



AMENITIES & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley, Reading on Wednesday, 29th May 2019 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair - Councillor D Hare (Mayor)

Councillors G Bhangra, A Bassett, N Brock, M Eastwell, D Ireland, A Long, S Matthews and K Yabsley.

In attendance: Jo Friend (Town Clerk), Jo Shaw (Deputy Town Clerk), Stewart Walton (Facilities Manager), Grahame Hawker (Senior Park Ranger), Ashley Prior (Park Ranger) and Councillors D Chopping, I Khayinza and A Mickleburgh. A representative from the Maiden Place Social Club was also present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Newton.
In the absence of the Chairman the Town Mayor took the chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. VICE CHAIRMAN

On the proposition of Councillor A Bassett, seconded by Councillor S Matthews it was:

RESOLVED that Councillor N Brock be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Amenities & Leisure Committee for the ensuing municipal year.
The Vice Chairman took the chair.

4. MAIDEN PLACE SOCIAL CLUB

4.1 The Vice Chairman proposed that item 6.1.1 be brought forward. It was

RESOLVED that item 6.1.1 be brought forward.

4.1.1 A representative from the Maiden Place Social Club presented their plans for the extension of the outside space at MPCC for consideration by the Committee, prior to submission to the planning authority. Following a site meeting with the Town Clerk and the Facilities Manager, the Social Club had made various amendments to their original proposal. Members discussed the plans presented and it was

RESOLVED that the plans be supported in principle subject to planning regulations and the usual planning process. Councillors thanked the MPSC representative for attending the meeting.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2019 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES & WORKING PARTIES

Consideration was given to the appointment of Sub-Committees and Working Parties for the ensuing year.

It was

RESOLVED that the following be appointed:

Culver Lane Allotment Working Party – Councillors D Hare, N Brock, M Eastwell and G Bhangra together with a co-opted member nominated by the Horticultural Society. (Two vacancies) It was agreed that the offer of membership of this working party would be extended to Members outside of the Amenities and Leisure Committee.

Local Nature Reserve Advisory Group – Councillors A Newton, K Yabsley and N Brock. (one vacancy)

Mays Lane Cemetery Working Party – Councillors D Chopping, T Maher, A Long, A Mickleburgh and S Matthews

Christmas Celebration Working Party – Councillors A Newton, D Hare and A Bassett. (one vacancy)

7. COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRES

7.1 Maiden Place Community Centre

7.1.1 Maiden Place Social Club

See Minute 4.1.1.

7.1.2 Kilnsea Preschool

A report provided by the Town Clerk, previously attached, outlined the request from Kilnsea Preschool for a reduction in hire charges. Councillors noted that the group were currently charged the non-commercial rate but had previously signed an agreement stating they would pay an additional 4.8% as a charge for caretakers, cleaning, storage cupboards and so on of the preschool's area of the building. Members noted that the Town Council had not actually charged the additional sum since 2017. Kilnsea Preschool had, belatedly, provided accounts for Councillors consideration. After discussion it was

RESOLVED

1. Kilnsea Preschool be asked to provide the following by 14th June to enable Councillors to fully consider this request:

- Previous financial reports (only year ending 2018 provided)
- Business Plan

- Future projections for income and pupil numbers
2. The following to meet soon after 14th June to consider any additional information provided and to make a recommendation to the Amenities and Leisure Committee: Councillors K Yabsley, A Newton and N Brock; Stewart Walton (Town Council Facilities Manager) and either the Town Clerk or Deputy Town Clerk.

8. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

Councillors noted that Environment Agency approval will be required before planning permission can be granted for the expansion of Mays Lane Cemetery. Members reviewed the information provided by the Town Clerk and, following discussion, it was

RESOLVED that, on condition of receipt of satisfactory references, Cemetery Development Services be instructed to carry out a Tier 2 Risk Assessment as required by the Environment Agency, as detailed in Appendix B.

9. SIBLY DEVELOPMENT

The Senior Park Ranger reported that the meadow area was flourishing despite earlier doubts, and that following the clearance of brambles in the area the bluebells exceeded expectations. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Borough Council were still undertaking planning enforcement in the area but that no further information had been received from the Borough.

The Town Clerk reported that a meeting had been proposed by Borough Council officers with residents of the area and whilst the Town Council had not been invited, it would be prudent for them to be involved.

It was agreed that Councillor D Hare would approach Wokingham Borough Council officers for further information.

10. WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – NEW ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY

Councillors noted that Parish and Town Councils had been sent a questionnaire from Wokingham Borough Council on current arts and culture provision in the Borough. Following discussion it was agreed that Councillors would collect information and send it directly to Wokingham Borough Council, copying in Earley Town Council for information.

11. PUBLICATIONS

The Committee noted that the following items had been received and were available for viewing in the Council Chamber.

Earley Neighbourhood Action Group:	Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 th April 2019
Woodley & North Earley Community Forum:	Minutes of the AGM held on 10 th April 2019

12. PRESS RELEASES

The Borough's Arts & Culture Strategy questionnaire be publicised and residents be asked to send information on arts and culture directly to the Borough Council (with copy to Earley Town Council).

13. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present.

14. MAIDEN PLACE SOCIAL CLUB – SUB-LEASE RENEWAL

Council had previously approved the renewal of the lease in principle therefore Members discussed the renewal terms for the sub-lease and it was

RESOLVED to renew the sub-lease for a period of 10 years with a rent review after 5 years, annual rent as proposed by the Facilities Manager. The tenant to be informed of the terms agreed and the solicitor instructed accordingly.

15. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting as declared closed by the Chairman at 9.35pm.