

19th July 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 8:39pm.

PRESENT

Cllrs: R Bishop-Firth, N Campbell-White, P Dennis (Vice-Chair), M Ferrai, T Lack (Chairman), P Lucey and M Malvern

IN ATTENDANCE

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr Forbes (attending training on behalf of Wokingham Town Council)
Cllr Hinton

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

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

Questions were received:

- a) Cllr Campbell-White asked about the security of keys being provided to hirers at Woosehill Community Hall.
 - It was confirmed that hirers are provided with keys, however, they are all numbered, catalogued and there is a procedure to ensure their safe return.
- b) Cllr Lucey asked whether "Do not feed the pigeons" signs are present on the Town Hall or Market Place.
 - It was confirmed that the topic will be brought back to a future meeting.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 4)

Cllr Dennis requested that the minutes be revised to note his disagreement with the resolution for Leslie Sears. Revised minutes will be circulated to Councillors.

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

**RESOLVED
30489**

that the amended minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 31st May 2022 (pages 16543 to 16547) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

COMMITTEE BUDGET (Agenda Item 5)

Cllrs received the Committee's budget, as of 30th June 2022.

No questions were asked.

It was noted that there is a budget for pigeon control at the Town Hall. The GBO explained that this will be used for new netting and clearing pigeon detritus from across the courtyard space.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



E-BIKE EVENT (Agenda Item 6)

Cllrs received and discussed the Amenities Officer's report 02/2022-23, dated 12th July 2022, and Cllr Dennis, the event's sponsor, gave some information from the day.

Discussion points included:

- Whether the venue was better at Cantley Park than Shute End car park.
- Whether to hold the event alongside the Bikeathon in the future.
- The location at Cantley was awkward, being out of town.
- It was considered that the location, and holding the event alongside the Bikeathon, was not necessarily a positive move, as it did not engage with the target audience.
- Alternative locations closer to town, Elms Field, Market Place, a local school or Denmark Street car park etc. where drop in attendees would be more likely.
- Cllrs considered it a success and would support it as an annual event.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

SPENDING PRIORITIES 2023-2024 (Agenda Item 7)

- a) Cllrs noted that spending priorities for 2023-2024 will need to be brought forward for consideration and resolved upon at the September meeting.
- b) Cllrs discussed and focused the listed proposals.

Discussions resulted in taking the following forward to September's meeting:

- 1) Uplift for existing budgets, to maintain current provision
 - a) Hanging baskets – new contract pending
 - b) Christmas lights – new contract pending
 - c) Wokingham in Bloom
- 2) Second footpath at KGV, for child safety
- 3) Additional play park provision:
 - a) Resurface the junior play area wet pour – Leslie Sears
 - b) Goal posts
 - c) Basketball hoops
 - d) Hanging bar
 - e) Table tennis table
 - f) Professionally created exercise noticeboard, for KGV trim trail
 - It was reconfirmed that no major refurbishment would be requested
- 4) E-bike event
- 5) Woosehill Community Hall entrance way refresh
- 6) External locked defibrillator for Woosehill Community Hall

It was noted that the September meeting will be held at Woosehill Community Hall, and requirements for the hall considered when in situ.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER

ALLOTMENTS (Agenda Item 8)

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

Cllrs commented positively and noted:

- A thank you letter has been sent to Paul Jarvis, from the Chairman, for helping to install the waterless toilet at Binfield Road.
- Cllrs gave their thanks to the Allotments Officer for his work.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 9)

- Cllrs received an update from Cllr Lack regarding recent graffiti removal.
- Cllrs noted that commercial graffiti removal, in support of the Wokingham in Bloom submission, was completed on 13th July 2022.

Cllrs thanked Cllr Lack for his continued work against graffiti.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 10)

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 08th July 2022.

As resolved (30471), at May's meeting, all outstanding projects budgeted for FY22-23, and held over from FY21-22, were included:

Item 151: HPG Garden of Reflection: It is understood that further discussions with Wokingham in Need (WIN) will be held in the autumn. Paused until Autumn.

ACTION: CLLR FORBES

Item 157: E-bike event 2022: Discussed under agenda item 6.

A successful event was held on Sunday 26th June 2022.

Item to be removed from the monitoring report.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 158: Tree planting 2021-2022: The one remaining hawthorn tree is to be planted at Leslie Sears once planting conditions have improved. The GBO updated that two of the original 20 trees planted have been vandalised and lost, one from King George V and the other from Langborough Recreation Ground. Weekly watering continues, especially considering the current heatwaves.

ACTION: GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER

Item 159: Defibrillator for Elms Field, FY 2021-2022: Investigation with Nuffield Health to install the defibrillator on the outside of their building

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Projects budgeted for FY22-23:

Item 160: Footpath to facilitate child safety at KGV: Five contractors have been contacted to provide quotes for the footpath installation, awaiting quotes.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER

Item 161: Footpath in Leslie Sears: As Item 160, five contractors have been contacted to provide quotes for the footpath installation, awaiting quotes.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER

Item 162: Town Hall stairs, hall, and landing recarpeting: Contractors have been selected, awaiting quotes.

ACTION: BUILDINGS & MARKET OFFICER

Item 163: Additional Hanging Baskets: Completed. Four updated planters on Broad Street, a fifth new planter placed outside Woosehill Community Hall.

Item to be removed from the monitoring report.

Cllrs gave thanks to the Amenities Officer, Grounds & Bloom Officer and the two Groundsmen, Mac and Jim, for the great job with hanging baskets and planters.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



Item 164: Basic gym equipment in KGV: Discussed under agenda item 7. To be discussed further at the next meeting under "Spending Priorities 2023-2024"

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 165: Pollarding 7 elm trees on Barkham Recreation Ground: Discussed under agenda item 8. Completed, by crown lifting the trees resulting in more light on 7-10 plots.

Item to be removed from the monitoring report.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 166: Waterless toilets for two allotments: Discussed under agenda item 8. The first waterless toilet was installed in June, at Binfield Road, paid for by S106 money. A location at Latimer Road is now being investigated.

ACTION: ALLOTMENTS OFFICER

Item "and": Garden of Reflection at HPG: Item included to reflect that a £5,000 budget allocation was given for this financial year. This item is already covered and will remain under Item 151.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 11)

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) Wokingham in Bloom, judging held on Thursday 14th June 2022. Cllrs received the Wokingham in Bloom entry portfolio from the Town Clerk.
 - Cllr Campbell-White lead thanks to the Grounds & Bloom Officer and Cllr Malvern for their hard work. Cllr Lack presented flowers to them both.
- b) BT confirmed to Cllr Bishop-Firth that the telephone on Broad Street would be repainted, and this has already been completed.
- c) Market Place cleaning, undertaken overnight on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July, in support of Wokingham in Bloom.
- d) Wet pour surface repairs in the toddler section of Leslie Sears play park, completed during the week ending Friday 08th July 2022. It was confirmed that the toddler swing would not be replaced.

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

- Wokingham in Bloom, new YouTube videos, new volunteering form and the portfolio being added to the website
- Successful E-bike event
- Refill scheme and the active providers

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER

Meeting closed at 8:39pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

Amenities Committee 19th July 2022 16577

