

# 25th July 2019

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7:28pm to 9:17pm.

## **PRESENT**

Cllrs: J Box, E Bishop, P Dennis (Vice-Chairman), L Forbes (The Mayor), D Hinton, P Hornsby, T Lack, M Malvern

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Amenities Officer (AO)  
Buildings and Grounds Officer (B&GO)

In the absence of the chairman Cllr P Dennis (Vice-Chairman) welcomed councillors and chaired the meeting. He also welcomed Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey and invited her to the table. He noted that student Ethan Undrell has not been invited to attend as the bulk of the meeting is to be held under the Part II protocol.

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from:  
Cllr N J Campbell-White (Chairman)

## **MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)**

There were no declaration of interests from members.

## **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)**

There were no questions from members of the Council or public.

## **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 4)**

It was proposed by Cllr D Hinton and seconded by Cllr P Hornsby and it was

## **RESOLVED 29966**

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 (pages 15824 to 15832) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

The minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

## **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL'S PROPOSAL TO INSTALL A CYCLE PATH ACROSS JOEL PARK (Agenda Item 5)**

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) drawings 1901-GWB-PH1-SK02/04 along with other maps and indicative photographs of the proposed greenways route were on display in the main hall for councillors to inspect.

A request from WBC for it to use some of Joel Park and Holt Copse for a section of the proposed greenways route between Cantley Park and Arborfield was received and considered.

At 7:31pm councillors went to the main hall to inspect the maps and photographs. The councillors returned to the table at 7:37pm and brought the display board with them. The Vice-Chairman asked each councillor in turn for their views about the proposal.

The B&GO said that the Town Clerk is consulting with Wokingham Town Council's (WTC) solicitor about the implications of the covenant on Joel Park which restricts its use to recreational pursuits and prevents it from being built on.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Councillors noted that the proposed greenway over Joel Park avoided the nature reserve and tree root zones.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr M Malvern and it was

to make the following points in response to WBC's request and it was

that WTC is supportive of the installation of greenways in principle. However, the proposal to use Joel Park raises several substantive concerns:

**RESOLVED  
29967**

- the absence of any meaningful consultation with local residents
- safe passage for cyclists and pedestrians where the route crosses Jubilee Avenue, Holt Lane and Reading Road
- significant disparity in the position of the greenway between the maps on display in the main hall and a smaller scale map given to Cllr L Forbes by WBC
- lack of obvious consideration for alternative routes avoiding the use of Joel Park
- the route across Joel Park as currently set bisects the slope used for snow sledging and rolling down in summer.

**ACTION: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS OFFICER/TOWN CLERK**

This response was approved unanimously and will be the basis of further discussion between the Town Clerk and WBC officers.

**ACTION: TOWN CLERK**

Cllr I Shepherd-Dubey left the meeting at 8:16pm.

#### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Agenda 6)**

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr P Hornsby and it was

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED  
29968**

that in view of the confidential commercial nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the press and public be temporarily excluded and that they are asked to withdraw.

## **PART II**

### **INSTALLATION OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS ON THE TOWN HALL BUILDING (Agenda Item 7)**

Report 03:2019-20 dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 (amended on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019) from the Town Clerk and Amenities Officer was received and considered.

The AO reiterated that if councillors approved a particular CCTV scheme he will make a listed building application to WBC next week. He noted that following pre-application advice from WBC this will have to be supported by an heritage impact assessment from a qualified heritage buildings consultant and also be referred to Historic England for its view.

#### **ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

The councillors discussed whether any CCTV scheme around the Town Hall offered real value for money. Some councillors felt that the cost of installing any of the proposed schemes outweighed the perceived benefits. Some felt that the deterrent effect of CCTV cameras over this and subsequent years would lead to a reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour in the immediate town centre.

When asked the AO said that the police's view is that visible CCTV cameras do provide reassurance to residents but that they may, in some instances, displace criminal and anti-social activity.

Some councillors felt that affixing cameras to non-listed buildings around Market Place should be explored. The AO said that this is, of course, possible. However, it would require fresh quotations from interested companies and, as much of Market Place falls within Wokingham's conservation area, the planning application requirement would likely still pertain.

Concern was raised by councillors at the lack of visible police presence in and around the town. It was reported by one councillor that some residents are fearful of letting their older children and teenagers visit the town centre at night.

It was proposed by Cllr P Dennis and seconded by Cllr J Box and it was to approve the installation of CCTV cameras onto the town hall building.

**RESOLVED  
29969**

This was approved by a majority of 7 to 1.

It was proposed by Cllr D Hinton and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and it was

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**RESOLVED  
29970**

to engage contractor A to install CCTV cameras at Wokingham Town Hall as per its quotation FAR20190426823 for £6072.28 excluding VAT.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

This was approved unanimously.

It was proposed by Cllr L Forbes and seconded by Cllr T Lack and it was

**RESOLVED  
29971**

that in the event of WBC not granting listed building consent to instruct the AO to pursue the option of affixing CCTV cameras onto non-listed buildings around Market Place.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

This was approved unanimously. The AO said that company A is Protec Ltd.

**REPLACEMENT OF TOWN HALL HEATING BOILERS (Agenda Item 8)**

Report 01:2019-20 dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from the B&GO was received and considered.

The B&GO said that the three existing town hall boilers are at the end of their useful life. It is uneconomic to repair one which is broken, and another which is not working has not been repaired because of imminent replacement. Therefore, at present the hot water system for the town hall building is run from one boiler.

He briefly explained that a consultant has been employed by WTC to help it manage the procurement process for two replacement boilers. When asked, the B&GO said that a potentially disruptive element of the installation would be the siting of a new, larger width gas pipe from the meter to the boilers.

The B&GO said that of the companies who quoted for the work via the Contracts Finder portal only one was local to Wokingham – coincidentally the most expensive. He said that company A comes well recommended and has been employed by Buckingham County Council on several occasions. He confirmed that company A has the necessary public liability insurance in place.

It was proposed by Cllr T Lack and seconded by Cllr L Forbes and it was

**RESOLVED  
29972**

to engage company A to install replacement gas boilers at the town hall for £70,935.00 excluding VAT as per its quotation **XXXXXXXXXXXXX**.

**ACTION: BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS OFFICER**

This was approved unanimously. The B&GO said that company A is CME Heating Ltd of Luton.

**JOEL PARK CHILDREN’S PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT WORKS (Agenda Item 9)**

Report 02:2019-20 dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019 from the Amenities Officer was received and considered.

CHAIRMAN’S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



At 9:00pm councillors went to the main hall to inspect the drawings and photographs provided by the playground companies. They returned to the table at 9:07pm.

When the councillors were in the main hall the AO advised councillors to focus on the relative merits of the multi-play units proposed by each company.

It was proposed by Cllr L Forbes and seconded by Cllr P Hornsby and it was

**RESOLVED  
29973**

to engage company 8 to refurbish the surface at Joel Park playground and to introduce equipment for younger children for £65,000.00 excluding VAT as per its quotation 019670.

This was approved unanimously. The AO said that company 8 is Caloo Ltd of Stoke Mandeville.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

The AO was instructed to post this information on WTC's Facebook page to inform local residents about this decision and to subsequently post the installation timetable when it has been agreed with Caloo.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

The meeting closed at 9:17pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

