

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 17th January 2018 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, T Chambers, D Chopping, Mrs M De Jong, Ms P Dunn, M Firmager, Mrs S Matthews, B Wedge

In attendance Councillor Miss J Rance JP

52. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2017 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

53. ESTIMATES

Consideration was given to the draft estimates of income and expenditure for 2018/19 and the revised estimates for 2017/18 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 current actual figure for Laurel Park Salaries which was incorrect and had been entered twice, and also that a 2018/19 capital figure for the replacement Quadraplay and Batwing (agreed at the previous Amenities & Leisure Meeting) was underestimated in the parks capital items. In addition, a current year contra entry parks income figure was required for Sol Joel Park refurbishment S106 money.

Members were reminded that all Members of the Council, in addition to Members of the Policy & Resources Committee, were invited to attend the Budget Working Party to be held on Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30pm.

Following discussion it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the draft estimates, as amended, for 2018/19, a copy of which is attached herewith.

54. LAUREL PARK

54.1 Potential Transfer from Wokingham Borough Council to Earley Town Council

Further to Confidential Minute 42.1, the Town Clerk reported that he had been working on the new 30 year financial submission required for presentation to the Borough Asset Review Board Meeting scheduled for February 2018 which had presented some challenges.

54.2 Community Orchard

Members noted the report entitled ‘Latest on the Laurel Park Community Orchard’ highlighting recent vandalism resulting in damaged and missing trees at the orchard site. The Town Clerk confirmed that following recent conversation with a representative from Laurel Park Football Club, a detailed specification for CCTV was expected in the near future. Once received, this will be passed to Amenities & Leisure for further review. This specification was expected to cover the Pavilion and surrounding area. However, Members may wish to consider expanding the remit to cover the orchard area following an investigation into costs.

55. **REDHATCH COPSE**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that no update had been received from Wokingham Borough Council with regard to the Breach of Condition Notice on Persimmon Homes on 1st November 2017. The Senior Park Ranger reported that the Borough had cleared much of the debris from the stream and that Persimmon contractors had undertaken some planting in line with the original agreed plans and some improvements had been made to the surface of the kick-about area.

The Senior Park Ranger also reported that, together with volunteers, bramble clearance had taken place within the ancient woodland to ensure the bluebells did not disappear and to allow them to flower in the spring.

56. **COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES**

56.1 Maiden Place Community Centre

56.1.1 Bradshaw Bridge Club

Councillor D Chopping declared an interest in this matter as a member of the Club.

It was reported that a request for an extension of hours had been received from the Bradshaw Bridge Club. The Club already have an extension of hours concession on a Tuesday until 11.00pm and would like to extend this to other nights. The Town Clerk highlighted the additional hours implications for current staffing arrangements in light of Working Time Regulations and also the erosion of staff work/life balance. He also drew attention to the current opening hours and the possibility of other lettings requesting and being granted regular extensions in hours. Applications for extensions in hours to a number of key events have previously been granted by the Committee. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that the request from Bradshaw Bridge Club for addition concessions be refused and the closing time remain 10.30pm.

57. **CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS**

57.1 Code of Practice

Consideration was given to a draft “Code of Practice” submitted by the Earley Allotment Association, which had been attached to the agenda. The Town Clerk reported that he was currently working on some suggested amendments.

RESOLVED that

1. the document be referred to the Allotment Working Party for detailed consideration.
2. a representative from the Allotment Association be invited to join the Working Party for this purpose.

58. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS 2018

Members were aware that it had not proved possible to provide a Town Council led event in 2017. The Town Mayor had attended the “lights switch on” ceremony at Maiden Place but this had been organised externally.

Members were therefore requested to consider whether to plan for an event this year, in which case the Working Group set up previously would need to be reconvened.

RESOLVED that the Christmas Celebrations Working Party be convened to consider plans for Christmas 2018.

59. PUBLICATIONS

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

National Association of Memorial Masons:	NAMM News – October 2017, November 2017 and December 2017.
Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management:	The Journal 2017.
Fields in Trust:	Field Notes – Autumn/Winter 2017.

60. PRESS RELEASES

No press releases were requested.

61. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 8.56pm.