

31<sup>st</sup> May 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7:30pm to 9:27pm.

**PRESENT**

Cllrs: R Bishop-Firth, N Campbell-White, P Dennis (Vice-Chair), L Forbes, D Hinton, T Lack (Chairman) and M Malvern

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

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

Cllrs M Ferrai and P Lucey

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

None

**NEW CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION (Agenda Item 3)**

Cllr Lack outlined the role of the Amenities Committee reminding Cllrs that it has:

- The second largest budget, after Finance and Personnel.
- Responsibility for a large estate, with all parks, play parks and allotments.
- Seven members of staff within the Amenities department.
- This is not a minor committee.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 4)**

None

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 5)**

It was proposed by Cllr Forbes and seconded by Cllr Bishop-Firth, and it was

**RESOLVED  
30467**

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 08th March 2022 (pages 16479 to 16482) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

**LESLIE SEARS (Agenda Item 6)**

Cllrs received and discussed the Town Clerk's report, 05 2022, dated 22nd May 2022.

Discussion points included:

- Not doing anything versus potential pest management.
- Moles have been a problem on this site for many years.
- The dangers posed to users of the park and their pets.
- Damage to the play park surfacing and the safety issue created.
- Potential damage to ground contractor's equipment, a financial liability.
- Consultation with local residents, to explain the necessity of this work.
- WTC need to address the situation and cannot be sentimental.
- Potential for using a prevention measure once the problem is removed.

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



- That moles are spreading to Viking Field, threatening the sustainable use of the grass as silage, due to soil contamination.

Cllr Dennis requested it be minuted that he disagrees with the resolution.

**RESOLVED  
30468**

It was proposed by Cllr Forbes and seconded by Cllr Campbell-White, and it was that WTC will trap moles at Leslie Sears and Viking Field, involving the local residents to aid understanding, and to investigate future prevention measures.

**ACTION: GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER**

**MARKET PLACE CLEANING (Agenda Item 7)**

Cllrs received and discussed the Amenities Officer's report, 01/2022-23, dated 27th April 2022.

Discussion points included:

- The level of work undertaken, was as expected as this was not a deep clean.
- That the more heavily cleaned areas now show more signs of being "dirty".
- The need to allow the surface to continue to weather.
- The potential to use fitted equipment on the new bowser to support cleaning.
- That residents will comment about the market, with no complaint of cleanliness.

**RESOLVED  
30469**

It was proposed by Cllr Campbell-White and seconded by Cllr Malvern and it was that WTC will clean Market Place on an ad-hoc basis, as and when agreed between the Chairman and the Amenities Officer

**ACTION: CHAIRMAN & AMENITIES OFFICER**

**ALLOTMENTS (Agenda Item 8)**

a) Cllrs received and noted the Allotments Officer's briefing notes May 2022, dated 20th May 2022.

b) Cllrs noted the Allotments Open Day, will be held on 13th August 2022.

Cllrs commented positively:

- With thanks to the Allotments Officer for the successful work.
- That allotment holders from Ifould Crescent, informed Cllrs that they are really pleased with their allotments.

**GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 9)**

a) Cllrs received an update from Cllr Lack, bringing to their attention the use of vinyl wrap on the aluminium cabinets, which cannot be cleaned by WTC's equipment and chemicals.

b) Cllrs noted the commercial graffiti removal, completed on 15th & 16th March

c) Cllrs noted the commercial graffiti removal, completed on 30th March.

d) Cllrs discussed:

- The annual spend on graffiti and the reduction in the annual budget to £6,000.
- That, due to cost at this time, WTC would not go ahead with the anti-graffiti coating work on Holt Lane.

Thanks were given to Cllr Lack for his continued work against graffiti.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

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



### **PLAY PARK REFURBISHMENT (AGENDA ITEM 10)**

Cllrs discussed whether the Langborough Recreation Ground (LRG) or the Leslie Sears (LS) play park will be the next to be refreshed or fully refurbished.

Discussion points included:

- Equipment at LRG is generally in good condition with good surfacing.
- LRG could benefit from a tidy up and a wash down of equipment.
- The GBO suggested that we will use the new attachment on the bowser to complete a wash down of LRG play equipment.
- LRG could be refreshed by replacing swing seats and roundabout platform.
- Equipment at LS is generally in good condition.
- There are a currently surfacing issues at LS, including mole damage.
- The GBO explained the situation regarding the surfacing within the LS toddler play area, which is to be repaired soon.
- The LS junior play area surfacing requires replacement, as the tiger mulch in-situ is wearing.
- The focus needs to be on safety surfacing at LS.
- Additional equipment being investigated and proposed for the play parks, considering more varied equipment by age-range.

It was proposed by Cllr Hinton and seconded by Cllr Forbes, and it was

**RESOLVED  
30470**

that WTC will undertake a wash down of LRG play park and will resurface the Leslie Sears junior play area, using wet pour.

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

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

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 25th May 2022:

Item 113: Town Hall Kitchen: Refurbishment is complete, item to be removed.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

Item 139: Strategic objectives: Cllrs are aware of the strategic principles of WTC and note that reports reference the appropriate principles, item to be removed.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

Item 151: HPG Garden of Reflection: Wokingham in Need (WIN) are without the capacity to fulfil the project, considering global challenges. Paused until Autumn.

**ACTION: CLLR FORBES**

Item 156: Market Place Cleanliness: Discussed under agenda item 7.

Work was completed before the end of March 2022, item to be removed.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

Item 157: E-bike event 2022: Event pending on Sunday 26th June 2022.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

Item 158: Tree planting 2021-2022: The one remaining hawthorn tree is to be planted at Leslie Sears.

**ACTION: GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER**

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



**RESOLVED  
30471**

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Bishop-Firth and it was

that all items resolved to be actioned are placed on the monitoring report until they are completed.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

**SPENDING PRIORITIES 2023-2024 (Agenda Item 12)**

Cllrs brought forward the following potential projects, for further investigation, to be considered at its July meeting and resolved upon at the September meeting:

- More teenage equipment / provision / shelters in parks
- Robust exercise equipment
- Replanting borders at Elms Field, from wildflowers to perennial shrubs
- Garden of Reflection
- Goal posts, kickabout area / basketball hoops
- BT phone box maintenance
- Potential support for Refill scheme
- E-cargo bike for market traders to do deliveries
- E-bike event
- Clean up around alley ways and shabby areas of town - cleanliness in town
- Uplift & expansion to be considered for:
  - Hanging baskets - contract
  - Christmas lights - contract
  - Graffiti budget - anti-graffiti treatment on Holt Lane, cabinet wrapping
- Parks and grounds signage - to be legally compliant
- Educational / Information boards for wildflowers / wildlife in Elms Field
- Playpark clean and refresh / refurbishment
- Woosehill Community Hall entrance way refresh

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

**AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 13)**

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) Following their 16th March meeting, F&P resolved to carry forward funding for the Garden of Reflection, and the defibrillator project, into the current financial year.
- b) The additional funding, for this financial year's hanging baskets contract, has already been utilised with four updated planters on Broad Street, and a new fifth planter outside the Woosehill Community Hall, having been installed.
- c) As part of Wokingham in Bloom's outreach work, they have provided four new hanging baskets for Wokingham Fire Station with the Fire Station providing a fifth.
- d) Clean Air Day will be held on Thursday 16th June 2022.
- e) Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) teamed up with Freely Fruity to plant eighty-two trees for a new community orchard at Woosehill Meadows on 18th March 2022.
- f) WTC's contribution to WBC's community litter pick event was held on Sunday 3rd April. With thanks to Cllr Gee for coordinating volunteers on the day.

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

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



**MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING (Agenda Item 14)**

- Clean Air Day is Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June.
- E-bike event
- Wokingham in Bloom's YouTube videos and herb gardens.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER**

Meeting closed at 9:27pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

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

