population.

21. MAIDEN ERLEGH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

21.1 Complimentary Fishing Permits

Further to Item 10.3 where the consideration of complimentary permits was deferred, 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.

RESOLVED that

1. New Bailiff, Chris Farmer receive a complimentary permit (refund for permit already purchased)

2. Retired Bailiff, Alan Hughes receive a complimentary permit.

22. FINANCIAL REVIEW

22.1 This item forms part of the ongoing review of amenities previously agreed by the Committee. The Income and Expenditure for the Centres is as follows:

Centrepoint

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u> £	<u>Est. 16/17</u> £	<u>Rev. 16/17</u> £	<u>Act. 16/17</u> £
Rates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	2480.80	2300.00	2300.00	2739.14
Wages (Caretaking/Maintenance)	8900.09	9290.00	8300.00	7622.09
Wages (Youth Workers)	0.00	3000.00	0.00	0.00
Clinical Waste Disposal	221.65	400.00	450.00	308.88
Water Rates	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Light and Heat	5000.00	5000.00	5000.00	0.00
Supplies	321.11	550.00	550.00	463.68
Supplies for Youth Club	35.14	50.00	50.00	76.08
Sundries	69.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mobile Phones	77.62	80.00	80.00	79.27
Telephones	164.96	256.00	180.00	216.83
Performing Rights	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phonographic Perf.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	17,770.37	18,426.00	17,410.00	11,505.97

Silverdale

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u> £	<u>Est. 16/17</u> £	<u>Rev. 16/17</u> £	<u>Act. 16/17</u> £
Rates	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	3207.76	3075.00	4300.00	5795.77
Wages (Caretaking/Maintenance)	19000.00	19340.00	18525.00	17660.67
Wages (Youth Workers)	12646.68	13200.00	11650.00	12418.65
Clinical Waste Disposal	135.87	250.00	320.00	275.10
Water Rates	500.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Light and Heat	5000.00	5000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Supplies	336.00	300.00	240.00	205.09
Bike Workshop Expenses	1591.55	1000.00	1200.00	1318.18
Youth Club Supplies	450.20	500.00	450.00	417.52
Mobile Phones	134.57	80.00	75.00	79.26
Telephone/Internet Provider	632.97	836.00	600.00	405.25
Music Fusion Project	491.59	500.00	1750.00	1429.16
Silverdale	1943.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photocopier Contract	356.77	900.00	600.00	393.34
Sundries	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Performing Rights	240.92	250.00	173.67	173.67
Phonographic Perf.	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL:	46,680.01	45,781.00	45,383.67	40,391.66

Centrepoint

<u>Income</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u> £	<u>Est. 16/17</u> £	<u>Rev. 16/17</u> £	<u>Act. 16/17</u> £
Charges	19589.36	18850.00	20000.00	23598.95
Sale of Provisions – Youth Club	108.05	125.00	120.00	79.30
Photocopying Income	31.31	60.00	50.00	113.80
TOTAL:	19,728.72	19,035.00	20,170.00	23,792.05

Silverdale

<u>Income</u>	<u>Act. 15/16</u> £	<u>Est. 16/17</u> £	<u>Rev. 16/17</u> £	<u>Act. 16/17</u> £
Charges	15839.43	17360.00	16500.00	19910.97
ETC Youth Grant	0.00	0.00	1391.00	1391.00
S106 Money	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. Income	1284.05	250.00	130.00	120.47
S'dale – Bike Workshop	1342.81	1675.00	1250.00	1165.69
Photocopying Income	348.57	410.00	200.00	151.55
TOTAL:	18,815.07	19,695.00	19,471.00	22,739.68

Net Expenditure:	25,906.59	25,477.00	23,152.67	5,365.90
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The Town Council provides dedicated youth work at Silverdale where there is the highly successful Bike Workshop and the Music Fusion Group.

Income is derived from private hires to various local organisations at both Centres.

Capital expenditure in 2016/17 was £1,085 for chairs at Centrepoint.

23. PUBLICATIONS

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

Institute of Cemetery & Crematoria Management:	The Journal: Summer Issue 2017.
NAMM:	News – June 2017 – Special Craftex Edition

24. PRESS RELEASES

RESOLVED that the item relating to the extremely slow progress on the transfer of Redhatch Copse receive attention.

25. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.52pm.