



AMENITIES & LEISURE COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley on Wednesday 1st March 2023 which commenced at 7.45pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor N Brock

Councillors: A Bassett, G Bhangra, M Eastwell, D Ireland, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews, A Newton, C Smith and K Yabsley.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), M Brown (Operations Manager), G Hawker (Senior Park Ranger).

99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

101. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

102. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023 were approved as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** they be signed by the Chair (Minutes 78–98).

103. ANNUAL TOWN ELECTORS' MEETING

Councillors were pleased to note that the Annual Town Electors' Meeting will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 21st March in the Function Room, Maiden Place Community Centre. The Town Mayor will deliver a report on the Council's activities over the past year, representatives from other organisations and community groups will also be making presentations. The meeting is open to all Earley residents.

104. HUGE EARLEY LITTER PICK

Members received information about the Huge Earley Litter Pick which is taking place on Sunday 26th March, noting that volunteers would be able to choose from seven different sessions on the day, all led by either town council officers or councillors. G Hawker confirmed that this would be the biggest HELP event in its history. Councillors were keen to thank McDonalds for encouraging their staff to take part in the clean up alongside the other volunteers.

105. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE

105.1 It was confirmed that the lake engineer's annual inspection had been carried out on 24th February. The lake engineer had been impressed by the professional manner in which officers were managing the lake/reservoir.

105.2 Councillors noted that the new flood emergency equipment had been purchased, funded by a grant from SSEN 2022 Resilient Communities Fund and from developer contribution monies. Officers are working with SSEN to publicise completion of the project.

106. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

It was reported that the solar panels on the Trading Shed had been installed and the facility is now operating off-grid.

107. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

107.1 Extension

Members noted that the ground penetrating radar survey was being conducted in mid-March, this should identify the parts of the extension land that are suitable for burial use. They were informed that such a survey was necessary as there could be debris left from the various historical uses of the site.

107.2 Improvements

The Operations Manager reported that, following numerous inspections, contractors had been appointed to relay the uneven stretch of exit road. These works will be welcomed by visitors to the cemetery as the uneven surface was making the road increasingly difficult to navigate.

108. COMMUNITY CENTRES

108.1 Radstock Lane Community Centre

108.1.1 It was noted that the recently installed access control system was working well and positive feedback had been received from hirers.

108.1.2 The Elizabeth Room

Councillors were pleased to hear that the transformation of the former social club into a comfortable space for local charities and voluntary groups was nearing completion. They were informed that the Town Clerk is currently inviting suitable organisations to view the space prior to making a booking. The Town Mayor will officially open the Elizabeth Room, date to be confirmed, and all town councillors will be invited to view the facility prior to its formal launch.

108.2 Maiden Place Community Centre

108.2.1 It was noted that the access control system at MPCC will be operational by the end of March.

108.2.2 Improvements

Members noted that the Town Clerk had been in communication with the WBC officer responsible for energy management and he has agreed to advise town council officers on aspects of the project to improve energy efficiency at MPCC.

108.3 Silverdale Centre

It was confirmed that the majority of ETC’s equipment and belongings had been removed from the Silverdale Centre and that the town council will be in a position to vacate the building in March, as required by Maiden Erlegh Trust.

109. TREE PLANTING

Councillors noted that ten new trees, courtesy of WBC’s tree offer, would be planted at the Paddick Drive site.

110. DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT

Councillors were informed that the renovation of the council-adopted red telephone box in Wychwood Crescent was underway and a community defibrillator would be installed here in the near future. The Town Council is working with Community HeartBeat Trust who will supply and fit the defibrillator, following which, a training session for residents will be organised.

111. ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE - CONSULTATION

The public consultation on the draft RBFRS Corporate Plan and Community Risk Management Plan was noted.

112. PUBLICATIONS

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

Fields in Trust	E-newsletter – February 2023
MERA	Minutes of Executive Committee meeting – 9 th February 2023
The Friendship Alliance	E-newsletter 8 th February 2023
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter 10 th February 2023

113. PRESS RELEASES

Press releases on the following items were requested:

- Huge Earley Litter Pick
- Launch of the Elizabeth Room at Radstock Lane CC

114. 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

115. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

116. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 9.08pm.

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee