

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 12 MARCH 2018 AT 7:30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors Howard Bairstow; David Fenn; David Fish; John Gardner; Sarah Greenall; Arthur Johnson; Margo Payne; Kuldip Singh Kang (named substitute); Martha Vickers.

In Attendance

Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer
Caroline Edmunds, Community Services Officer

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Adrian Edwards; Miles Evans; Tony Stretton.
Absent: Councillor James Fredrickson

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Lead Officer declared that Councillor Howard Bairstow is also a Member of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on his behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow him to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

48. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Margo Payne

SECONDED: Councillor David Fenn

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 25 September 2017, be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

49. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were none.

50. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**Members Question from Cllr Martha Vickers**

"As Newbury is the focus of Rough Sleeping in the District should this Council be using its Power of General Competence to explore ways in which it could play an active role in alleviating the problems of Rough Sleepers".

Chairperson's response:

"Sleeping Rough" is one element of the broader problem of Homelessness. The statutory responsibility for dealing with homelessness lies with West Berkshire District Council. I am happy for us to ask the District Council if there are any practical measures which we, as the Town Council, can take to assist them in addressing this issue and report back to the next meeting of this Committee. I would also like to add that we have all received a leaflet from the Newbury MP, Richard Benyon with information on this topic.

51. VICTORIA PARK

51.1 The minutes of the Victoria Park Working Group Meeting held on 8 January 2018 were noted.

51.2 A verbal update was received relating to Victoria Park from the Chairperson of the Victoria Park Working Group, Cllr David Fish which included:

Family Day 13 May 2018 - to include junior football tournament, face painter, Punch & Judy shows, entertainment on the bandstand, Splash Park opening of 2018, skatepark. The date ties in with the National 'Great British Tennis Weekend' in partnership with the LTA. There are currently 726 memberships at the tennis courts and we hope to increase this throughout the year. The floodlighting is now fully up and running.

Lighting – Initial designs have been received from contractors for lighting along the wall of Park Terrace towards the Nursery School, and lamp columns towards St Mary's Road. Costings should be with us soon.

Rose Beds – The community planting which took place on 24 February was a success. Cllr Fish thanked the sponsors:

Rivar Sand & Gravel, Volker Highways, Sundog Hire, Tesco Bags of Help, and Starbucks for providing coffees for the volunteers.

He also thanked the Friends of Victoria Park, the members of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group and the other councillors who attended and supported the event.

The project was at no cost to the public, due to the generosity of the sponsors involved.

PROPOSED: Councillor Arthur Johnson

SECONDED: Councillor Martha Vickers

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

Victoria Park Community Café

There was discussion regarding the community café project and the meeting heard that Newbury Town Council are continuing to seek funding options. A meeting has been scheduled with Chris Boulton, Greenham Common Trust to review their decision in this matter.

51.3 PROPOSED: Councillor David Fenn

SECONDED: Councillor David Fish

RESOLVED: That 6 new pedalos are purchased using CIL contributions at a total cost of £5825 and to arrange the recycling of the existing pedalos.

It was suggested that one of the existing pedalos could be used for a planting display by the Newbury in Bloom Group.

- 51.4 PROPOSED:** Councillor David Fish
SECONDED: Councillor Howard Bairstow

RESOLVED: To install 2 green coloured 'portaloo's as a temporary measure in Victoria Park at a cost of £558 for 12 weeks of hire throughout the summer months.

51.5 It was noted that provisional designs have been created for a 'Sensory Garden' in Victoria Park to be constructed within the area between the tennis courts and Victoria and Her Lions. Detailed costings are currently being sought and a fully costed submission is to be presented at the next Community Services committee meeting.

Cllr Margo Payne commended the Newbury in Bloom Working Group (NiB) for the quality of the design.

Cllr Sarah Greenall thanked Fran Lawton, a member of the NiB WG for volunteering her time to create the design.

52. COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

The Community Services Manager's Report was noted.

Cllr Martha Vickers noted that the new Cycle Path at City Recreation Ground, which is currently being installed, was a suggestion that originally came out of an audit which was conducted by West Berkshire SPOKES.

53. MARKET WORKING PARTY MINUTES

The minutes of the Market Working Party meetings held on 25 September 2017, 27 November 2017 and 27 February 2018 were noted.

The Chairperson of the Market Working Party, Cllr. Martha Vickers, thanked Officers for their work on social media promoting the Market.

54. DETAILED SERVICE PLANS

There was discussion regarding the following items:

VP170 – Review of bench seating in the Park.

Cllr Fenn asked if a bench could be installed by the Splash Park area. Cllr Fish stated that there was a plan to upgrade the benches and it would be discussed at the next VPWG.

TH044 – Install handrails of Civic Entrance steps.

Cllr Vickers asked that this item be progressed.

RG050 – City Recreation Ground – Cllr Vickers stressed the importance of a survey of local residents for the potential improvement and more appropriate provision for the community for this area.

It was stated that this is an objective of the Town Council Strategy and is a priority.

VP380 – Victoria Park – Investigate installing Scooter Park adjacent to the Skatepark. There was discussion regarding the use of the Skatepark for scooters and the conflict this can cause between different users of the Park. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Victoria Park Working Group.

NRC210 – Order and place on site a portable disabled access toilet.

PROPOSED: Councillor Margo Payne

SECONDED: Councillor Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: That the Service Plans are accepted and published as a new starting point on the Town Council website with the above amendments.

55. ALLOTMENT STEWARDS MEETING

55.1 The minutes of the Allotment Stewards meeting of 2 November 2017 were noted.

55.2 Allotment Rule Change:

PROPOSED: Councillor Arthur Johnson

SECONDED: Councillor Margo Payne

RESOLVED: An allotment rule change as follows:

1. The Council will:

“Not allow a previously evicted tenant to apply for a new allotment within 2 years from the date of the termination of their tenancy and not accept allotment applications from a person who has had their tenancy terminated twice previously. The Council reserves the right to exclude requests to be added to the allotment waiting list and/or to refuse to enter into an allotment tenancy agreement”.

56. NEWBURY IN BLOOM

56.1 The minutes of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group of 12 October 2017, 8 November 2017, 7 December 2017, 11 January 2018 and 15 February 2018 were noted.

56.2 An update was received from the Chairperson of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group, Cllr Sarah Greenall.

Cllr Greenall thanked the sponsors who contributed to ensure the rose bed planting in Victoria Park was a success: Rivar Sand & Gravel, Volker Highways, Sundog Hire, the Friends of Victoria Park, NTC Councillors who volunteered on the day and Starbucks for providing coffees for the volunteers.

57. KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Key Performance Indicators were considered.

There was discussion with regards to the Grounds Maintenance Contract and whether any requirements from the contract could be included in the KPI's. It was agreed that this would be put forward to the Community Services Manager for consideration.

58. LIBRARY SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL'S LIBRARY SERVICE

PROPOSED: Councillor Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Councillor David Fenn

RESOLVED: To approve an agreement for quarterly payments to West Berkshire Council's Library Service subject to reasonable progress on matters set out in the objectives of the annual Action Plan.

59. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

PROPOSED: Councillor Howard Bairstow

SECONDED: Councillor Margo Payne

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.

60. TEMPORARY LEASE OF PART OF COUNCIL LANDS AT HUTTON CLOSE

PROPOSED: Councillor Arthur Johnson

SECONDED: Councillor Kuldip Singh Kang

RESOLVED: To authorise Officers to progress the proposal, and negotiate for the best possible rental income for a temporary lease of part of the Council's land at Hutton Close. To also conduct a consultation with residents in the area and to take a final report and recommendations to an appropriate Committee meeting for approval.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:14pm.

CHAIRPERSON