

05th November 2024

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held on this day in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, WOKINGHAM** from 7:30 pm to 8:39 pm.

**PRESENT**

Cllrs: R Bishop-Firth, M Fumagalli, C Jamthe, T Lack (Chairman), M Malvern (Vice Chair), A Medhurst and N Nagella

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Amenities Officer (AO) – Fiona Sleaford  
Town Mayor – Cllr R Comber

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)**

Cllrs: S Cornish and A Fraser

**MEMBERS' INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)**

None

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OR PUBLIC (Agenda Item 3)**

Cllr Jamthe raised a point from a resident about the lack of public toilet facilities at play parks. The Chairman and AO detailed some of the reasons for this situation, the Chairman asked to pass the point to the Strategy Working Party.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 4)**

It was proposed by Cllr Malvern and seconded by Cllr Jamthe, and it was

**RESOLVED  
30951**

that the minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting held on 10th September 2024 (pages 17051 to 17053) be received as a true and correct record and they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER**

**REQUEST TO USE PLAY PARKS RESERVES TO SUPPLEMENT THE ANNUAL BUDGET (Agenda Item 5)**

Councillors received and discussed the Amenities Officer's report 01/2024-25, dated 27 September 2024.

Discussion points included:

- The unpredictable nature of general repairs and maintenance.
- The importance of maintaining WTC's play parks Health & Safety standards.
- That this would remove additional impact to the precept.
- That this facility would only be required if the budget became fully utilised.
- That the Chairman would provide oversight and approval of requests.
- The usage of significant sums would be reported to the committee, as an information item, and an annual review would be provided.

Councillors recommended to ask the Finance & Personnel Committee that this process, to use play park reserves to supplement the annual budget as necessary, be allowed for this year, and future years.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / TOWN CLERK**

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



### **GRAFFITI UPDATE (Agenda Item 6)**

Cllrs received a photo montage of selected graffiti removal work completed by Cllr Croy in October 2024, Cllr Lack reminded the committee that photos are presented as a record of the work for which the Amenities Committee takes responsibility.

Cllr Lack confirmed that he will not be continuing with graffiti removal. Thanks were given to Cllrs Lack and Croy for this work.

### **MONITORING REPORT (Agenda Item 7)**

Councillors received and discussed the report dated 24th October 2024:

Item 176: Viking Field community orchard: WTC is still waiting for written agreement from Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC's) legal team.

**ACTION: GROUNDS & BLOOM OFFICER**

Item 177: Failure of wall lighting on western Market Place: WBC confirm that Volker Highways are scheduled to attend overnight between 17th and 22nd November to replace the lanterns and cabling.

Item 183: Play park equipment upgrade, FY2024-2025: Initial quotes being investigated, with work not due to start until spring, due to wet conditions.

**ACTIONS: AMENITIES OFFICER**

Item 184: Defibrillator for the Town Hall, FY2023-2024: Defibrillator awaiting new bracket and installation.

**ACTIONS: AMENITIES OFFICER**

### **AMENITIES COMMITTEE INFORMATION (Agenda Item 8)**

Cllrs noted the following:

- a) Winter hanging basket and planter scheme was installed on Thursday 10th October, the two 3-tier planters from Howard Palmer Gardens were returned to the station, and the seven window box planters on Rose Street, were removed and reinstalled.
- b) The agreed match funded work, in collaboration with WBC, to resurface the play park at Latimer Road was completed by 18th October.
- c) The public right of way over Tan House Lane bridge remains closed, with new steps installed in October, the steps are expected to open in early November.
- d) String lights in the seven established trees in Peach Place were reinstalled on 21st October 2024.
- e) Installation of Christmas light motifs began on Thursday 24th October with the main Christmas tree expected to be installed on 13th November.
- f) The AO received an approach by retailers in Peach Place, for help with an additional real Christmas tree, quotes were sought and passed on. There had been no response, and there is no budget this year for WTC to support.
- g) The Children's Funfair have officially booked for 2025, taking the equivalent weekend, 29th – 31st August. Hiring conditions remain the same as 2024.
- h) A document allowing a self-guided tour of the allotments has been created and is available for Cllrs to follow.
- i) Unauthorised overnight, and long-term, parking issues at Redlands Farm Park. WTC are working with WBC's ASB team to tackle the issue, and creating some new, and more effectively enforceable signage.
- j) Park Yoga confirmed an increase of £5 per session will be made to instructor funding, this is covered by the requested increase in budget for 2025-2026.

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



**MATTERS TO PUBLICISE VIA SOCIAL MEDIA FROM THIS EVENING'S MEETING (Agenda Item 9)**

- The co-funded resurfacing of Latimer Road play park.
- Hanging baskets and planters winter planting scheme.
- New tree wrapped lights in Peach Place.

**ACTION: AMENITIES OFFICER / MARKETING OFFICER**

Meeting closed at 8:39 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

Amenities Committee 05<sup>th</sup> November 2024

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