



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, 16th January 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chairman - Councillor L Chambers

Councillors A Bradley, L Blumenthal, Dr N Brock, T Chambers, D Chopping, M De Jong, S Matthews and B Wedge.

In attendance: Jo Friend (Town Clerk), Jo Shaw (Deputy Town Clerk), Stewart Walton (Facilities Manager), Grahame Hawker (Senior Park Ranger), Ashley Prior (Park Ranger) and Councillor J Rance JP.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P Dunn.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M De Jong reported that she works for Maiden Erlegh Trust.

48. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2018 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2018 were also approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

49. FEES & CHARGES REVIEW

49.1 Hall Hire Fees

Councillors considered the revised schedule of fees and other amendments as previously attached and agreed that the following be

RECOMMENDED to the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee for consideration:

1. The 2019/20 fees identified on Appendix A, with retention of Sunday differential, be recommended to Council.
2. The restriction on holding parties on a Sunday be removed with effect from 1st April 2019.

49.2 Cemetery Fees

- 49.2.1 Councillors considered the suggested amendments arising from the Amenities & Leisure Meeting of 5th December 2018. In order to be able to meet future demand, the Council will soon need to start work on expanding cemetery capacity. Councillors agreed that any increase in cemetery income, arising from a restructuring of fees, should be reserved for the expansion project. After reviewing the additional information and comparison data provided, Councillors unanimously.

RECOMMENDED that the implementation of the new charging schedule, as presented, with no additions or alterations, be considered for recommendation by the Policy & Resources Committee at their next meeting.

- 49.2.2 Councillors considered the Town Clerk's recommendation that the procedure for extending the period of Exclusive Rights of Burial be amended to include a rolling 10 year offer of extension rather than the current 10 year offer followed by 5 year terms.

RESOLVED that, with immediate effect, the Exclusive Rights of Burial extensions be offered on a 10 year rolling basis.

49.3 Other Fees

Councillors received details of the revised 2019/20 charges for Fishing Permits, Culver Lane Allotments and Sports Pitch Hire and it was

RECOMMENDED that these fees be increased in line with the revised 2019/20 charges presented at the meeting. This recommendation to be progressed to the Policy & Resources Committee.

50. **COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES**

50.1 Radstock Lane Community Centre

Councillors noted the positive outcome of the recent costs determination as conducted by the RICS appointed Arbitrator.

50.2 Silverdale Centre

The Facilities Manager reported on Maiden Erlegh School's recent installation of a 'sleeping policeman' arrangement at the access to the Centre. Keys had been supplied to the Town Council by Maiden Erlegh School allowing for continued access for both maintenance and emergency vehicles.

To date, the new arrangements appear not to have caused any problems, however, the three parking bays allocated to the Town Council are frequently being used by other parties.

51. **REDHATCH COPSE**

The Senior Park Ranger reported that the meadow area had recently been cut by Persimmon contractors, and that the Earley Environment Volunteers had cut back the brambles within the copse to allow the bluebells to flourish. WBC Planning Enforcement officers were due to visit the area to review the condition of the site, in light of the recent enforcement action undertaken by WBC.

52. LAUREL PARK

The Town Clerk reported that progressing the possible transfer of this asset to ETC would be a priority project once her work on the Council's budget and finances had been completed. Stewart Walton, Facilities Manager, reported that he would be meeting with WBC's Peter Baveystock to discuss the matter of gate locking at the site as the current volunteers, who had been carrying out this task for some time, no longer wish to continue. In addition, Mr Baveystock had indicated that WBC may wish to call on the Town Council for assistance with grass cutting on public open spaces at the start of this year's growing season. The Facilities Manager will report back on these matters.

53. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

There were no updates to report.

54. CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Councillor J Rance reported on the success of the Town Council's Christmas Carol Singing events which took place during the first week in December at the Asda store. Five local primary schools and the Salvation Army took part. The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by the youngsters and the many parents who accompanied their children, and by those shopping at the store. Asda's Community Champion was thrilled with the response and has suggested the Town Council run the event again at Christmas 2019.

The Town Mayor, accompanied by Councillors J Rance, R Houlbrooke and L Chambers, attended (all in festive jumpers) and raised a total of £575.69 for the Mayor's Charities (Thames Valley Air Ambulance, which provides a life-saving emergency medical service to Berkshire, and ARC, an adult, youth and school counselling service). Councillor T Holton was also in attendance at the first Christmas Celebration evening. An additional £185 will be donated to the Mayor's Charities as a result of the raffle held at the Mayor's Christmas Reception on 12th December 2018.

55. PUBLICATIONS

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

NERA:	Magazine, Issue 176 – Winter 2018.
NAMM:	Review – Issue 1 Dec. 2018 – May 2019.
BRAMM:	News Bulletin – Winter Update 2018/19.
E.V.D.B:	News: Reaching Out, Issue 12, Winter 2018.

56. PRESS RELEASES

No press releases were requested.

57. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting as declared closed by the Chairman at 8.55pm.