



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, 3rd November 2021 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor A Newton

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

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), G Hawker (Senior Park Ranger), R Fryer (Democratic Services Officer) and a resident.

50. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Ireland and T Maher.

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

52. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS – ANNUAL AWARDS

The Town Mayor, Cllr Anne Bassett, presented the awards for the annual Culver Lane Allotment competition:

- John Laws was awarded, in absentia, runner up for Best Allotment 2021
- Christine Sinclair was awarded, in absentia, runner up for Best Allotment 2021
- Peter Wynn was awarded winner for Best Allotment 2021

Cllr Bassett congratulated Mr Wynn and commented on how much work went into keeping a plot to such a high standard.

The member of the public left the meeting

53. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

54. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chair (Minutes 32–49).

55. CORONAVIRUS - UPDATE

55.1 Council Facilities

Members noted that many regular activities were taking place at the Town Council's community centres, and that ETC were advising hirers to continue to adopt sensible

precautions whilst using the facilities. It was noted that the pavilions continue to be available for use by football teams who are advised that precautions around space and hygiene should be observed.

56. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

Councillors considered the fees for the Culver Lane allotments. They were mindful that fees had historically increased in-line with inflation, and that they had been frozen for 2021 and 2022. Consideration was given to the benefits to mental health of the amenity, and its benefits to the Climate Emergency as well as the Council's responsibility to taxpayers. It was

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that fees be increased by a nominal sum, within a range of 50p - £2 as determined by the Town Clerk, with effect from January 2023.

57. MEADOW PARK

57.1 Replacement Swings Project

Members were pleased to note that the replacement swings and new safety surfacing had been successfully installed, and a post installation safety inspection had been conducted. The inclusive swing would be completed once a final adjustment has been made by the installers.

58. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE

It was noted that the Town Council's Water Bailiffs had organised a charity fishing match which was held at Maiden Erlegh Lake on 10th October 2021. The event had proved popular, with all fishing bays sold out, and £375 had been raised for the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. Members wished to express their thanks to the Water Bailiffs for their efforts.

59. GREEN EVENTS – '26 to COP26'

The Committee noted that the series of environment-themed events and activities organised by Earley Town Council in the run-up to COP26 had been a great success. They discussed the Town Clerk's report on the project and thanked the officers for their work in organising and running the events. Councillors were keen to build on this foundation with future events in the coming years and were pleased to note the community involvement.

60. TREE REGISTER

The Chair read out a written update from Councillor Maher of the Town Council's Tree Recording Group and noted that progress on the project had been slower than desired.

61. WBC's 250,000 TREES PROJECT

Members received a written report on Wokingham Borough Council's 250,000 Trees project. The Committee were keen to work with WBC in developing the draft strategy mentioned within the report.

62. PUBLICATIONS

The Committee noted that the following items had been received and were available for viewing from the Council Offices:

MERA	Executive Committee Minutes – 14 th October 2021
LINK Visiting Scheme	Autumn newsletter
Friendship Alliance	E-newsletter 13 th October 2021
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter October 2021
Fields in Trust	E-newsletters 18 th and 21st October 2021

63. PRESS RELEASES

The following press releases were requested:

- “26 to COP26” reflections
- Maiden Erlegh Lake Charity Fishing Match

64. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Agenda be taken under Part II.

PART II

65. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

66. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 9.00 pm.

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee