



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 25th May 2022 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor N Brock

Councillors: A Bassett, G Bhangra, A Long, S Matthews, A Newton, and K Yabsley.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), M Brown (Operations Manager), and R Fryer (Democratic Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Eastwell, D Ireland, and C Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2022 were approved as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** they be signed by the Chair (Minutes 83–101).

Cllr G Bhangra entered the meeting

5. GREEN FAIR – 6th AUGUST 2022

Councillors received a verbal update from the Town Clerk on preparations for the 2022 Green Fair event. Members were pleased to note that the response from stallholders had been very positive. Consideration was given as to how best to provide refreshments and suggestions were made of other organisations which may like to have a presence at the event. The Committee also discussed Cllr A Mickleburgh's proposals for the councillors to have a stall focussed on the Town Plan.

Councillors will discuss the possibilities around a town councillors' stall and report back to the Town Clerk.

6. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

The Town Clerk provided a verbal update on the Culver Lane allotments, all available plots have been offered to people on the waiting list. The Operations Manager also provided an update on his recent inspection.

7. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE

7.1 Youth Angling Project

Members were pleased to note that the Town Council once again intended to work with Reading Football Club Community Trust to deliver a 6-week fishing programme for young people during the 2022 summer holidays.

8. TELEPHONE KIOSKS

The Committee discussed the adoption of two red telephone boxes, one located in Silverdale Road and one in Wychwood Crescent. The possibility of adoption had originally been discussed prior to the pandemic but such projects had been on hold. Members considered the potential benefits of acquiring these assets and also the associated risks and liabilities. Councillors were mindful of the time constraints BT had placed on this decision and agreed that the type of use the two boxes would be put to would be decided at a later date, once further consideration had been given to the possible options. It was

RESOLVED that Earley Town Council adopt the two red telephone boxes in Silverdale Road and Wychwood Crescent for the nominal charge of £2.

9. LOVE TO RIDE

It was noted that a team of town council officers were taking part in the Love to Ride – May challenge, the team had previously won first place in the September 2021 challenge. Councillors offered their congratulations to the officers involved.

10. RADSTOCK COMMUNITY SPACE

Councillors received a verbal update from the Town Clerk on the refurbishment project of the new community space at Radstock Lane Community Centre. Members were pleased to note that the renovations were approaching completion and that they would be invited to visit the amenity once it was ready. The Town Clerk requested that Members give thought to an appropriate name for the space, perhaps something that reflected the fact that 2022 was the year of Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee.

11. 'NO MOW MAY'

Members noted Earley Town Council's participation in Plantlife's 'No Mow May' was being promoted on the town council website and had been featured in the local press. Councillors were pleased to note the public interest that was being generated from the Scaremow located in the front garden of the council offices.

12. OFFICER UPDATE

The Operations Manager provided a verbal update on his recent work and the progress he was making on the replacement bus shelters project. Councillors were pleased to note that the recently advertised position of Maintenance Officer had been filled. The Committee also noted the progress made in the installation of smart meters at the Council buildings.

13. NEW WBC ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR SERVICE

It was noted that Wokingham Borough Council had set up an in-house anti-social behaviour service after withdrawing from the Public Protection Partnership.

14. PUBLICATIONS

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

CCB	E-Bulletin May 2022
ACER	Newsletter - Spring 2022
ACER	Minutes of AGM – 29 th March 2022
Involve	E-newsletter 13 th May 2022

15. PRESS RELEASES

Councillors suggested a press release be issued with regards the town council officers' participation in the Love to Ride – May challenge.

16. 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

17. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

18. COMMUNITY CENTRES

19. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 9.29 pm.

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee