



## **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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022 which commenced at 7.45pm.

### **Present**

Chair – Councillor N Brock

Councillors: A Bassett, G Bhangra, M Eastwell, D Ireland, A Long, A Newton, and K Yabsley.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), E Carroll (Deputy Town Clerk), M Brown (Operations Manager), and a representative from MERA.

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### **39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Maher, S Matthews, and C Smith.

### **40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **41. PUBLIC FORUM**

The representative from MERA wished to bring to the Committee's attention their residents' concerns about the future of local bus services in view of the financial pressures being experienced by councils and the reduction in bus passenger numbers. Concerned that some services may be withdrawn, MERA is of the opinion that there are alternative solutions which would not be costly and would mean that those reliant on the services would continue to be able to access them. MERA intends to suggest these options to WBC when they go to public consultation.

The representative from MERA also raised concerns in relation to the proposed 3G Pitch at Maiden Erlegh School following attendance at one of the drop-in sessions held at the school. MERA believe that some residents are unhappy about the proposal because of the proximity of the pitch to residential properties and the subsequent noise and visual impact. MERA will be raising their objection to Wokingham Borough Council, along with suggestions on how they think some of the issues could be mitigated. MERA will provide ETC with a copy of their objection.

*Representative from MERA left the meeting*

### **42. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were approved as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** they be signed by the Chair (Minutes 20–38).

### **43. GREEN FAIR – 6<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2022**

43.1 Councillors received a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk on the return of the Green Fair, held at the Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022. All were agreed that the event was successful and very well received by residents.

#### **44. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE & NATURE RESERVE**

##### **44.1 Fishing Project**

Members were pleased to note that Reading Football Club Community Trust, in conjunction with Earley Town Council, had delivered another successful fishing project during the summer holidays for youngsters, at Maiden Earley Lake. Twenty-four young people signed up for the six-week project and positive feedback had been received from some of the families of those who attended.

##### **44.2 Fishing Competition**

It was noted that a charity fishing match had been held by the Town Council's Water Bailiffs on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022. Despite the very hot weather, sixteen participants took part and raised £205 for MacMillan Cancer Support.

##### **44.3 Vandalism**

Councillors were disappointed to note the several acts of vandalism that had occurred over the past few months at Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve, the most significant being the destruction and removal of a large gate. The Town Clerk assured the committee that officers are monitoring the situation and that the police are aware of the situation.

#### **45. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE - GRANT**

The committee noted that officers had been successful in securing a grant from Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks Resilient Communities Fund and have been awarded £2,100.57 to purchase equipment for use in the event of an emergency flooding situation at Maiden Erlegh Lake. The recent update of the Town Council's On-Site Emergency Flood Plan had highlighted the need to upgrade some of the council's emergency equipment.

#### **46. TREE PLANTING**

The Chair made the committee aware of Cllr Matthews' suggestion that WBC be reminded of ETC's request for Town Green designation of Bulmershe Park. Members also noted communication provided by Cllr Matthews from WBC in relation to telecom mast planning applications and consideration of the impact on significant trees.

##### **46.1 Bulmershe Park**

Councillors received a written report from the Town Clerk on the tree planting works Wokingham Borough Council wish to carry out in Bulmershe Park. Following a recent site meeting, WBC plan to restore the small orchard area with trees supplied by Freely Fruity, to plant an edible hedgerow along the boundary fence line and to carry out some successional planting on the eastern side of the park. WBC has confirmed that they will assume responsibility for establishing and maintaining all planting for 2-3 years. As the land is co-owned with Woodley Town Council, ETC officers will work with WTC officers on future general maintenance.

##### **46.2 Sutton Seeds Area**

Members considered a request from Cllr Bhangra for councillors to support residents in the Sutton Seeds area, to ask WBC for tree planting along the green towards the A4. Members agreed that the request should be forwarded to Laura Buck, WBC's Green Infrastructure Special

Project Manager, and ask for it to be considered as part of WBC's boroughwide tree planting project. Cllr Bhangra agreed to be the residents' contact with the borough council.

**47. TELEPHONE KIOSKS**

The Committee discussed options for the two red telephone boxes that have been adopted by Earley Town Council, one located in Silverdale Road and one in Wychwood Crescent. It was

**RESOLVED** that, once further investigation has been carried out into the costs of relocating a kiosk, Council be asked to consider funding the installation of a defibrillator in the kiosk in Wychwood Crescent and funding the removal costs of the Silverdale Road kiosk to an ETC site where it will be converted into a planter.

**48. SILVERDALE CENTRE**

Members noted the following in preparation for when Earley Town Council no longer has access to the Silverdale Centre:

**48.1 Maiden Erlegh Pre-School**

Councillors noted that Maiden Erlegh Preschool had moved most of their equipment out of Silverdale Centre to their new location over the summer holidays. The preschool staff had expressed thanks to the Town Council officers for the help and support they had received during this difficult time.

**48.2 Bike Workshop**

Members were pleased to note that officers had begun planning the move of the Bike Workshop from the Silverdale Centre to the Centrepoint Community Centre. Officers are meeting with a person experienced in running bike workshops, who will be providing advice on the workshop set up and the recruitment of additional cycle mechanics.

**49. PUBLICATIONS**

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

Berkshire Youth	E-newsletter – July, August 2022
Me2 Club	E-newsletter – July, August 2022
CCB	E-newsletter – August 2022
MERA	Minutes of Executive Committee – 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2022

**50. PRESS RELEASES**

No press releases were requested.

**51. 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**

52. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

53. **BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS**

54. **SOL JOEL PARK**

55. **MAIDEN PLACE CC - UTILITIES**

56. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 9.58pm.

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee