



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 31st May 2023 which commenced at 7pm.

Present

Chair – Councillor N Brock

Councillors: R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, R Browne, R Cook, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews and C Smith.

In attendance: J Friend (Town Clerk), M Brown (Operations Manager), Y Crocker (Committees Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs B Owen and M De Jong.

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

2.1 One nomination was received. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr N Brock be appointed Chair of the Amenities and Leisure Committee.

2.2 One nomination was received. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr A Long be appointed Vice Chair of the Amenities & Leisure Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2023 were approved as a true record and it was **RESOLVED** they be signed by the Chair (Minutes 99–116).

6. CULVER LANE ALLOTMENTS

Councillors received the report on the Culver Lane Allotment Working Party. It was **RESOLVED** that the members of the working party for 2023/24 would be Miryam Eastwell and Cllrs A Bassett, N Brock and C Smith.

7. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE

7.1 Green Fair

Members received the update on the Green Fair and were pleased to hear about the improvements being made to the event each year. Councillors agreed that they would again have a town councillor stall, Cllr C Smith to coordinate this.

8. MAYS LANE CEMETERY

8.1 Extension Project

Members received the update on the extension project and noted that the next stage of the investigative works were scheduled to take place on 8th June.

8.2 Mays Lane Cemetery Working Party

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs A Bradley, G Littler, A Long, T Maher and S Matthews would be appointed to the Cemetery Working Party. These councillors will work alongside the Town Clerk, assisted by the Operations Manager, on the extension project. The working party will report back to the Amenities and Leisure Committee.

9. COMMUNITY CENTRES

9.1 Radstock Lane Community Centre

9.1.1 The Elizabeth Room

The Town Clerk gave an update on the numerous charities and groups which were investigating expanding their services to the Earley area in order to make use of the facilities at the Elizabeth Room. The response to the new space has been extremely positive. Cllr A Long thanked the Town Clerk for the support she had given to new hirers.

9.2 Silverdale Centre

It was noted that the Town Council had vacated the Silverdale Centre on 23rd March 2023.

10. OPERATIONS MANAGER - REPORT

The Operations Manager provided a verbal report on matters relating to assets and facilities. Work recently undertaken included:

- Repairing of cemetery exit road plus numerous potholes around the entrance to Mays Lane Cemetery
- Purchase & installation of new bench at Meldreth Way/Carshalton, including a new concrete base
- Purchase of four replacement notice boards, installation scheduled for week commencing 5th June
- Two replacement bus shelters ordered
- Fifteen new floating platforms constructed and floated on Maiden Erlegh lake
- Preparations underway for the start of the fishing season in mid June

11. DEFIBRILLATOR PROJECT

11.1 Wychwood Crescent

It was noted that the defibrillator had been installed in the renovated red telephone box in Wychwood Crescent. The floor has been replaced by a tiled mosaic created by Earley Town Council staff. Arrangements are being made to deliver a defibrillator training session to local residents.

11.2 Radstock Lane Community Centre

It was noted that quotes were being obtained to replace the defibrillator located on the outside wall of Radstock Community Centre.

12. TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

12.1 Clothes Swap

It was noted that a Clothes Swap was being held at the Council Offices on 1st and 2nd June 2023. The Town Clerk reported that residents had been generous with their donations and that Asda had kindly lent some clothes rails and hangers for the event.

12.2 No Mow May

The Town Council's participation in *No Mow May*, and subsequently *Let it Bloom in June* and *Knee High July*, was noted. Officers have received positive feedback from the public on the way the Town Council's grounds staff have managed the open spaces to accommodate all users.

12.3 Fishing Project

Councillors noted that the Reading FC Community Trust's fishing project for young people would be returning to Maiden Erlegh lake during the summer holidays.

13. PUBLICATIONS

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

MERA	Minutes of Executive Committee meeting – 13 th April 2023
The Friendship Alliance	E-newsletter 17 th May 2023
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter 19 th May 2023

14. PRESS RELEASES

Press releases on the following items were requested:

- Phone Box Defibrillator
- Clothes Swap event

15. 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

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The confidential minutes from the Amenities and Leisure Committee meeting of 1st March 2023 were signed. They contained only the fact that the previous confidential minutes had been signed and therefore, there will be no confidential minutes arising from this evening's meeting.

17. TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 8.07pm.

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Chair, Amenities & Leisure Committee