

12th September 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COMMITTEE ROOM, WOOSEHILL COMMUNITY HALL, WOKINGHAM** 7:32 pm to 9:00 pm.

Prior to the meeting Councillors received a 15-minute tour around Woosehill Community Hall. Councillors were given an overview of these areas; this included: some of the uses and hirers, some recent upgrades, and the areas of focus for the Buildings & Market Officer, with ongoing maintenance requirements.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Amenities Officer (AO) – Fiona Sleaford
Town Clerk (TC) – Katy Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr H Richards

MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

None

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

None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 4)

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

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 11th July 2023 (pages 16786 to 16788) be received as a true and correct record, and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**RESOLVED
30707**

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

AMENITIES SERVICE AREA - BUILDINGS & MARKET (Agenda Item 5)

Cllrs received the Buildings & Market Officer's report 01/2023-24, dated 18th August 2023:

It was confirmed to Cllrs that:

- Within the Town Hall demise, Piccolo Arco, RYND and Timpson have maintenance leases and are responsible for their ongoing maintenance and compliance.
- Wokingham Borough Council have agreed to compensate the town council for work required to reinstate the damaged electrical utility box on Market Place, adjacent to the Town Hall.

REQUEST TO F&P – PLAY PARK RESERVE REQUEST (Agenda Item 6)

Cllrs received the Amenities Officer's Report, 02/2023-24 dated 06th September.

It was confirmed to Cllrs that:

- Leslie Sears junior play area is the only town council play area without any sub-base beneath the playground surface, and so this issue will not affect any other site to the same extent.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



**RESOLVED
30708**

It was proposed by Cllr Malvern and seconded by Cllr Fraser, and it was to submit an in-year request to F&P for up to an additional £35,000, from the Play Park Reserve fund, to cover the cost of the more comprehensive surfacing replacement in Leslie Sears junior play area.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / TOWN CLERK

GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 7)

- a) Cllrs received an update from Cllr Lack regarding graffiti removal.
- b) Noted commercial graffiti removal was completed on 10th and 13th July 2023.
- c) Noted, following the significant graffiti across the whole town, removal will not take place until students return to college and university.

Discussion points included:

- The cost of commercial graffiti removal versus the existing budget.
- The value of wrapping cabinets, and of having art and murals on walls.
- From previous CCTV footage the perpetrators are most likely college age.
- That two to three days of commercial work is required to clean recent graffiti.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

SPENDING PRIORITIES 2024-2025 (Agenda item 8)

Councillors discussed the shortlisted projects and prioritised their requests to be proposed to F&P for approval.

Discussion points included:

- Removal of a significant capital investment item, that could be brought back for discussion and possible inclusion in the next annual budget.
- The Town Clerk confirmed that a significant number of items have been removed from the list, since July's meeting, as they can be investigated / completed within the current financial year.

**RESOLVED
30709**

It was proposed by Cllr Lack and seconded by Cllr Fumagalli and it was

to request the following funding from the F&P Committee in this prioritised order for 2024-2025:

Priority	Project	Request
1	Woosehill – Fire alarm upgrade	£1,000
2	Play Parks Reserves Request: Replacement of aged and defective equipment	up to £40,000
3	Town hall – Defibrillator	up to £3,000
4	Budget uplift – New grounds maintenance contract	£15,000
5	New budget line – Market Place parking permits	£1,050
6	New budget line – Park Yoga	£1,400
7	Allotments – Waterless toilet cleaning	£4,500
8	Budget uplift – Graffiti budget	£2,000

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / TOWN CLERK

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



LOCAL GREEN SPACE NOMINATIONS (Agenda Item 9)

Cllrs received the Amenities Officer's Report, 03/2023-24 dated 01st September 2023, and the Town Clerk gave a verbal update in support of the report.

Discussion points included:

- Consideration that, as with TPO's, ownership by WTC confers sufficient long-term protection from the development of WTC's green spaces.
- Objecting, to the protection of WTC's own spaces, could be a difficult concept for residents, as it may appear that WTC are trying to be underhand or dishonest about the future of these spaces.
- The decision, for designation of WTC land as a Local Green Space (LGS) will be taken as part of the Local Plan Update, following an independent examination, over which WTC has no influence or control.

LANGBOROUGH RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOM (Agenda Item 10)

The TC provided a verbal update on recent research and the current situation.

Points raised and discussed included:

- No football has been played on the site since 2022, with the goals to be moved to King George V playing field, for informal games use.
- From a commercial perspective the location is compromised, parking is very restricted, it is adjacent to the play park, and it's bound on two sides by a residential neighbour.
- The building itself is not ideal, having only a single skin, with no insulation, no heating and limited natural lighting, and so it has limited potential.
- If it is demolished WTC could save the running and maintenance costs.
- If WTC retains the building, it's believed it may be best used for WTC's own storage needs.
- The planning use class is currently unclear, and so WTC would have to apply to for a change of use, to ensure the building can be used for storage.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 11)

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 24th 2023:

Item 174: Defibrillator for Woosehill Community Hall, FY2023-2024: Final installation is expected by the end of September 2023.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 12)

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) Vandalism to the "tigermulch" rubber surfacing at Elms Field play park.
- b) Vandalism to the roundabout at Joel Park.
- c) Wokingham in Bloom, Thames and Chilterns, regional results are announced on 27th September, with National results announced on 23rd October 2023.
- d) A Cllr brought up a significant problem, seen recently, of vapes being littered around town, a WTC social media campaign around Recycle Week (16th-22nd October) is being planned to promote appropriate recycling of vapes.

Cllrs requested that a special mention, and their thanks, be passed to Jim, the Elms Field Groundsman, for keeping the field and play area looking so good throughout the summer.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



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

- Recycle Week 2023, which will take place between 16-22 October 2023, with a campaign focusing on the local issue with discarded vapes.
- Further to the agreement from F&P, the work to resurface Leslie Sears junior play area.

ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER

Meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

