MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY**

**ON MONDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM**

# PRESENT

Councillors Jeff Beck; Nigel Foot; Chris Foster; Jon Gage; Roger Hunneman; Olivia Lewis, David Marsh, Erik Pattenden (substitute) and Martha Vickers (acting Chairperson) and Tony Vickers

**In Attendance**

Councillor Sue Farrant

David Ingram, Community Services Manager

Caroline Edmunds, Community Services Officer

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Martin Colston

Apologies received from Cllr Sarah Slack (Cllr Erik Pattenden substitute)

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Community Services Manager declared that Councillors David Marsh, Erik Pattenden, 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.

1. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Chris Foster

**SECONDED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 28th June 2021, be approved, and signed by the Chairperson.

1. **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**Questions received from Paula Saunderson:**

1. “Will Newbury Town Council – as a manager and/or owner of land – resolve to meet the new requirements of the Central Government BNG Metric 3.0 for at least 10% BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain) when undertaking any changes to NTC managed or owned lands and buildings, including playgrounds, recreational areas, and all other public open spaces?”

**Response from the Chairperson:**

*“BNG Metris 3.0* is a development Tool created by Natural England, as NTC are not a developer or contemplating future development, the metric is not applicable.

Once adopted by HMG adopt the Tool, probably later 2023, it will be mandatory for developers”.

1. “Will Newbury Town Council – as a manager and/or owner of land – resolve to incorporate the requirements of WBC SuDS (2018) SPD, specifically in respect of Principle 8, when undertaking any changes to NTC lands or buildings?”

**Response from the Chairperson:**

*“WBC SuDS (2018) SPD -*West Berkshire Supplementary Planning Guidance on sustainable drainage likewise applies to new development, as before NTC are not a developer or anticipate any new development on its land”.

**Question received from Alison Clarke:**

“Will Newbury Town Council agree to have a simple path constructed around the southern edge of the open space that lies south of Hutton Close and between the A339 and Shaw Road?

I have done some research and have been given an estimated cost of £7,825 plus VAT for a surface of rolled scalping’s. David Wilson Homes has offered £1,000 towards the cost and I will contribute £1,000 of my own money with a promise to do further fundraising if the Council agrees to the path.

This field is the only secure open space in central Newbury and the only place where I can exercise my guide dog. I can't easily find my way between the two gates using my cane because there is no track and the ground is soft and uneven, especially after rain.

But this is not only for me, but the open space is also very well used by other people, including a lady with a mobility scooter, parents pushing buggies and dozens of dog walkers. I have spoken to as many users as I can, and everyone would welcome a path around the edge.

I know your Strategy includes a commitment to encourage community initiatives and so I hope you will support this idea”.

**Response from the Chairperson:**

“The future use and investment into the land owned by Newbury Town Council is subject to an options appraisal being carried out on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee of this Council.

The request for a path along with several other representations for the use of this area has been fed into that work.  The Policy & Resources Committee of this

Council will consider the Options Report being carried out on its behalf and come to a conclusion in due course.

Any physical changes to the Public Open Space will require a form of Public Consultation, particularly with the new residents adjoining & Shaw Crescent, who may be directly affected”.

**Supplementary Question:**

“What is the timescale for the options appraisals to be brought to the Policy & Resources Committee?”

**Chairperson’s response:**

“We will make enquiries as to when this will happen and keep Alison up to date with timelines. The next P & R Meeting of this Council is 11 October 2021”.

The Committee asked the Community Services Manager to speak to the CEO regarding feedback to members with a date for the meeting where this will be discussed.

1. **MEMBERS’S QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

**Question from Cllr Stuart Gourley**

“I have had 9 residents contact me in the last week with regards to the overflowing bins, overflowing dog bins, and littering occurring regularly along the green space along the River Lambourn, Riverside and Claremont Crescent.

Would this committee and NTC support requesting West Berkshire Council to add additional collections, focus, and more litter bins to their land along the River Lambourn, Riverside and Claremont Crescent?”

***Chair:*** The Committee is aware of the issues with the West Berkshire Council managed Grounds Maintenance Contract to which Newbury Town Council is a party. The Committee is asking the Community Services Manager to contact the Authorised Office render the Contract at West Berkshire Council to convey the concerns of local residents. The Community Services Manager is also asked to table this issue at the next Grounds Maintenance Management meeting.

1. **GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP -NEWBURY IN BLOOM**

6.1 The minutes of the Meetings of the GSWG of 21.7.21 and 2.9.21 were received and noted.

6.2 Approval of Terms of Reference of the Green Spaces Working Group.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage

**SECONDED:** Cllr Chris Foster

**RESOLVED:** That the Terms of Reference of the Green Spaces Working Group as set out in Appendix 2.4 of the Agenda are approved with the amendment in the Membership as follows:

**Membership:**

Membership is open to all willing volunteers who can bring knowledge and skills that another member/volunteer does not already possess, who can commit time and to meet on a regular basis, organise and advise the Group in fulfilling its remit to strive for a better Newbury.

The Council will nominate 5 active members plus 2 substitute Members to the Working Group one of whom will be nominated as the Chair.

1. **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT**

Members noted the report presented by the Community Services Manager about the progress made by the Community Services Team on various Newbury Town projects.

7.1  **PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**SECONDED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**RESOLVED:** to approve the entry of the 2022 Britain in Bloom competition to be managed by the Community Services Team under the direction of the Green Spaces Working Group.

7.2 **PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**SECONDED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to Policy and Resources Committee a budgetary provision in the 2022/23 budget in a sum not to exceed £10,000 for this competition entry.

7.3 **PROPOSED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**RESOLVED:** to approve the 2022 Newbury in Bloom competition being held and to be managed by the Community Services Team under the direction of the Green Spaces Working Group.

7.4 **PROPOSED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to Policy and Resources Committee a budgetary provision in the 2022/23 budget in a sum not to exceed £10,000 for this competition to support volunteer events, judging and a prize giving event.

7.5 **PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**SECONDED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**RESOLVED:** to recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee of the Council the release of an additional £17,000 for the provision on necessary repairs to equipment within the Council's 14 play areas.

Items from the Community Service Managers Report requiring action from Officers:

**City Recreation Ground** – it was suggested that we leaflet local residents surrounding City Recreation Ground regarding the wildflower meadow, how it is managed and asking for volunteers to help.

**Allotments**

Specific figures on how many people are on the waiting lists was requested.

Report to the Community Services Committee Meeting in December with regards to the consultation with the National Allotment Society for Newbury Allotments.

**Market**

A date to be agreed for Members to meet and talk to Market Traders.

**Hutton Close**

The question was raised as to whether the income generated from David Wilson Homes when building the new houses at Hutton Close could be used for the pathway, as requested in a question earlier at the meeting.

**Grounds Maintenance Contract**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jon Gage

**SECONDED:** Cllr David Marsh

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that a Working Group be set up for the Grounds Maintenance contract be set up with members. The remit for the Working Group would be to recommend options for the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

## WASH COMMON INVESTMENT CONSULTATION PROPOSAL UPDATE

Members noted the Wash Common Consultation update presented by the Community Services Manager.

## FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2021/22

9.1 The Forward Work Programme, subject to amendment following outcome of Councils new Strategy being adopted, was noted.

1. **NEW COMMUNITY CAFÉ FACILITY – VICTORIA PARK**

10.1 Members received and noted the current position of the Community Café Project.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:45pm**

**CHAIRPERSON**