

30th May 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7:36 pm to 8:34 pm.

Prior to the meeting Councillors received a 30-minute tour, from Elms Field (EF) to Howard Palmer Gardens (HPG). Councillors were given an overview of these areas; this included: some of the difficulties of managing the spaces, especially shared space at EF; and maintenance work being undertaken during this financial year.

PRESENT

Cllrs: R Bishop-Firth, S Cornish, M Fumagalli, T Lack (Chairman), M Malvern (Vice Chair), N Nagella and H Richards

IN ATTENDANCE

Amenities Officer (AO) – Fiona Sleaford
Grounds and Bloom Officer (GBO) – Marianna Pentek

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Cllrs A Fraser and A Medhurst

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

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

None

AMENITIES COMMITTEE OVERVIEW (Agenda Item 4)

Cllrs received the Amenities Officer's report 01/2023-24, dated 22nd May 2023.

- The AO explained that Cllrs would be informed of any significant issues with assets, however, lots of the work is transactional.
- The Chairman reminded that Cllrs could add issues to the monitoring report. Cllrs thanked the AO for the useful introduction and information.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 5)

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Malvern, and it was

**RESOLVED
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that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on:

- a) 23rd February 2023 (pages 16695 to 16698)
- b) 03rd May 2023 (page 16736)

be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 6)

Cllrs received the Committee's budget, as of 30th April 2023.

- The AO confirmed that the budget is brought to committee no more than twice a year.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 7)

Cllrs:

- a) Received an update from Cllr Lack regarding graffiti removal.
- b) Noted that commercial graffiti removal was completed on 27th April 2023.
- Cllr Lack explained that:
 - A record of removal work is brought to each meeting.
 - The committee, and so the council, has taken the stance to remove graffiti in the first instance, considering any potential consequences afterwards.

ALLOTMENTS (Agenda item 8)

Cllrs received:

- a) The Allotment Officer's Briefing Notes May 2023 dated 12th May.
- b) The Town Clerk's letter dated 23rd March 2023, regarding the Tan House Lane rail bridge replacement.
- For Cllrs new to the committee, the AO gave a short verbal overview.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 9)

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 23rd May 2023:

Item 151: HPG garden of reflection: This is no longer an active project.
Item to be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 159: Defibrillator for Elms Field, FY 2021-2022: The defibrillator and cabinet were installed 21st March 2023. Item to be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 169: Hanging baskets and planters, FY2023-2024: Budget uplift, five-year contract with existing supplier, Windowflowers, agreed January 2023.
Item to be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 170: Wokingham in Bloom, FY2023-2024: Budget uplift allocated.
Item to be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 171: Christmas Lights, FY2023-2024: Budget uplift, four-year contract with existing supplier, LITE, agreed February 2023. Item to be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 172: E-bike event, FY2023-2024: Establishing budget for an annual event, on-going planning with WBC's My Journey team, for event on 1st July 2023.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 173: Phase 2 footpath at KGV, FY2023-2024: Extending main footpath off Goodchild Road to Seaford Road, due to be completed 02nd June 2023.
Item to be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 174: Defibrillator for Woosehill Community Hall, FY2023-2024: Equipment has been purchased, date of full installation to be confirmed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



The relocation of the EF trampoline to be added to the monitoring report.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 10)

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) WTC's contribution to the "Big Tidy Up", community litter pick event, was successfully held on Sunday 26th March. Thank you to Cllr Bishop-Firth.
- b) The lighting on the western side of Market Place was repaired by SSE on 15th April 2023. Subsequent remedial works were undertaken by Volker Highways. This had been an issue since September.
- c) A public engagement was held at Viking Field on 20th May 2023, regarding Wokingham in Bloom creating an orchard on site.
 - The GBO confirmed that:
 - Responses were largely positive.
 - Two objections related to potential noise, and loss of view
 - Approximately 20 volunteers have signed up to the project
 - This is a planned four-year project, using one-acre of land
- d) World Refill Day will be held on Friday 16th June 2023.
- e) Investigations into potential uses for Langborough Recreation Ground (LRG) changing rooms are continuing. There has been a basic asbestos survey (no asbestos at this level), and the five-yearly fixed wiring inspection (building considered "unsatisfactory"). Minimal electrical works have taken place.
 - Allowing for the safe use of the "ladies" toilets
- f) The new trampoline for Elms Field is expected to be installed, in its relocated position, before the school summer holidays. The existing trampoline to be removed and site made good. Dates TBC.
 - This item will be added to the monitoring report.
- g) The 2023 E-bike event will be held on Saturday 1st July, in WBC's Shute End car park, Cllr support on the day would be welcomed, 10 am – 2pm.
- h) That spending priorities, for financial year 2024-2025, need to be brought forward for consideration at the July meeting, and resolved at the September meeting.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING (Agenda Item 11)

- World Refill Day, 16th June 2023.
- Once completed, the new footpath at King George V playing field.
- E-bike event.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER

Meeting closed at 8:34 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

