

# EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk  
JO FRIEND BA(Hons) PSLCC



Council Offices  
Radstock Lane  
Earley, Reading  
RG6 5UL

Tel: (0118) 986 8995

8<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee will be held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025** commencing at 7 pm.

Yours faithfully

*Jo Friend*

**TOWN CLERK**

**To: Members of the Amenities & Leisure Committee**

Councillors: N Brock (Chair), R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, R Browne, R Cook, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews and B Owen

---

## **A G E N D A**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest from Members.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

To receive any questions from members of the public attending the meeting. The Public Forum shall not exceed 15 minutes. If there are no questions, the meeting shall commence forthwith.

**4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

To consider the Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and, if appropriate, to agree that they represent a true and correct record and **RESOLVE** they be signed.

**5. ANNUAL FEES & CHARGES REVIEW – 2025/26**

To consider the Town Council's fees and charges 2025/26 for services provided and make recommendations to Full Council.

Details of current charges are available on the town council website and additional information has been provided to Members for reference.

5.1 Mays Lane Cemetery

To consider the charges for 2025/26 for Mays Lane Cemetery. For comparison, charges at Henley Road Cemetery have been provided. Members to **RESOLVE** upon a recommendation. (There was no fee increase in 2024/25).

*Appendix A*

5.2 Culver Lane Allotments

To consider the charges for allotments, any changes to take effect in January 2026. Members to **RESOLVE** upon a recommendation.

*Appendix B*

5.3 Hall Hire

To consider the hall hire charges for 2025/26. Members to **RESOLVE** upon a recommendation. (There was no fee increase in 2024/25).

*Appendix C*

5.4 Fishing Permits

To consider the fishing permit charges for 2025/26. Members to **RESOLVE** upon a recommendation. (There was no fee increase in 2024/25).

*Appendix D*

5.5 Sports Pitch Hire

To consider the sports pitch charges for 2025/26. Members to **RESOLVE** upon a recommendation.

*Appendix E*

6. **DOG WASTE BAGS**

To consider the continuation of the provision of dog waste bags at cost (£1 per pack of 50) to Earley residents in 2025/26. To make a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee.

For information: Members to note that the budget for the purchase of dog waste bags in 2024/25 was £1,000 and income, as of 3/1/25, was £460 (ie. some stock remains).

Prior to 2023/24, dog waste bags were provided free of charge. Costs were £1,000 - 2022/23; £1,000 - 2021/22; £900 - 2020/21; £1,434 - 2019/20; £1,235 - 2018/19.

7. **MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE**

7.1 Desilting Works

To note that the desilting works at the lake have been completed. A significant amount of silt was removed from the entrapment pond, this will enable the pond to continue functioning efficiently for several years. Information about the works was posted at the site during the project and feedback from residents was very positive.

7.2 Biodiversity Projects

To receive a report on ETC's biodiversity work & associated projects being delivered by the Park Rangers.

*Appendix F*

## 8. ALLOTMENTS

The Committee to discuss updating the competition guidelines in 2025. Members to consider the proposed guideline document and to **RESOLVE** accordingly.

*Appendix G*

## 9. COMMUNITY CENTRES

### 9.1 CENTREPOINT COMMUNITY CENTRE

#### Earley Repair Café

The Earley Repair Café continues to operate on the second Sunday of each month at Centrepoint Community Centre. Three sessions have been held so far and all of them have been well attended. The range of items residents bring in for repair continues to expand, our volunteer repairers have worked on a variety of items including garden equipment, an array of electrical items, wooden chairs, textiles and toys, Christmas decorations, bikes and so on. Visitors are led through the process by our reception volunteers and our café volunteers provide everyone with refreshments.

### 9.2 RADSTOCK LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE

To note that the redecoration of the main hall has been completed and replacement curtains have been ordered. These will not only improve the appearance of the hall but will help reduce heating costs and ETC's carbon footprint as they are thermal lined.

### 9.3 MAIDEN PLACE COMMUNITY CENTRE

To receive a report on the car park wall at Maiden Place Community Centre.

*Appendix H*

## 10. OPERATIONS MANAGER – REPORT

To receive a verbal update from the Operations Manager.

## 11. COLLABORATIVE WORKING

### 11.1 University of Reading

The Town Clerk and Cllr D Hare continue to meet with representatives of the University of Reading to explore opportunities for collaborative working.

#### 11.1.1 Silverdale Phone Box

To note that the University is approaching several of its departments to gauge interest in working with ETC on a reuse project for the red telephone box in Silverdale Road. Cllr N Brock, chair of the Amenities and Leisure Committee will attend an initial discussion meeting with UoR representatives and report back to the Committee.

#### 11.1.2 Swallows Meadow

To consider a request from the UoR that the Town Council work with them on ways to improve this site for resident use.

## 12. TOWN MAPS

To consider a report from the Senior Operations Support Officer on the work to replace ETC's town maps, Members to provide input to officers.

*Appendix I*

**13. CORONATION TREE**

To note that the King's Coronation Tree at Paddick Drive has succumbed to coral fungus and has been removed. A replacement tree is on order.

**14. EVENTS**

To note that the Carols at the Lake event, scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, had to be cancelled due to staff illness. After consultation with EEG, it was agreed that there were not enough volunteers to be able to hold the event safely.

**15. BERKSHIRE LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY**

To note that a Public Consultation on the BLNRS will take place on **3rd February - 10th March 2025**. During this time, there will be an opportunity for the community of Berkshire to review the strategy documents, including adding their thoughts to the Local Habitat Map, in a public survey. There will also be drop in sessions to help navigate the map to answer the survey. Further details will be supplied to members when available.

**16. PUBLICATIONS**

To note that the following items have been received and are available for viewing from the Council Offices:

Involve Community Services	E-newsletter – 6 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB)	E-newsletter – 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Friendship Alliance	E-newsletter – 23 <sup>rd</sup> October & 12th December 2024
Me2 Club	E-newsletter - 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2024

**17. PRESS RELEASES, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA**

To determine whether any of the foregoing items shall form the subject of a special press release.