



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, 3rd July 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor A Newton

Councillors A Bassett, N Brock, M Eastwell, D Hare, D Ireland, A Long, S Matthews and K Yabsley.

In attendance: Jo Friend (Town Clerk), Stewart Walton (Facilities Manager), Grahame Hawker (Senior Park Ranger), Ashley Prior (Park Ranger), Jess Friend (Senior Operations Support Officer) and Councillor I Khayinza

The first twenty minutes of the meeting were set aside for members of the public to pose questions to the Council. There were no members of the public present.

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr G Bhangra.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th May 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

19. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

19.1 Maiden Place Community Centre

The Facilities Manager provided an update on the progress of the previously approved renewal of the sub-lease, noting that a new site plan drawing is required by HM Land Registry before the Town Council can proceed with the renewal.

19.1.1 Kilnsea Preschool

The Chairman reported on a meeting she had arranged with Kilnsea Preschool following its request for a reduction in hire charges. Councillor Yabsley updated Councillors on the Amenities and Leisure sub-group's review of the additional information provided by the preschool. After discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the request for a reduction in hire charges be refused, however, it was agreed that the 4.8% uplift payable for extra cleaning service and storage would be waived for the remainder of the financial year.

19.2 Silverdale Centre – Maiden Erlegh Preschool

A request had been received from Maiden Erlegh Preschool to waive the hire charges of the Jungle Room at The Silverdale Centre for a two-day mandatory staff first aid training course. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that the request from Maiden Erlegh Preschool be refused.

20. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

20.1 Councillors noted that, following the receipt of satisfactory references, Cemetery Development Services had been instructed to carry out the technical studies required for the Tier 2 Environment Agency Groundwater Risk Assessment for submission to the Environment Agency.

20.2 The Town Clerk reported on the Government's new Children's Funeral Fund which will come into effect on 23rd July 2019. From this date, Earley Town Council will be able to provide burial and ashes services to families where the deceased is under 18 years, free of charge. As a burial authority, the Town Council can instead claim the fees from the CFF.

21. LAUREL PARK

Councillors noted the formation of the Laurel Park Working Group at the Council meeting of 19th June 2019.

22. SILVERDALE CENTRE

Councillors noted the report prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk on the future position of the Music Fusion project at the Silverdale youth club. An application for further funding will be submitted soon.

23. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

23.1 Following a grant received from The Earley Charity, four raised beds had been installed at the Culver Lane allotments. After discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the raised beds be made available at an annual fee of £12 per bed.

Councillor Newton reported that she had met with two members of the Allotment Association. She then led a discussion on the following:

23.2 Presence of Mare's Tail

Plots 5 to 9 are currently not leased due to the presence of mare's tail. The Senior Park Ranger reported on the measures taken to remove it so far and recommended further treatment. It was

RESOLVED

1. The five affected plots be flattened and dug to remove more of the weed.
2. The plots then be rented out and responsibility for maintenance of each plot be passed to the respective plot holders. In recognition of the presence of mare's tail, a reduction in the annual rental charge will be applied for a period of 5 years.

23.3 Vacancy Turnover

The Town Clerk confirmed that once a plot is vacated, contact is made with the first person on the waiting list. Any perceived delays in changeover are due to essential administrative processes.

23.4 Inspections

The Facilities Manager advised Councillors that the Deputy Town Clerk conducts monthly inspections of the allotments, and a three-stage warning process is in place for any allotment holders whose plot is in an unsatisfactory condition.

Councillor Newton also raised the suggestion of installing beehives at the allotment, something she had discussed with members of the allotment association. The Town Clerk informed her that this was a reasonably complex matter with various matters for consideration, and not something that could be resolved upon at this meeting. She recommended that should Councillors wish to discuss specific aspects of a service at a Council meeting, or wish to make suggestions relating to specific services, then they should consult with Council Officers in the first instance who could then provide background information, conduct research and prepare any reports required so as to enable an informed discussion to take place at a future meeting.

24. MAIDEN ERLEGH NATURE RESERVE

Councillors noted the activities being held at the Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve over the summer period.

25. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

25.1 A Survey of Youth and Community Activities in Earley

Councillor Long reported on the Earley Liberal Democrat's proposal to conduct a survey of youth and community activities in the Town. The party are keen to see improvements made to current provision and had drafted a survey for residents to complete. The Town Clerk suggested that, prior to launching their survey, they may find it beneficial to discuss the subject matter with Town Council Officers who could provide information that may be useful to their proposal. Councillor Long suggested the survey be delayed for the time being. It was agreed that Councillor Long, Councillor Clark and the Town Clerk would discuss the survey in the autumn.

25.2 Recycling Bins and Woodchip Bins

Councillor Newton asked about the possibility of installing recycling bins in areas such as Maiden Place Community Centre and Silverdale Centre as well as on various Town Council sites. Officers said that information was required on the types of recycling bin she was suggesting in order to cost them and cost the servicing of them before they could advise further. Anything on Wokingham Borough land would have to be approved by the Borough Council. Councillors agreed that background work needed to be carried out before the matter could be discussed at a Council meeting.

25.3 Town Council Representation on the Wokingham BME Forum

Councillor Khayinza reported that she and Councillor Mickleburgh had met with the Borough Council's Social Inclusion Officer (SIO) and Councillor Khayinza was suggesting that the Town Council nominate a representative for the Wokingham BME Forum. No further details

were available, therefore the Town Clerk asked that Councillor Khayinza provide her with contact details for the SIO in order that details of the role could be clarified before the suggestion be included on a future Council agenda.

26. PUBLICATIONS

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

Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management:	Journal – Summer 2019.
Maiden Erlegh Residents Association:	Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 th June 2019.
Woodley & North Earley Community Forum:	Agenda for the Meeting on 17 th July 2019.
BRAMM (British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons):	Summer 2019 Update – e-bulletin.

27. PRIDE OF READING NOMINATION

It was noted that the Earley Environmental Group Wednesday Volunteers had been nominated for a Pride of Reading Award 2019. Councillors congratulated the Senior Park Ranger and Park Ranger for their significant contribution to the group.

28. PRESS RELEASES

No press releases were requested.

29. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 9.15pm.