

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 6th September 2017 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, Dr N Brock, T Chambers, D Chopping (from 20.19 – 21.06 hrs), M Firmager and Mrs S Matthews.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs M De Jong

26. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2017 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. LAUREL PARK

27.1 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.

27.2 Laurel Park Pavilion

Councillors were asked to consider proposals for alterations to the building proposed by Laurel Park Football Club, mainly consisting of the removal of the back wall in the garage to allow access via the side door, rather than keep having to remove the padlocks and bar from the main doors, as storage space was becoming an issue for the Football Club. The Club felt that they could possibly have the materials supplied by Wickes and then proposed that a separate building contractor would remove the wall and insert a lintel to support the roof trusses.

The Club sought consent from Earley Town Council but Councillors were advised that, should approval be given, the work would still be the subject of Landlord's Consent by Wokingham Borough Council.

Councillors agreed that whilst the Football Club were good community supporters there were other users of the Pavilion and following discussion it was

RESOLVED that any restructure should remain within the remit of the Town Council.

28. SOL JOEL PARK

Councillors noted that £45,000 of Section 106 money had been allocated to the purchase of youth play equipment at the park. A section of the park would have equipment installed suitable for age ranges 8-12 years to complete the area for whole family use.

29. REDHATCH COPSE

It was noted that at the meeting of the Committee held on 7th September 2016, it had been reported that there had been little progress on the Management Plan and that Officers had continued to monitor the situation and to put pressure on Wokingham Borough Council and the

Contractor where appropriate. As a result, Officers were advised by the Green Infrastructure Service Manager at Wokingham Borough Council that he was intending to instruct Legal Services to institute enforcement action to ensure that the work stipulated in the Section 106 Agreement between the Borough Council and the Contractor be completed.

Members were advised that the situation had not substantially altered since last year despite considerable efforts by Town Council Officers. The Deputy Town Clerk had sent suggestions for an outline area for transfer and updated status report on the Management Plan to Wokingham Borough Council and was awaiting a response.

30. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

30.1 Radstock Lane Community Centre

30.1.1 Rent Review

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

31. MAIDEN PLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Councillors were asked to consider a request from the Bradshaw Bridge Club for an extension to their hire time for a second team from 10.30 pm to 11.00 pm on some Thursday evenings. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk respond to request further information on the frequency of extensions to hire time required and would report to the next Amenities & Leisure Meeting.

32. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

Further to Minute 20, the Town Clerk requested information from Wokingham Borough Council for demographic data of the Muslim population in Earley.

Councillors were advised that information from the 2011 Census was only available at the Borough level, which showed a declared Muslim population of 2.8% of all categories. Similarly, no disaggregated data was available for estimated and projected population other than for England as a whole and this was not broken down into different religious denominations.

These projections indicated that over the ten years between 2014 and 2024, there would be a 10% increase in total population in England and a further 7% projected to 2034.

Given that this was the best data available, Councillors considered how to proceed with planning for Muslim burials in Earley for the future. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Town Council reserved any decision until it becomes clearer what will be required within the Cemetery as a whole when the matter with regard to Muslim burials be reviewed again.

33. MAIDEN ERLEGH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

33.1 Green Fair

Councillors were asked to note that the annual Green Fair, organised by the Town Council, was again very successful with all available plots occupied and a very good attendance.

During the Fair, a consultation exercise was carried out on the possibility of relocating the Green Fair to a field in Laurel Park. It was noted that a number of stall holders had already reserved pitches for 2018. The results of the consultation exercise were close and it was

RESOLVED that the Green Fair remain in situ for the forthcoming year and that this be reconsidered for the following year.

34. **CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS**

34.1 Marestail

Councillors noted that the issue of Marestail remained on a few of the plots at the Culver Lane site. Enquiries had been made of other Town and Parish Councils and it appeared that Marestail was a common problem across many of the allotment sites in the area. Some other Councils had taken the view that, because the weed was not easily controllable, the management of Marestail needed to be the responsibility of individual plot holders, rather than the Council.

Members considered how Marestail management at Culver Lane Allotments should be dealt with in the future and following discussion it was

RESOLVED that

1. plot holders be made aware of Marestail and offered advice on how to deal with the problem
2. The area affected by Marestail be grassed over for the next year and cut regularly and thereafter be returned for use as allotments for hire.

34.2 Allotment Year

Councillors considered a suggestion from an allotment tenant to change the allotment year from a 1st January start to 1st October however it was

RESOLVED that as only one request had been received the renewal date would remain 1st January and that the matter would be reconsidered as necessary.

35. **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

35.1 Community Centres

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:

35.1.1 Radstock Lane Community Centre

	Estimate 16/17 £	Actual to 31/3/17 £	Est. 17/18 £	Actual to 30/6/17 £
Expenditure	52,628	45,937	54,350	12,662
Income	44,518	47,247	45,000	10,644
Surplus/Deficit	-8,110	1,310	-9,530	-2,018

35.1.2 Maiden Place Community Centre

	Estimate 16/17 £	Actual to 31/3/17 £	Est. 17/18 £	Actual to 30/6/17 £
Expenditure	65,697	63,764	65,350	12,498
Income	77,954	77,675	72,469	18,542
Surplus/Deficit	12,257	13,911	7,119	6,044

35.1.3 Totals

	£	£	£	£
Overall Surplus/Deficit	4,147	15,221	-2,411	4,026

Councillors noted that these were interim figures, which may be subject to adjustment.

Income figures for the first quarter to 30th June 2017 do not take into account rents due from the Social Clubs.

Councillors also noted that budget provision had been made for Capital Expenditure in 2017/18 for a fence and new chairs at Maiden Place Community Centre.

RESOLVED that future reports should combine the reports relating to the two Centres taken over from Wokingham Borough Council with those presented in this Agenda.

36. 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: Autumn Issue 2017
NAMM:	News – August 2017 Notice of AGM 2017 Summary of NAMM Accounts Year Ending 31 st December 2016

37. PRESS RELEASES

No press releases were requested.

38. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.10pm.