
**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 9 DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors: Phil Barnett (sub), Alistair Bounds (sub), Nigel Foot, Chris Hood, Ian Jee, Vaughan Miller (Chairperson), Sarah Slack, Graham Storey (sub) and Martha Vickers.

In Attendance

Toby Miles-Mallowan, CEO

Martin Kavanagh, Services Delivery Manager

Caroline Edmunds Community Services Officer

Tina Sukhatska, Community Services Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Vera Barnett (Phil Barnett substitute), Meg Thomas, Roger Hunneman (substitute Alistair Bounds), David Marsh (substitute Graham Storey).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Services Delivery Manager declared that Councillors Phil Barnett, Nigel Foot 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. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Councillor Nigel Foot

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on Monday 16 September 2024 are approved and signed by the Chairperson.

4. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

Cllr Sarah Slack asked if the Town Council should consider erecting extra signage regarding water safety as we are hoping to be adding feeding stations for ducks/swans at The Wharf.

Chief Executive's response:

We can explore placing signage along areas of pathway (under NTC jurisdiction) that run alongside the canal/rivers, and we can also bring this to the attention of other authorities (the Canal & River Trust) who have jurisdiction along the waterways in Newbury.

6. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SERVICES PROJECTS 2025/26 BUDGET

PROPOSED: Cllr Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Cllr Sarah Slack

RESOLVED: To present the Budget provision (noted for this Committee) 2025/26 including recommendations detailed in Appendix 2 of the Agenda to the Policy & Resources Committee on 20 January 2025 with the addition of:

Adding a request for £2,000 for larger goals for the football pitch at Victoria Park (should a request for grant funding not being forthcoming).

7. SERVICES REVENUES FOR 2025/26

PROPOSED: Cllr Vaughan Miller

SECONDED: Cllr Graham Storey

RESOLVED: To approve the 2.6% increase for Cemetery charges as details in Appendix 3.

PROPOSED: Cllr Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Cllr Ian Jee

RESOLVED: To approve the 2.6% increase for Charter Market charges as details in Appendix 3.

PROPOSED: Cllr Vaughan Miller

SECONDED: Cllr Alistair Bounds

RESOLVED: To approve the Football pitches to be charged as listed below from 2025/26:

£77 for adult games

£26 for full pitch or two 5 a side pitch

£15.50 for single small pitch 7 a side pitch

Cllr Phil Barnett left the meeting at 20:55

PROPOSED: Cllr Sarah Slack

SECONDED: Cllr Ian Jee

RESOLVED: To adopt concessionary rates for the Allotment Rents from 2026/27 as detailed in Appendix 3.

PROPOSED: Cllr Vaughan Miller

SECONDED: Cllr Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: To increase the allotment rent for 2026/27 for Newbury Parish Residents from **52p** per sq. metre to **53p** per sq. metre, equivalent to **£13.25** per pole.

PROPOSED: Cllr Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Cllr Nigel Foot

RESOLVED: A working group involving Officers and allotment tenants, associations and allotment stewards, is set up to review and recommend allotment rents and review an Allotment Strategy for Newbury.

8. VICTORIA PARK CAFÉ PROJECT UPDATE

The minutes of the Victoria Park Sub Committee and next steps of the project and estimated timescales were noted.

PROPOSED: Cllr Graham Storey

SECONDED: Cllr Nigel Foot

RESOLVED: To approve a payment of £567 for the planning application.

9. SERVICES DELIVERY MANAGERS REPORT

The contents of the Services Delivery Manager's report were noted.

It was noted that John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance should be commended for the great work they are doing looking after the Town Council's land.

10. CEMETERY WORKING GROUP

PROPOSED: Cllr Nigel Foot

SECONDED: Cllr Ian Jee

RESOLVED: To form a working group to review the future strategic options as a burial authority.

Members volunteered: Cllr Vaughan Miller & Cllr Sarah Slack.

It was agreed that Cllr Meg Thomas and Cllr Roger Hunneman would be invited.

11. MARKET WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Market Working Group of 19 September 2024 were noted.

12. GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Green Spaces Working Group since 10 September 2024 were noted.

The Committee thanked Newbury Town Council's Parks & Open Spaces Supervisor James Heasman for his organisation of the year's events, and all of the volunteers who have taken part in the numerous volunteer events throughout the year.

13. VICTORIA PARK ADVENTURE GOLF

PROPOSED: Cllr Nigel Foot

SECONDED: Cllr Sarah Slack

RESOLVED: To agree the proposed lease renewal for the Adventure Golf facility for a five-year term with a mid-point rent review based on CPI.

14. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 24/25 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Forward Works Programme was noted with the addition of the single use plastics charter and the use of Victoria Park for commercial events (in particular hot air balloon use).

15. NEXT MEETING DATE MONDAY 10 MARCH 2025

The date of the next meeting was noted.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21:49.