



AMENITIES & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley on Wednesday 29th June 2022 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor N Brock

Councillors: M Eastwell, D Ireland, A Long, S Matthews, A Newton, C Smith, and K Yabsley.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), and R Fryer (Democratic Services Officer).

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs A Bassett, G Bhangra and T Maher.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

22. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2022 were approved as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** they be signed by the Chair (Minutes 1–19).

24. GREEN FAIR – 6th AUGUST 2022

24.1 The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on preparations for the 2022 Green Fair event. Councillors were pleased to note that most pitches had now been booked, that refreshments had been arranged and that promotion of the event would begin next week.

24.2 Councillor C Smith provided an update on the proposals for a town councillors' stall at the Green Fair. She reported that initial ideas had been discussed by councillors by email and she hoped to arrange a meeting at which they could firm up plans. Members were keen that this be done in good time to ensure councillors could adequately prepare for the event. The Town Clerk reminded Cllr Smith that if they required any resources, for example use of a gazebo, tables and so on, a request should be submitted to the Deputy Town Clerk at the earliest opportunity.

25. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the Culver Lane allotments, noting that the Deputy Town Clerk had conducted an inspection of the amenity on Monday 27th June 2022. No major issues had been discovered, and following a letter to all plot holders, the grass between plots had now begun to be trimmed. Councillors were pleased to hear that an allotment holder had thanked officers for their support, interest and prompt responses to enquiries.

26. TELEPHONE KIOSKS

The Committee noted that the transfer of ownership of the two red telephone boxes to the council had been completed. A condition survey would be carried out by officers. Ideas for potential uses for the kiosks would be discussed at the next meeting of the Amenities and Leisure committee.

27. RADSTOCK COMMUNITY SPACE

The Town Clerk reported on the progress of the refurbishment project. It was agreed that further consideration be given to naming the new space. Once works are completed, potential users will be invited to view the facility to determine whether it would be of use to them.

28. TREE PLANTING IN BULMERSHE PARK

Councillor Matthews provided background to this item. It was noted that a site visit with WBC and Friends of Bulmershe Open Space had taken place on 17th May, and that a further site visit was scheduled for July. Members discussed the complex ownership arrangements around this land. Wokingham Borough Council is to produce a plan for planting and is to be responsible for funding, planting, establishment and maintenance of the trees. It was agreed that, should WBC and FoBOS wish to carry out planting on Bulmershe Park, land which is jointly managed by Earley Town Council and Woodley Town Council, confirmation would be required that there would be no cost, financial or otherwise, to the town council.

29. BUS SHELTERS

Councillors were pleased to note that orders had been placed for two replacement bus shelters in North Earley, installation is expected within the next four weeks. Members asked about the possibility of installing a 'green roof' on a future bus shelter but recognised the structural and positioning limitations mean this may not always be possible. Councillors discussed ways in which to add the ETC logo to the new bus stops.

30. 'LET IT BLOOM IN JUNE'

Members noted that Earley Town Council's participation in Plantlife's 'No Mow May' had been continued into 'Let it Bloom in June'. Councillors were pleased to note that the reduction in mowing had contributed to the growth of numerous Bee Orchids at one of the town council sites. It was also noted that residents had responded very positively to the project and appreciated the pathways that had been cut through the longer growth for pedestrians and dog walkers. Councillors also praised the planting of wildflowers on Rushey Way and the work undertaken on the land near the Paddick Drive BMX track.

31. NEW WBC ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SERVICE

The Committee received an update from WBC's anti-social behaviour service. They welcomed the ASB service's plans to produce localised figures for individual parishes.

32. CITIZENS ADVICE WOKINGHAM

It was noted that, due to an increase in requests for assistance, Citizens Advice Wokingham were looking to recruit more volunteer advisors. Details of this campaign were being promoted on the ETC website and notice boards.

33. PUBLICATIONS

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

MERA	Notes – Informal Meeting – 9 th June 2022
ACER	Newsletter - Summer 2022
Involve	E-newsletter 17 th June 2022

34. PRESS RELEASES

Councillors noted that a press release was to be issued, promoting the Green Fair event taking place on 6th August 2022.

35. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be taken under Part II.

PART II

36. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

37. COMMUNITY CENTRES

38. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 8:54pm.

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee