



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 September 2018 which commenced at 7.45pm

Present

Chairman - Councillor Mrs L Chambers

Councillors Miss L Blumenthal, A Bradley, D Chopping Mrs M De Jong, Ms P Dunn and Mrs S Matthews

In attendance Councillors N Jorgensen, W Luck and Miss J Rance JP

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr N Brock, T Chambers and B Wedge

18. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

19. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Councillors noted details of the financial transactions for this Committee for the three months to 30th June 2018 attached to these Minutes.

20. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

20.1 Silverdale Centre

Councillors were advised that discussions had taken place between Town Council Officers and representatives of the Rock Academy Foundation, a Reading based registered charity, with a view to setting up a project at the Silverdale Centre to develop the talents of the participants in the Music Fusion Group. The young people would work with a Band Coach with the aim of a live performance and using the music studio to produce a recording.

Following a successful initial pilot of three weeks duration during July, the project was to be extended for the new academic year, over three terms, to be potentially funded by a grant application to More Arts (yet to be awarded) together with an award to the Rock Academy from the Earley Charity.

20.2 Centrepont

Councillors were advised that following discussion with the Town Clerk, the Attached Youth Worker at Trinity Church hoped to reintroduce a Friday evening Youth Club at Centrepont. The premises had been booked for training of Voluntary Youth Workers to run the Club and Youth Club sessions will commence after the autumn school half term.

20.3 Radstock Lane Community Centre

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.

21. REDHATCH COPSE

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.

22. MAIDEN ERLEGH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

22.1 Green Fair

Councillors noted that the annual Green Fair, organised by the Town Council, was again very successful with all available plots occupied and a very good attendance. A number of stall holders had already reserved pitches for 2019.

RESOLVED that Members propose a motion of thanks, through Council, to the Earley Volunteers and EASI for giving so much of their time and effort, and their achievements (in all weathers) in helping to keep Earley a wonderfully tidy, well maintained and litter free place to live.

23. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

23.1 Best Kept Allotment

Councillor Miss J Rance JP provided a progress report from the Culver Lane Allotment Working Party judges and she reported that the fantastic summer weather had, in fact, decimated the allotments and many were barren and overgrown due to the difficulties watering in the high heat. The good news was that the allotments were coming back to life following the rain.

The Chairman expressed concern at the low turnout from the Working Party and her disappointment that last year's winner had not been able to be involved in the process.

24. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING SERVICE

Councillors noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee of Wokingham Borough Council is undertaking a review of its grass cutting service. The new service had started in April 2016 aiming to provide a more flexible service which responded to local needs and priorities.

The Committee requested views from residents, Town and Parish Councils and community groups on timeliness and frequency of cuts, the quality of work, disposal of grass cuttings and the impact of wild flower areas across the Borough.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED that a Town Council response be sent suggesting partnership working with the Borough Council on the issue of grass cutting locally, so that account can be taken on local needs and aspirations of the local community regarding grass length, areas cut and grass collection for mutual benefit of all concerned.

25. FINANCIAL REVIEW

25.1 Community Centres

This item has formed part of the ongoing review of amenities as previously agreed by the Committee.

Councillors noted the income and expenditure for the Centres as follows:

25.1.1 Radstock Lane Community Centre

	Estimate 17/18 £	Actual to 31/3/18 £	Est. 18/19 £	Actual to 30/6/18 £
Expenditure	54,350	58,693	54,080	12,559
Income	45,000	45,096	46,000	13,873
Surplus/Deficit	9,350	-13,597	-8,080	1,314

25.1.2 Maiden Place Community Centre

	Estimate 17/18 £	Actual to 31/3/18 £	Est. 18/19 £	Actual to 30/6/18 £
Expenditure	65,350	59,769	66,710	12,056
Income	72,519	74,968	74,194	17,725
Surplus/Deficit	7,169	15,199	7,484	5,669

25.1.3 Totals

	£	£	£	£
Overall Surplus/Deficit	-2,181	1,602	-596	6,983

Income figures for the first quarter to 30th June 2018 did not take into account rents due from the Social Clubs.

Councillors noted that budget provision was made for Capital Expenditure in 2018/19 for window replacements at Maiden Place Community Centre.

RESOLVED that this item no longer appear as a regular item on the agenda of the Amenities & Leisure Committee as the new financial reports now include the information which is provided on a quarterly basis.

26. PUBLICATIONS

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

NAMM:	News - July 2018 News Brochure – August 2018
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27. **PRESS RELEASES**

RESOLVED that the following items should receive emphasis:

1. Rock Academy Youth Sessions provided with funding from MoreArts at the appropriate time
2. The Town Council's involvement with the grass cutting consultation and encouragement for local Residents to also respond

28. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.02pm