

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY  
ON MONDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillors: Billy Drummond (sub), Nigel Foot, Chris Hood, Roger Hunneman, Ian Jee, David Marsh, Vaughan Miller (Chairperson), Sarah Slack, Graham Storey (sub) and Meg Thomas.

**In Attendance**

Martin Kavanagh, Services Delivery Manager  
Caroline Edmunds Community Services Officer  
Tina Sukhatska, Community Services Officer

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Martha Vickers (substitute Billy Drummond), David Marsh (substitute Graham Storey) & Vera Barnett (attended via Zoom).

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Services Delivery Manager declared that Councillors Nigel Foot and Billy Drummond 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 Nigel Foot

**SECONDED:** Councillor Billy Drummond

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on Monday 22 July 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**

There were none.

## **6. SERVICES DELIVERY MANAGER'S REPORT**

The contents of the Services Manager's Report were noted, in particular the Climate Emergency Working Group request to adopt the Events Charter from 'Plastic Free Newbury'.

The next stage is for a format to be created which will be reviewed at the next CS Committee Meeting for consideration.

## **7. VICTORIA PARK CAFÉ PROJECT UPDATE**

The next steps for the project were noted together with estimated timescales as noted in Appendix 3 of the agenda.

It was agreed that a regular meeting of the Victoria Park Sub-Committee will be arranged monthly going forward starting mid-October 2024, week commencing 14 October to update and consult on the project.

The minutes of these meetings will be added to the NTC website promptly following each meeting (within 3 working days) to ensure there is a public record with the progression of the project.

## **8. FLOOD AUTHORITY, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY AND OUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

It was confirmed that Newbury Town Council have no authority regarding flood defence.

NTC does, however, have riparian rights for the south-west bank of the river in Shaw between the road bridge at the northern end of Walton Way to the first wooden pedestrian bridge as you walk Southeast along the cycle path.

NTC are currently actively engaged with the Environment Agency with regards to reinstatement works to repair the riverbank which has become eroded (under NTC Riparian Rights).

Cllr Nigel Foot confirmed that he would bring this particular area of concern to the attention of West Berkshire Council. He has already been in discussions with the Environment Agency in this regard.

It was requested that any further to enquiries to NTC regarding Flood Defence issues should be referred to West Berkshire Council in the first instance.

It was further agreed that it would be useful to add some water safety information to the NTC Social Media pages.

#### **9. WASH COMMON CONSULTATION PHASE TWO/GREEN FLAG STATUS**

The planned flood alleviation works in 2024/25 and the proposed vehicular access changes across Historic England Scheduled Monument Areas were noted.

It was confirmed that ditch clearing works (to the section along the school fence / eastern boundary of the allotment site), would be starting this week, and the spoil from the ditch has been offered to allotment tenants at Wash Common with some already keen to take up the offer.

It was also agreed that NTC will contact Thames Water with regard to the access to the Water Tower and the program of works required in the future, including their (TW) contribution to the costs.

#### **10. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 24/25 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Forward Work programme was noted with one amendment. To include as a standing agenda item, the inclusion of the minutes of the Green Spaces Working Group Minutes.

#### **11. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Agreed as Monday 9th December 2024 at 7:30 pm

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21:08

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