

EARLEY TOWN COUNCIL



Town Clerk
JO FRIEND BA(Hons) PSLCC

Council Offices
Radstock Lane
Earley, Reading
RG6 5UL

Tel: (0118) 986 8995

27 February 2024

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Amenities & Leisure Committee will be held in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Radstock Lane, Earley on **Wednesday 6th March 2024** commencing at 7 pm.

Yours faithfully

Jo Friend

TOWN CLERK

To: Members of the Amenities & Leisure Committee

Councillors: N Brock (Chair), R Ahlawat, A Bassett, A Bradley, R Browne, R Cook, A Long, T Maher, S Matthews and B Owen

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest from Members.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

To receive any questions from members of the public attending the meeting. The Public Forum shall not exceed 15 minutes. If there are no questions, the meeting shall commence forthwith.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To consider the Minutes of the Amenities & Leisure Committee meeting held on 17th January 2024 and, if appropriate, to agree that they represent a true and correct record and **RESOLVE** they be signed.

5. MAIDEN ERLEGH LAKE AND NATURE RESERVE

5.1 Canada Geese

A maximum of 20 minutes will be allocated to this agenda item.

To consider the comments received from MERA relating to the Canada Geese at Maiden Erlegh

Lake and Nature Reserve. Members to discuss and to formulate a policy, or Council position, to be approved by Full Council at its meeting on 27th March 2024.

Appendix A

5.2 Supervising Engineer - Lake

5.2.1 To note that, in accordance with legislation, a new Supervising Engineer has been appointed for the reservoir at Maiden Erlegh Lake.

5.2.2 In addition to the regular annual inspection of the lake, the Supervising Engineer will be carrying out a Section 10 Inspection (Reservoirs Act 1975) before mid- July 2024. This is an enhanced inspection that must be conducted every ten years. The cost of the Section 10 Inspection does not feature in the 2024/25 budget and therefore Full Council will be asked to approve expenditure of £3,995 in this regard.

6. SOL JOEL PARK

To note that the CCTV system at Sol Joel Park and Pavilion is being upgraded. As part of the project the storage and monitoring of CCTV footage will be moved to the Council offices.

7. COMMUNITY CENTRES

7.1 Maiden Place Community Centre

The floors of the main hall and the function room at MPCC are being refurbished during the Easter holidays (the floors at Radstock Lane Community Centre were refurbished in late 2023). Insufficient funds remain in the MPCC Maintenance budget 2023/24 to cover the whole cost (£4,335) and therefore Members of the Amenities & Leisure Committee are asked to approve a virement of £1,835 from the Radstock Lane Community Centre Maintenance budget 2023/24 to the MPCC Maintenance budget 2023/24.

Members to RESOLVE appropriately.

7.2 Elizabeth Room, Radstock Lane Community Centre

Members to receive a verbal update on bookings at the Elizabeth Room.

8. OPERATIONS MANAGER – REPORT

To receive a verbal update from the Operations Manager.

9. EVENTS

9.1 Bric-a-brac ‘Sale’

To note that two bric-a-brac ‘sales’ were held at the Council Offices during half term, these were promoted on social media. Both events were very successful and lots of stock was rehomed.

9.2 Bird Box Decorating

To note that another Bird Box Decorating event was held on 13th February at Radstock Lane Community Centre. The event was fully booked, attendees included a range of young families and older residents. The feedback received has been extremely positive.

Following publicity of the event on the Town Council’s social media page, we have been contacted by the organisers of a repair café who wish to explore ways in which we can work together. Councillors will be updated once further information becomes available.

9.3 Joint Event – Town Mayor and Link Visiting

To note that the Earley Town Mayor will be hosting a joint ‘Afternoon Tea’ with her chosen charity, Link Visiting. This event will be an opportunity for some of Link Visiting’s service users and supporters to socialise and will also act as a fundraiser to support LV in providing future activities. The High Sheriff of Berkshire will be attending and ETC will provide a couple of officers to assist LV with the running of the Tea on the day. Both organisations will be promoting the event and the press will be invited. The Afternoon Tea will take place on Friday 19th April at Maiden Place Community Centre.

10. BERKSHIRE’S LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

10.1 Farmer/Landowners Event – Reading University

The Town Clerk will be attending this event on 6th March 2024. Following discussions with Bob Collis and the BLNRS team, the Town Clerk has asked all Wokingham clerks whose councils own or manage land to send a representative to this meeting.

10.2 Wokingham Community BLNRS Workshop

A Wokingham community workshop will be co-hosted by the BLNRS team and Bob Collis at Maiden Place Community Centre on 20th April 2024. Attendees will be asked to identify their priorities for nature recovery. All parish and town councils in the borough have been asked to nominate one member of their community to attend. The team wish to hear from new voices and so ideally this person would be someone from a harder to reach group within the parish. Councillors to discuss and recommend a suitable attendee that the officers will then approach and invite to the event.

11. CORONATION TREE AND PLAQUE

To note that the Town Council’s Coronation Tree, an oak, has been planted at Paddick Drive, it follows the line of the veteran oaks at the site. The Town Mayor unveiled the commemorative plaque on 20th February 2023. *Appendix B*

12. CEMETERY EXTENSION

To receive any available updates.

13. PUBLICATIONS

To note that the following items have been received and are available for viewing from the Council Offices:

Friendship Alliance	E-newsletter 7 th February & 21 st February 2024
MERA	Minutes of Executive Committee meeting – 8 th February 2024
Involve Community Services	E-newsletter 9 th February & 17 th February 2024

14. PRESS RELEASES, WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

To determine whether any of the foregoing items shall form the subject of a special press release.