

12th March 2024

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 8:45pm.

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk (TC) – Katy Hughes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

None

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 H Richards and seconded by Cllr M Malvern, and it was

**RESOLVED
30791**

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 07th November 2023 (pages 16858 to 16860) be received as a true and correct record, and they be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (Agenda Item 5)

Members reviewed the Town Clerk's report TC/07 2024 and following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr T Lack, seconded by Cllr R Bishop-Firth and members

**RESOLVED
30792**

to award the grounds maintenance contract from April 2024 to March 2029 to NJL Boxgreen at a cost of £32,000 in the 2024-25 financial year, with an annual RPI uplift.

AMENITIES SERVICE AREA – CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (Agenda Item 6)

The following comments were made regarding the Christmas lights:

- Some aspects of the lights on Broad Street around the Broad Street tavern were not always working.
- Cllr Lack enquired about the possibility of wrapping another tree at the Shute End end of Broad Street, near the barber shop.
- Members noted that there are few lights on Peach Street but it lacks infrastructure to attach lights to.
- Extensions of the contract could be considered in the future for the areas around Elms Field, Aldi and the Carnival Hub.
- Members expressed an interest in additional lights around the station area but flagged concerns over past vandalism of planters

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



BENCH IN WOOSEHILL (Agenda Item 7)

Members reviewed the Town Clerk's report 06/2024 regarding a request for a new bench in Woosehill near Meadow Way.

During discussion it was noted that benches located near the residential areas had been removed in the past due to residents' concerns over antisocial behaviour.

Following discussion, it was agreed that:

- There was potential for a new bench nearer to Meadow Way where there is more visibility from passing traffic
- Before any decision is made, a consultation of local residents should be made
- Cllr T Lack to provide photos and the Town Clerk will draft a letter to residents to gather their views before the proposal is taken forward.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

TREE CULTIVARS – GIPSY LANE ALLOTMENTS (Agenda item 8)

Members received and noted with interest, the report on the new Gipsy Lane allotment tree cultivars from the Allotments Officer.

Members enquired whether some of these two new varieties of trees could be planted in a future town council orchard.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

GRAFFITI UPDATE (AGENDA ITEM 9)

Members noted a report on graffiti recently cleared by volunteers and by contractors.

RISK REGISTER (Agenda Item 10)

- a) Members received and noted the updated risk register. Cllr Bishop-Firth asked the committee to consider the current use of specific wording in the report.
- b) Members noted the update information on Health and Safety.

COUNCIL'S UPDATED VISION AND PRINCIPLES (Agenda Item 11)

Members noted the work the committee already does to support the council's strategic vision, including:

- A possible new bench, which would support the 'involving everyone' principle as residents will be consulted on it.
- Cleaning graffiti supports the 'fostering town pride'
- Much of the committee's work, including bloom and allotments (including the new apple trees) supports the 'enriching community' principle
- Projects such as Christmas lighting, with newer LED lighting supports the 'being sustainable' principle.

MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 12)

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____



Members requested the Woosehill bench be added to the Monitoring Report going forward.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 13)

Members noted the following:

- The titan swing at King George V playing fields had been vandalized but has been repaired.
- The Elms Field trampoline continues to fill with water, which is being pumped out, but a longer-term solution is still required.
- The snake swing at Elms Field is still out of action whilst we await receipt of ordered replacement parts. Members requested that an information sign be added to the Heras fencing to advise park users that replacement parts are on order.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- Works on the Tanhouse Lane bridge are ongoing, with completion expected in April.
- No further update is available on the failed Market Place lighting.
- External lighting at Woosehill Community Centre has been replaced to improve the lighting on the raised area between Emmview Close and Morrisons. Cllr Bishop-Firth asked the Town Clerk to email details to herself and Cllrs M Malvern and I Shepherd-Dubey as ward members for Emmbook, with a view to requesting additional street lighting from WBC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- The Town Clerk met with Alison Flawith from the WBC My Journey Team regarding the annual E-bike event, and a request was made to reschedule this event until September, and work with the My Journey Team to incorporate this into a wider E-vehicle event at Elms Field. Members were supportive of this proposal.
- Cllr N Nagella reported a damaged noticeboard on Norreys Avenue. The Town Clerk will raise this with WBC.

ACTION: TOWN CLERK

- Cllr A Fraser asked about the provision of a pump track in the town area and will investigate costs and bring this proposal back to a future meeting.

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

The Town Clerk noted the request to publicise further information about the replacement parts on order for the snake swing.

Meeting closed at 8:45pm.

CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS _____

