

21<sup>st</sup> July 2020

**In accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting was held virtually.**

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day, **VIRTUALLY** from 7:30pm to 9:40pm.

**PRESENT**

Cllrs: N Campbell-White (Chairman), P Dennis (Vice-Chairman), L Forbes, D Hinton, P Hornsby, T Lack (The Mayor) and M Malvern

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Amenities Officer (AO) – Fiona Sleaford  
Ethan Undrell – Emmbrook school student  
Emily Faupel – Wokingham town resident

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

Received and accepted from Cllr E Bishop

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

No declarations

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

No questions

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

It was proposed by Cllr Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr P Dennis and it was that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on:

- a) 19<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (pages 16069 to 16073) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
- b) 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 (pages 16103 to 16104) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED  
30158  
RESOLVED  
30159**

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

**TINY FOREST IN WOKINGHAM (Agenda Item 10)**

Councillors received information and discussed a verbal report given by a resident regarding the Tiny Forest initiative from Earthwatch Europe. Key points included information on crowdfunding schemes, such as Spacehive, that have been used in other boroughs and information on location requirements. Cllrs considered that this was an interesting and worthwhile initiative. Cllr D Hinton advised that WBC are planning these in their tree planting scheme. Cllrs were concerned regarding funding which would not be provided by WTC. Cllrs requested that the information be passed to WBC.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

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



## **POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022 (Agenda Item 5)**

a) Councillors were advised that they have two meetings, July and September, to decide and prioritize spending requests to go to F&P for approval.

b) Councillors considered and discussed at length a list of current, previous and new ideas, selecting the following to be followed up for costing:

- Defibrillator at Elms Field
- Redecorating hallways, landings and stairs of the Town Hall
- Tree planting / replacement at:
  - King George V playing field, replacement
  - Viking Field, new avenue of trees either side of walkway
  - Joel Park, replacement of failing oaks in the avenue of oaks
- King George V playground refurbishment
- Town Hall office 3 roof repair
- Woosehill Community Hall improvement work

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / BUILDINGS & GROUNDS OFFICER**

## **ELMS FIELD & HOWARD PALMER GARDENS WORKING PARTY (Agenda Item 6)**

a) Councillors received notes of the virtual meeting held Wednesday 17th June 2020, from the Amenities Officer.

b) Councillors were informed that WTC did not take full responsibility for Elms Field on 16th July 2020, due to complications of Covid-19 local lockdown.

## **NETWORK RAIL FOOTBRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL LINKED FOOTPATH (Agenda Item 7)**

Councillors received and discussed report 01:2020-2021, dated 7th July 2020, from the Allotments Officer.

It was considered that accessible footbridges are required and WTC would need to wait for updates and a time line from Network Rail.

WBC's aim to create a footpath from Ashville Road to the footbridge was supported.

ALO to be instructed to enter negotiations with WBC and advise that WTC are not prepared to have a footpath going through the centre of Ormonde Road allotments.

**ACTION: CLLR N CAMPBELL-WHITE / ALLOTMENTS OFFICER**

## **NEW ALLOTMENT SITES UPDATE (Agenda Item 8)**

Councillors received and discussed report 02:2020-2021, dated 9th July 2020, from the Allotments Officer.

Cllrs agreed and reaffirmed their instruction that WTC will not take on these sites until they are prepared to the Allotment Officer's satisfaction. Cllrs fully support the work of the ALO.

**ACTION: ALLOTMENTS OFFICER**

## **GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 9)**

Councillors received a photo montage of graffiti removal from June and a verbal update on July's graffiti removal from Cllr T Lack.

The councillors wanted to ensure that their thanks are recorded, noting the excellent job that Cllr T Lack has been doing in removing graffiti.

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



## **MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 11)**

Councillors received and discussed the monitoring report dated 3rd July 2020.

Item 113: Discussed under agenda item 5b.

**ACTION: RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER / EVENTS COORDINATOR / BUILDINGS & GROUNDS OFFICER**

Item 126: An acceptable level of cleaning, the AO to continue monitoring.

Cllr T Lack – Aldi are litter picking their carpark on a weekly basis.

Cllr L Forbes – ongoing discussions with management at Aldi for improvement.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / CLLR L FORBES**

Item 130: To be removed.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

Item 139: Item on hold until the WTC strategic plan is clearly defined.

Item 140: Item remains paused due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**ACTION: CLLR P HORNSBY**

No change expected with schools for 9-12 months due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**ACTION: CLLR L FORBES**

Item 142: Discussed under agenda item 5b.

**ACTION: BUILDINGS & GROUNDS OFFICER**

Item 143: Cllr D Hinton – potential private charity craft Christmas market at the Town Hall, depending on Covid-19 restrictions.

**ACTION: CLLR D HINTON**

Cllr L Forbes – mother and baby market paused due to Covid-19 restrictions.

**ACTION: CLLR L FORBES**

Item 149: Awaiting public consultation on the chicane exits from Elms Field, planned for August 2020.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / BUILDINGS & GROUNDS OFFICER**

Item 150: Worked planned asap once WTC have responsibility for Elms Field.

**ACTION: BUILDINGS & GROUNDS OFFICER**

Item 151: Discussed under agenda item 5b.

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

Item 152: Opportunity for WBC to plant additional trees, as per WBC strategy.

**ACTION: CLLR N CAMPBELL-WHITE / BUILDINGS & GROUNDS OFFICER**

## **AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 12)**

The following items were received for information:

(a) Allotments open day 15.08/20 at Ormonde Rd is cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Tours of allotments throughout the year by appointment, as per WTC website.

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



- (b) Clean Air Day 2020 was postponed to 8th October 2020.
- (c) Virtual Gardening Competition is now open for voting on the website, at:  
<https://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk/gc2020vote/>
- (d) Cllr P Dennis to collate comments from all Wokingham Town Councillors regarding the WBC's Greenways Project. A report will be submitted to WBC as an official record of WTC comments.

**ACTION: ALL / CLLR P DENNIS**

**MATTERS TO PUBLICIZE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING (Agenda Item 13)**

- Voting for Wokingham in Bloom virtual gardening competition.
- WBC Greenways Consultation to be promoted on social media, including Wokingham Gossip Girls Facebook page.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER**

Meeting closed at 9:40pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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

