

1st November 2022

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7:30 pm to 8:15pm.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk (TC) – Jan Nowecki
Grounds & Bloom Officer (GBO) – Marianna Pentek

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

None received

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

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

Cllr Hinton queried the delay on the installation of the pathway at Leslie Sears. The GBO advised that this had been delayed due to the severe wet weather but was scheduled to start on Saturday 5th November.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Agenda Item 4)

The Chair queried with members whether they had received an indication at the visit to Woosehill that the flooring was due to be changed. Cllr Malvern confirmed it was. It was agreed that the minutes be amended to note the visit and subject to this being actioned:

It was proposed by Cllr Malvern and seconded by Cllr Campbell-White, and it was

**RESOLVED
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that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 13th September 2022 (pages 16593 to 16596) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

WOKINGHAM IN BLOOM (Agenda item 5)

The committee was pleased once again to note the success of this year's entry and Wokingham's inclusion in the regional newsletter. The TC discussed with the Committee the volume of work needed by the volunteers, ably led and coordinated by the GBO and that this was not sustainable in the long term. A balance needs to be achieved to maintain the excellent work but not to raise expectations further with the possibility of losing people's goodwill.

The GBO noted that we have yet to hear about the national entry for 2023 and whether, as a Regional Gold Winner, Wokingham will be put forward.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



ALLOTMENTS (Agenda Item 6)

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

Cllrs commented positively and

- Requested confirmation about who was bearing the cost of the crown lifting at Ifould Crescent.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 6)

- Cllrs received a general update from Cllr Lack who indicated that, disappointingly, there seems to be more activity generally.
- Cllr Lack also drew the Committee's attention to the action list and that he was working with the AO to use the commercial contractors to best effect.
- Cllr Lack encouraged all Councillors to report where they see graffiti, either to him or the AO.
- Wraps on utility cabinets were brought up. There is some damage on the original cabinet at The Ship Inn corner. Cllr Lack agreed to look at this to see if he could achieve a repair. It was recognised that this in fact has lasted far longer than expected. The concept of charities paying for wraps was passed to the A&C Committee but with the impact of COVID no further progress has been made. The A&C Committee's contribution to supporting graffiti eradication has been focused on improving the large panels at Ertstadt Court and this is making very good progress and the panels should receive the artwork before Christmas.
- The Chairman was once again thanked for the enormous effort he puts into this area of work to ensure the town environment remains positive.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 8)

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 20th October 2022:

Item 151: HPG Garden of Reflection: it remains on WIN's list of active projects with another project ahead of it to be completed.

ACTION: CLLR FORBES

Item 158: Tree planting 2021-2022: The one remaining Hawthorn tree to be planted at Leslie Sears on 5th November.

ACTION: GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER

Item 159: Defibrillator for Elms Field, FY 2021-2022: Nuffield Health are keen to host a defibrillator outside the building. Discussion with the landlord in progress.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 160: Footpath in KGV due to be finished 4th November. The Chair raised the point that in terms of the second (extension) pathway the order of priority agreed by the committee did not reflect its position the previous year. The Chair had subsequently received additional information from the AO from the survey carried out in relation to the new play park which evidenced strong support for this second path. It will now be for F&P to decide as it considers all projects being proposed for the next financial year.

Item 161: Footpath in Leslie Sears work due to start 5th November.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



Item 162: Town Hall stairs, hall, and landing recarpeting: contractor booked to install week of 3rd January 2023.

Item 164: Basic gym equipment in KGV: Discussions with Nuffield Health are proving positive.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

Item 166: Waterless toilets for two allotments now complete.

Item 167: Pigeons – “do not feed” signs have been placed in the Town Hall noticeboards.

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 9)

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) Footpath work in both Leslie Sears & King George V parks.
- b) Market Place cleaning will now be undertaken after Winter Carnival providing temperatures are not too low. It was noted that the Winter Carnival Committee have been reminded about using non-permanent marking for stalls.
- c) Councillors’ concerns, about the condition of the paved areas and brick structures in the immediate vicinity of Woosehill Community Hall, had been notified to WBC, with Highways to follow up with landowners. Given no notification of an outcome had been received Cllr Bishop-Firth agreed to follow up at WBC. AO to pass on WBC contact. It was also agreed that this would be placed on the monitoring report for the next meeting only and would then be removed.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER & CLLR BISHOP-FIRTH

- d) Security had been booked for the Christmas period.
- e) Road Safety Week 14th – 20th November.
- f) New flooring completed at Woosehill.
- g) Cllrs Forbes and Malvern had attended a public meeting about the proposed Greenway on Jubilee Avenue. The meeting was well attended but Cllrs wanted the Committee to be aware that it seemed to be WBC’s intention to revisit the route crossing Joel Park. The TC advised that the Committee would receive any formal request, which was likely to be at the January meeting. It was agreed that WBC officers should again be requested to attend when this was on the agenda.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK & AMENITIES OFFICER

MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING’S MEETING (Agenda Item 10)

- New footpaths at King George V and Leslie Sears.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER

Meeting closed at 8:15pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN’S INITIALS _____



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CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

Amenities Committee 1st November 2022

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