

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2017 AT 7:30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors Howard Bairstow (Chairperson); Jeff Beck (named substitute) David Fenn; James Frederickson; John Gardner; Sarah Greenall; Arthur Johnson; Mike Johnston; Anthony Pick; Tony Stretton Martha Vickers.

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Dave Goff; David Fish

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Community Services Manager declared that Councillors Howard Bairstow, Jeff Beck, James Fredrickson, and Anthony Pick 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.

59. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor James Frederickson

SECONDED: Councillor Sarah Greenall

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 12 December 2016, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

60. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none

61. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none

62. VICTORIA PARK

A verbal update was received from Community Services Manager Granville Taylor relating to Victoria Park, which included the ongoing repairs to the Parkway footpath, railings, wall, internal pathways, bowling green, football pitch, tennis courts and other refurbishment and remedial works. Other items of interested included the proposed new cafe, changing rooms, upgrading the water supply, the A339 Works and proposed lighting scheme consultation.

63. VICTORIA PARK WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the Victoria Park Working Group held on 29 November 2016 were noted.

64. VICTORIA PARK CAFÉ

It was noted that expressions of interest for the Café lease have been received. It was also noted that further evaluations are being carried out on the construction costs.

65. NEWTOWN ROAD CEMETERY WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The minutes of the Victoria Park Working Group held on 31 January 2017 were noted.

66. MARKET WORKING PARTY MINUTES

The minutes of the Market Working party held on 28 November 2016 were noted.

67. AWARD OF GRANT AID – FALKLAND SCHOOL CHARITABLE TRUST

67.1 The Committee noted that in November 2014 the Grants Sub-Committee had awarded £750 to Falkland Primary School towards the cost of the new footpath on our recreation ground. This money has been earmarked in reserves since March 2015 and the project has only recently been completed. The original time scale has been exceeded due to approval and installation delays.

67.2 Recommendation to release Grant.

PROPOSED: Councillor David Fenn

SECONDED: Councillor Sarah Greenall

RESOLVED: That the Grant Aid Award of £750, approved in November 2014, be release to Falkland School Charitable Trust.

68. CITY RECREATION GROUND

68.1 The Committee heard that the safer surface in City Recreation play area has dropped below acceptable safety levels and was in need of urgent repair/replacement

68.2 Recommendation to allocate £9,000 S106 funds.

PROPOSED: Councillor Anthony Pick

SECONDED: Councillor Sarah Greenall

RESOLVED: That the allocation of £9,000 of S106 funds be approved for the urgent safer surfacing repair / replacement works.

69. NEWBURY LIBRARY WORKING GROUP

69.1 The decision of West Berkshire Council of 07 February 2017 to reduce the library provision and proposed staff reductions were noted.

It was further noted that NTC had agreed to contribute £31,275 towards this service for 2017-18.

69.2 WBDC had informed the Council that they wished to set up a Newbury Library Working Group as soon as possible and invited the Town Council to nominate Members. These may also include volunteers and library users. The purpose of the group would be to ensure that all parties work together effectively, within the constraints of the resources available, to increase library usage and income, ensure that opening times meet the needs of local communities and explore ways in which Newbury Town Council might benefit from the facilities at Newbury Library, in return for the Council's contribution towards this facility.

69.3 Councillor Anthony Pick stated that this is only to appoint Members to the Working Group and requested Community Services Officers email all Councillors inviting them to join.

69.4 Cllr Pick also stated Newbury Town Council is not committing any further funds other than those we currently committed to this service.

RESOLVED that Councillors Sarah Greenall and Elizabeth O'Keeffe are nominated to join the Working Group.

70. VICTORIA PARK TENNIS COACHING PROVISION

70.1 The Committee considered the report from the Community Services Manager, dated 24 February, 2017, giving details of the expressions of interest received for the provision of tennis coaching on the Council's newly refurbished tennis courts at Victoria Park.

PROPOSED: Councillor James Frederickson

SECONDED: Councillor Sarah Greenall

RESOLVED: That the Council awards a 3 year contract to Community Tennis Association for the provision of professional coaching at the tennis courts in Victoria Park.

70.2 The Committee considered options for colouration of tennis courts playing surface, as suggested by The Lawn Tennis Association.

PROPOSED: Councillor Tony Stretton

SECONDED: Councillor Arthur Johnson

RESOLVED: That the playing surface colourisation be of a combination of terracotta outside and green inner court colours.

Councillors James Frederickson and Jeff Beck abstained from the vote.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.31PM.

CHAIRPERSON