

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD
ONLINE VIA ZOOM
ON MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors Martin Colston (Leader); Olivia Lewis (Deputy Leader) Jeff Beck; Nigel Foot; Chris Foster; Jon Gage; Roger Hunneman; Sarah Slack; Martha Vickers.

In Attendance

David Ingram, Community Services Manager
Caroline Edmunds, Community Services Officer

Absent: Cllr Steve Masters

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Community Services Manager declared that Councillors Jeff Beck and Martha Vickers are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

3. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Cllr Jeff Beck

SECONDED: Cllr Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 16 March 2020, be approved.

4. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Cllr Roger Hunneman, "The Greenham and Crookham Common Commissioners are requesting a contribution towards the costs of running their affairs. They are making this request of all the organisations who have representatives on the Commission.

In particular, support is being sought from the three local Parish Councils (Newbury, Greenham & Thatcham) and the District Council (as owners of the Commons) so as to ensure that the Commission complies with its legal duties to have proper accounts and administration – which involves cost. Greenham Parish Council has agreed to providing the services of their Assistant Clerk up to a value of £500 in lieu of a monetary contribution while Thatcham Town Council has said it will make a contribution if the other councils do so. A figure of £500/yr. for 3 years has been suggested.

The Commissioners look after the management of the Common, I am sure that members are aware the Common is heavily used by residents of Newbury, and it is very much appreciated by them. In view of this can this Council consider making such a contribution to the Commissioners? – although it is appreciated that a change in the Council's Strategy might needed to do so. Failing that can the Commission be invited to apply for a grant through the grant sub- committee?"

Chairpersons reply:

"Thank you, Cllr Hunneman.

The Council accepts that Greenham Common is a valuable recreational asset within West Berkshire & Newbury Parishioners have the benefit of its use.

Can I suggest that this committee agree to invite Rebecca Hart, the Commission secretary, to make a presentation to the next CS meeting in December 2020, so that Members can hear about the work of the commission and can make an informed decision in the matter".

It was agreed that this item would be added to the Forward Works Programme for the December Community Services Committee Meeting.

6. NEWBURY'S 'IN LOCKDOWN' 2020 ALLOTMENT AWARDS

The winners were announced and congratulated. A certificate and hand-crafted wooden keyring will be delivered to each winner in due course.

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

7.1 Councillors received an update from the Community Services Manager on activities undertaken as per the items as attached at Appendix 3 of the Agenda.

7.2 The items on the report were noted.

7.3

PROPOSED: Cllr Jeff Beck

SECONDED: Cllr Martin Colston

RESOLVED: To approve the investment in the upkeep of the WW2 Civilian Casualty memorial at Shaw Cemetery.

7.4

PROPOSED: Cllr Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Cllr Sarah Slack

RESOLVED: to approve the expenditure in making the metal pedestrian gate in Hutton Close Park dog friendly.

7.5

PROPOSED: Cllr Roger Hunneman

SECONDED: Cllr Jon Gage

RESOLVED: To approve that Officers negotiate a new lease with the Canal and River Trust for Lock Island on the best terms available.

8. GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP – NEWBURY IN BLOOM

8.1 The minutes of the Green Spaces Group of 25 June 2020, 23 July 2020 and 20 August 2020 were noted.

8.2 The Green Spaces Working Group Forward Community Engagement Plan as set out in Appendix 4.4 of the Agenda was approved.

8.3 The issues encountered and plans for Newtown Road Cemetery as at Appendix 4.5 of the Agenda were noted.

8.4.1

PROPOSED: Cllr Jon Gage

SECONDED: Cllr Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: A new green Spaces Working Group Social media page be provided to publicise ongoing Green Spaces activities & post information on Green Flag, Newbury in Bloom and Britain in Bloom activities.

8.4.2**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers**RESOLVED:** That the Newbury in Bloom competition be put in place for the 2020/21 growing season**8.4.3****PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers**RESOLVED:** That the submission of an Entry in the Thames & Chiltern Regional finals of Britain in Bloom 2020/21**8.4.4****Cllrs Martha Vickers, Chris Foster and Olivia Lewis declared an interest in this item as they are members of Friends of the Earth (Newbury).****PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage**SECONDED:** Cllr Sarah Slack**RESOLVED:** To approve the joint working with Friends of the Earth (Newbury) and Growing Newbury Green on the Lockdown Wood project on land at Barn Crescent.**8.4.5****Cllr Chris Foster declared an interest in this item as he volunteers with the Secret Garden Community Project at Lock Island.****PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers**RESOLVED:** To agree partnership working between Newbury Town Council, Lock Island Project and Growing Newbury Green in enhancing the Green space on Lock Island subject to the Canal & River Trust agreement.**8.4.6****PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck**RESOLVED:** That the Tree Policy is adopted as at Appendix 4.6 of the Agenda, to cover all existing and future trees within the Newbury Town Council portfolio and in addition to add a footnote to the Policy to confirm that there is a revenue stream available to cover the maintenance of new trees for 5 years.

8.4.7**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck**RESOLVED:** To invest a sum not to exceed £4,500 to reconnect the outflow drainage to the pond in Victoria Park to allow the balancing arrangement to be reinstated.**8.4.8****PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers**RESOLVED:** To provide a detailed Options Appraisal for the future investment needs for the Victoria Park Boating Pond and a Public Consultation seeking opinions/options for its future use.**9 FORWARD WORKS PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2019/20**

The contents of the Forward Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2021-2020 were noted.

Members were invited to raise any additional items for consideration for the future programmes.

It was agreed that as noted earlier in this meeting, additional items to be added for the Forward Work Programme for this Committee are:

- Invite Rebecca Hart from The Greenham and Crookham Common Commissioners to give a presentation.
- Provide a detailed Options Appraisal for the future investment needs for the Victoria Park Boating Pond.

10 CITY RECREATION GROUND UPDATE

The progress and updated plan for City Recreation Ground improvements were noted.

11 SKYLLINGS (AND OTHER) PLAY AREA UPDATE

The Community Services Manager gave a verbal update on the new Skyllings Play Area and other Play areas.

There was discussion regarding a small grassed area adjacent the Skyllings Play Area and if there was a possibility of adding a bench or something useful to the residents using the play area in the future.

12 WASTE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

PROPOSED: Cllr Jeff Beck

SECONDED: Cllr Martin Colston

RESOLVED: to approve the cost for new segregates waste collection from City Recreation Ground in the sum of £3,420 per annum.

There was discussion regarding issues raised by Cllr Martha Vickers concerning waste collection & disposal from Newbury Town Council assets and concerns with the amount of litter in Newbury.

It was suggested that Cllr Martha Vickers should make a request in writing via the Community Services Manager requesting that a line is added to the Strategy to this regard. This could then be considered by the Town Council's Strategy Working Group.

13 FOOTBALL FEES – UNDER 18'S

PROPOSED: Cllr Jeff Beck

SECONDED: Cllr Olivia Lewis

RESOLVED: To change the fee structure to align with the FA designation that all teams made up of players under 18 shall have the pitch fee waived by the Council to encourage more youth sports.

14 ALLOTMENT RULES

PROPOSED: Cllr Jeff Beck

SECONDED: Cllr Martin Colston

RESOLVED: To approve a change in the Allotment Rules to give priority to Newbury Parishioners of Newbury who are on the Allotment waiting list over all other applicants, with immediate effect.

15. URGENT TREE WORKS

PROPOSED: Cllr Martin Colston

SECONDED: Cllr Roger Hunneman

RESOLVED: To approve a sum not to exceed £11,400 for the urgent removal of damaged, fallen or diseased trees being found or notified to Newbury Town Council in the Lockdown period.

16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

PROPOSED: Cllr Olivia Lewis

SECONDED: Cllr Jeff Beck

RESOLVED: That under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business (agenda item 14) because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

17. NEW COMMUNITY CAFÉ FACILITY – VICTORIA PARK**17.1**

An update was received from the Community Services Manager on the current plans for the proposed community café and changing rooms.

17.2

PROPOSED: Cllr Jeff Beck

SECONDED: Cllr Martin Colston

RESOLVED: That the Planning Application is completed and submitted to West Berkshire Council at the earliest opportunity and direct the Victoria Park sub-committee to:

1. Monitor progress of the current plan through the Planning process
2. Consider the next stage for this project, detailed design & the call of Tenders for its construction in light of the current uncertain Covid-19 situation
3. Consider how best to progress the selection of suitable Operator / Lessee in the current Covid –19 situation

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:10pm

CHAIRPERSON