

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY  
ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.30PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillors Howard Bairstow; Jeff Beck; (named substitute); Adrian Edwards; David Fenn; David Fish; James Fredrickson; John Gardner; Sarah Greenall (Chairperson); Arthur Johnson; Margo Payne; Kuldip Singh Kang; Martha Vickers.

**In Attendance**

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

**38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor: Miles Evans

**39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Chief Executive Officer declared that Councillors Adrian Edwards, Howard Bairstow, James Fredrickson and Jeff Beck 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.

**40. MINUTES**

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Margo Payne

**SECONDED:** Councillor Howard Bairstow

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 24 September 2018, be approved and signed by the Chairperson.

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

There were none.

**42. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS****Question from Cllr Martha Vickers:**

"In the light of concerns expressed about the lack of amenities for boaters visiting our beautiful canal how can this Council work with the Canal and Rivers Trust to improve this situation?"

**Response from Chairperson:**

"The Council recognises the canal as one of Newbury's greatest assets. It is of tremendous amenity, leisure and environmental value and one of our key tourism attractions. The canal bridge and various other locations close to town present some of our most attractive vistas.

Recognising this, we have already started work on strengthening the provisions in the Town Design statement aimed at further protecting and enhancing the canal and its settings and environs. The leader of the Council, Councillor Adrian Edwards and the Chief Executive is leading this work. A working group will be meeting in the New Year to progress this work and

a representative from The Kennet and Avon Canal Trust and from the Canal and Rivers Trust will be invited to join us for these meetings.

At the last meeting of the Planning and Highways Committee, this Council responded to the District Council's Local Plan review consultation and among our replies, we advised that the local plan specific policy to develop the river and the Canal as a leisure and tourism centre/facility."

Councillor Vickers asked that the Working Group considers facilities for visitors' boats, as well as those with moorings on the Canal and river and this was agreed.

#### **43. BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

A presentation was received from Ms. Susan Powell, Building Communities Together Team Manager, WBDC. She outlined the structure, the membership and the activities of the Team and answered questions from members.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, thanked her for her interesting and useful presentation.

#### **44. NEWBURY IN BLOOM**

The minutes of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group of 13 September 2018 & 18 October 2018 were noted.

The Chairperson thanked the volunteers and Newbury Town Council's Grounds Maintenance Officer, James Heasman for their involvement and organisation of a successful community bulb planting day which was held on 2 December 2018.

#### **45. MARKET WORKING PARTY**

**45.1** The minutes of the Market Working Party of 1 October 2018 were noted. Councillor Martha Vickers, Chair of the Working Party, thanked the Community Services Officer, Caroline Edmunds, for all her work on the market promotional events on the 8<sup>th</sup> December. She urged members to support the market and presented the Action Plan for approval.

**45.2 PROPOSED:** Councillor Margo Payne  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Jon Gardner

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Action Plan for the Market.

#### **46. DETAILED SERVICE PLANS**

The Service Plans were considered by the Committee and agreed.

#### **47. SERVICES REVENUES FOR 2019/20 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards  
**SECONDED:** Councillor David Fish

**RESOLVED:** That there would be a 2.5% increase in Cemetery Charges for 2019/20 financial year.

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**RESOLVED:** That there would be a 2.5% increase in Market Charges for 2019/20 financial year.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards  
**SECONDED:** Councillor David Fish

**RESOLVED:** That there would be a raise from £63.22 to £64.80 (2.5%) for senior pitches and continue with no charge for junior pitches for 2019/20 financial year.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards  
**SECONDED:** Councillor David Fish

**RESOLVED:** That for the 2020/21 financial year for Newbury Parish Residents there would be an increase from 34.7p per sq. metre to 36p per sq. metre (equivalent to £9.00 per pole).

**RESOLVED:** That for the 2020/21 financial year for Non-Residents of Newbury there would be an increase from 69.5p per sq. metre to 72p per sq. metre (equivalent to £18 per pole).

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards  
**SECONDED:** Councillor David Fish

**RESOLVED:** That for the 2019/20 financial year the Annual Family Membership for the Victoria Park tennis courts is increased from £36 per annum to £44 per annum with no increase for the floodlighting or 'pay and play' charges.

### 39. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SERVICES 2017/18 BUDGETS

The Committee considered the draft budget for Community Services, as prepared by officers and agreed the draft, as presented.

The meeting also considered the proposals received from Members, and agreed as follows:

- The proposals to floodlight the football pitch in Victoria Park: It was agreed to defer this matter for further consideration after the changing rooms have been provided, when the council can better understand the demand for such facilities and to review in 2020/2021.
- Water Tap in Newtown Road Cemetery: It was agreed to investigate costs for this to consider making provision for this in the draft budget.
- Thermal imaging of the Town Hall: It was agreed to investigate costs of this to include in the draft budget.
- A sessional Youth Worker to support and develop Newbury Youth Council: this proposal to be discussed with members of the Youth Council and, if agreed, to be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee thereafter.
- The provision of recycling Bins in the Town Centre and Victoria Park: it was agreed that for large events in Victoria Park, recycling facilities would be investigated.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards  
**SECONDED:** Councillor Howard Bairstow

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed draft Community Services budget, as amended above, is submitted to Policy & Resources Committee for consideration on 14 January 2019 as set down in Appendix 6 of the Agenda.

Cllrs Arthur Johnson and Martha Vickers abstained from the vote.

#### **48. ALLOTMENT STEWARDS MEETING**

The minutes of the Allotment Stewards Meeting held on 30 October 2018 were noted.

#### **49. NEWTOWN ROAD CEMETERY WORKING GROUP**

The minutes of the Newtown Road Cemetery Working Group held on 13 November 2018 were noted.

#### **50. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

#### **51. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**PROPOSED:** Councillor Adrian Edwards  
**SECONDED:** Councillor James Fredrickson

**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 (agenda item 18) because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(Councillor Sarah Greenall left the meeting and Councillor Howard Bairstow chaired the rest of the meeting.)

#### **52. NEW CAFÉ AND SPORTS CHANGING ROOMS FOR VICTORIA PARK**

An update was received from the Chief Executive Officer on the proposal for the construction of a new café and sports changing rooms for Victoria Park.

#### **53. DISPOSAL OR LEASE OF LAND AT FIFTH ROAD**

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer regarding a proposed transfer of part of the Council's lands at Fifth Road for a project with potential community benefits.

**PROPOSED:** Councillor James Fredrickson  
**SECONDED:** Councillor David Fenn

**RESOLVED:** That Newbury Town Council retain the Freehold of the land at Fifth Road and instruct Officers to explore with West Berkshire Council a reciprocal agreement whereby Newbury Town Council may offer a 25% discount for the lease of the land, and West Berkshire Council reciprocate with a discount on the clawback provisions as set out in the transfer of the land from WBDC to Newbury Town Council on 3 February 2003.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8:50pm.**

**CHAIRPERSON**

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