



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 2nd March 2022 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor N Brock

Councillors: A Bassett, M Eastwell, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews, A Newton and K Yabsley.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), M Brown (Operations Manager), G Hawker (Senior Park Ranger), R Fryer (Democratic Services Officer), Councillor C Smith, and a member of the public.

83. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs G Bhangra and D Ireland.

84. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

85. PUBLIC FORUM

The member of the public present did not wish to speak in the public forum.

86. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022 were approved as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** they be signed by the Chair (Minutes 67–82).

87. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was noted that Cllr N Brock had been elected as the Chair of the Amenities and Leisure Committee at the Full Council Meeting of 9th February 2022 (Minute 125.3). Cllr A Long was nominated as the new Vice-Chair and it was

RESOLVED that Councillor A Long be appointed Vice-Chair of the Amenities and Leisure Committee.

88. MEETING TIMES

Councillors discussed changing the start time of meetings of the Amenities and Leisure Committee to bring it into line with other Council meetings. It was

RESOLVED that the start time remain unchanged at 7:45pm.

89. OPERATIONS MANAGER

Members received a verbal report from the Operations Manager, Max Brown on what he had been working on so far and what he was hoping to achieve going forward. He noted the large

scope of the role and his desire to build upon the firm foundations achieved by the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Senior Operations Support Officer.

90. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

It was noted that allotment inspections would resume in March 2022, to be carried out by Town Council officers and a member of the Allotment Association, and that the vacated plots had been offered to residents on the waiting list. Members discussed the work and composition of the Allotment Award Inspection Team. It was agreed that Cllrs A Bassett, N Brock, M Eastwell and T Maher would serve on the working party for the municipal year 2022-23. Councillors considered changing the judging criteria to include flowers, given their importance to biodiversity and pollination. The Town Clerk confirmed that it would be acceptable for the working party to review the judging criteria and make such an amendment.

91. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE

The Committee noted that the Deputy Town Clerk had completed the new Emergency Onsite Flood Plan, as required under revised DEFRA regulations relating to the Reservoirs Act 1975. The Flood Plan is currently with ETC's lake engineer for checking and would then be lodged with DEFRA. Members expressed their thanks to the Deputy Town Clerk for her work on this document. The Town Clerk confirmed that no issues had arisen from the recent annual lake inspection, and that ETC was now awaiting receipt of the written report.

92. EARLEY TREE REGISTER

Councillors received an update from the Earley Tree Register working group. It was noted that this was a sizeable task, and that some matters needed to be clarified before the work could begin. Members discussed the damage to Earley's trees from the three recent storms, and the Senior Park Ranger noted that the damage had been remarkably light, given the severity of the winds.

93. NOTICEBOARDS

Members received a report from the Deputy Town Clerk on the maintenance work carried out to the town council's notice boards. Councillors were pleased with the progress made and enquired about a maintenance schedule for the public maps displayed around Earley. The Town Clerk to report back on this matter.

94. HELP – HUGE EARLEY LITTER PICK

Councillors noted that 2022's Huge Earley Litter Pick (HELP) would take place on Sunday 3rd April 2022. Members were pleased to note that ETC officers had been organising this event for 23 years, assisted by members of Earley Adopt-a-Street-Initiative and the Earley Environmental Group. Litter picking teams would once again be based out of the Interpretation Centre. It was noted that posters, detailing how residents could join in with the event, had already gone up onto the council noticeboards and information would be posted in the community centres and on the Town Council website. Members were keen to include all areas of Earley in the initiative but noted that this would rely on having suitable persons to lead the sessions.

95. 'NO MOW MAY'

It was noted that Earley Town Council would be taking part in Plantlife's 'No Mow May' as part of the council's efforts to support pollinators. Locations at each town council site would be set aside for the project and ETC will be encouraging residents to participate in the project at home. Council officers will be building a 'Scaremow' to help publicise the event.

96. PLATINUM JUBILEE

Members discussed how the town council may wish to mark the historic occasion of Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee. Ideas discussed included tree planting at various Town Council sites and the naming of a council amenity in honour of the occasion. There are plans to re-run some of the ‘26 to COP 26’ events and, councillors, mindful that many national and local events would be scheduled for the bank holiday weekend, were of the opinion that ETC should plan its events outside of this period. Councillors also suggested giving the 2022 Green Fair a jubilee theme to tie in with it being the jubilee year.

97. PUBLICATIONS

The Committee noted that the following items had been received and were available for viewing from the Council Offices:

CCB	E-Bulletin February 2022
MERA	Minutes of Executive Committee 10 th February 2022
Fields in Trust	E-Bulletin February 2022
Involve	E-newsletter 14 th February 2022

98. PRESS RELEASES

Councillors requested press releases be made at the appropriate time for the Huge Earley Litter Pick and No Mow May.

The Committee held a minute’s silence to remember those impacted by the war in Ukraine.

99. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The member of the public and Councillor C Smith left the meeting.

PART II

100. COMMUNITY CENTRES

101. TERMINATION OF MEETING

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

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee