

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors: Jayne French-Drayton (Deputy Chairperson), Billy Drummond (sub), Nigel Foot, Roger Hunneman, David Marsh, Gary Norman (sub), Elizabeth O’Keeffe (sub), Sarah Slack and Martha Vickers.

In Attendance

Martin Kavanagh, Services Delivery Manager
Kym Heasman, Corporate Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillors Vaughan Miller (attended virtually), Vera Barnett (attended virtually), Alistair Bounds and Ian Jee.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Services Delivery Manager declared that Councillors Billy Drummond, Nigel Foot, David Marsh, 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.

Councillor Jayne French-Drayton also declared an interest in agenda item 15 as she is a Newbury Allotment Tenant.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Councillor Roger Hunneman

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 10th July 2023 are approved and signed by the Chairperson.

4. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There are no questions or petitions from members of the Public for this meeting.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Question received from Councillor Vera Barnett through the Services Delivery Manager:

"Can a ramp be fitted to the band stand so any less abled person in a band or artist to access the performing space?"

Agreed to be added under the forward work programme for the committee to consider appropriate options and Officers to make recommendation to next sitting of this committee.

6. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN MILLER

Motion from Councillor Miller to resolve football facilities pricing and structure review deferred to next scheduled Community Services Committee Meeting. However, the meeting noted that further reviews of market pricing would be undertaken by Councillor Miller.

7. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MEG THOMAS

The update of the Wash Commons 'mounds' and surrounds by the Services Delivery Manager was noted.

It was requested that an invitation be extended to Heritage England for a site visit with key stakeholders and further extend the offer to include an opportunity to come and speak with the committee.

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Sarah Slack

RESOLVED: To implement the essential works as recommended by the Services Delivery Managers report including and Interpretations boards to be updated following consultation with Dave Stubbs, the Battlefield Trust and National Trust and renew the clear Perspex covers. (**Note:** works to be added to the forward works programme)

8. GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

The Committee gave thanks to the Parks & Open Spaces Supervisor, James Heasman for the success of the Newbury in Bloom 2023 programme, and the recent presentation event.

The minutes of the Green Spaces Working Group meetings of 6th April 2023 and 20th July 2023 were noted.

PROPOSED: Cllr Nigel Foot

SECONDED: Cllr Sarah Slack

RESOLVED: to prepare a proposal for the Policy and Resources Committees' consideration for entry into 2025 Britain in Bloom Awards and continue with the current Newbury in Bloom Awards both 2024 and 2025 noting the financial impact on the preparation of the 2024/2025 budget.

9. MARKET WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Market Working Group of 20 July 2023 were noted with one exception to Item 7 to remove the word "only" from line three of this item.

PROPOSED: Councillor Gary Norman

SECONDED: Councillor Nigel Foot

RESOLVED: That Newbury Town Council requests from West Berkshire Council to explore a package of parking and travel charge incentives (including cost reductions) to encourage an increase in charter market visitors and to the town centre in general.

10. SERVICES DELIVERY MANAGERS REPORT

The Services Delivery Managers report was noted. Councillors raised the question of hedge cutting in particular at Blossoms Field needing attention now the next season is behind us. There was a consensus however the new grounds maintenance contractors have made a good start since they have partnered with us.

11. VICTORIA PARK MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The contents of the Green Flag reports for Victoria Park and City Recreation Ground were noted. Councillor Martha Vickers and the Council Leader Gary Norman asked if a proposed straight like for like replacement of the outdoor gym equipment could be reviewed.

RESOLVED: Officers to consider alternative gym equipment proposals to be brought to the December 2023 committee for members consideration.

The Committee conveyed thanks to the Grounds Maintenance Contractors and the positive relationship with Officers.

12. ARK REPORT

The contents of the ARK report were noted. Councillor Hunneman asked a question of tree works on the river Lambourne and the Service Delivery Manager agreed to resolve the question by the end of this week and advise the committee members by email.

13. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2023/2024 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Forwards Works Programme for 2023/24 was noted and Members were invited to raise any additional items for consideration for the next meeting.

Agreed to addition of:

- The supplementation of a Ramp at the Bandstand, Victoria Park
- Phase 2 of the wash common consultation

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

PROPOSED: Cllr Elizabeth O’Keeffe

SECONDED: Cllr Billy Drummond

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 because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

PROPOSED: Councillor Sarah Slack

SECONDED: Councillor Billy Drummond

RESOLVED: that Councillor Gary Norman act as temporary chairperson for Agenda Item 15.

15. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN MILLER

PROPOSED: Cllr Elizabeth O’Keeffe

SECONDED: Cllr Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: It is approved that a working group to be convened consisting of Councillors, French Drayton, Miller and Slack. with prior approval granted for the proposal. Results to be presented at the December 2023 (next) Community Service Committee Meeting.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:44 PM

Please note the next Community Services Committee Meeting is 11th December 2023, the Agenda will include discussion for the Community Services Budget for FY 2024/25.