

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 8:00 pm

Present: *Councillors: D. Smith (Chairman); L. Hayward; L. Higgs; M. Holmes; C. Lawley; D. Mills; R. Neall; M. Walker*

Also present: *Councillor K. Baker
S. Milligan, Just Around The Corner Charity*

Officers present: *D. Mander, Town Clerk; L. Matthews, Committee Officer*

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W. Soane.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2014**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity, was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report. He reported that the atmosphere around Woodley was still generally good with the numbers at all sessions increasing as the weather got warmer, especially at Woodford Park and particularly on Friday evenings. JAC were taking sports equipment to the park to encourage young people to get involved in football, cricket and rounders.

Sam Milligan reported that the sessions at Rehoboth were already fully booked for the summer and he explained that the majority of the mentoring work at the stables was tending to be on a one to one basis, whereas previously they had mostly worked with larger groups. In response to a question Sam Milligan confirmed that this seemed to be a general trend rather than a short-term anomaly, and would result in a drop in the annual mentoring figures. The official opening of Rehoboth by Zara Tindall on 13 May had been a great success and had been attended by more than 150 people, including the Mayor of Woodley. Zara Tindall had shown a genuine interest in the work undertaken at the centre.

Finally Sam Milligan informed Members that JAC had recently had meetings with Woodley Town FC and Reading FC as both clubs were keen to improve their football and sports initiatives within the community, and were investigating the possibility of co-ordinating football sessions with JAC outreach sessions.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan, saying that he found the regular report from JAC very useful.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the report from the Just Around the Corner charity.

5. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 11/14.

6. **YOUTH WORKING PARTY**

In response to a question about whether it would be beneficial for the Friday night youth club at Bulmershe Leisure Centre to stay open until 10:30pm, the Town Clerk reported that the club opened from 7:30pm until 10pm and the volunteers who ran it felt that two and a half hours was long enough and that 10:30pm would be too late for the younger people who attended.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 12/14.

7. **ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY**

Members noted that it was anticipated that the next meeting of the Allotments Working Party would take place in June.

8. **WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE**

Members were pleased to note that information on the locations of the defibrillators had been circulated to all the shops in the town centre.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management initiative meeting held on 16 April 2014.

9. **HIGHWAYS**

a) **Road Works/Street Works Major Project Co-ordination meetings**

Members noted the report from Councillor Walker on the Wokingham Borough Council Road Works/Street Works Major Project Co-ordination meeting held on 29 April 2014.

b) **Cycleway on Wokingham Road (and A329 corridor)**

Members noted the publicity material regarding the route and its delivery.

10. **STREET WORKS PERMIT SCHEME**

Members discussed the street works permit scheme proposed by Wokingham Borough Council and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To respond to Wokingham Borough Council in support of the scheme, but to suggest that a review be undertaken in the future to monitor the benefits of the scheme.

11. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION UPGRADES**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the revised drawings received regarding the proposed upgrade to the existing telecommunications installation on land adjacent to Mays Lane Cemetery, Earley.

12. **BUS SHELTER IN FAIRWATER DRIVE**
Members noted that a new bus shelter had been ordered to replace the one in Fairwater Drive that had been damaged and subsequently removed.
13. **LIGHTING COLUMN IN DROVERS WAY FOOTPATH**
Members noted that Column 10 in Drovers Way footpath had been damaged and badly bent, but had been inspected and was safe and secure in the ground. The Service Support Manager was investigating who was responsible for the damage.
14. **AIR QUALITY IN WOODLEY**
Members noted that an officer from Environmental Health at Wokingham Borough Council had been invited to provide an update on air quality matters in the borough and would attend the next meeting of the Community Services Committee.
15. **CHANGES TO BUS ROUTES IN WOODLEY**
Members considered the correspondence received from Reading Buses regarding the changes to the bus routes in Woodley and
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To invite James Freeman, Chief Executive Officer of Reading Buses, and Tom Beck, from Wokingham Borough Council, to attend the next meeting of the Community Services Committee to explain why there had been a reduction to the bus network in Woodley.
 - ◆ To start the meeting on 3 September at 7:30pm if the above representatives were able to attend the meeting.
16. **READIBUS**
Members noted that the General Manager of Readibus had confirmed the year-end figures for the number of journeys provided in 2013/14, as follows:
- As at 31 March 2014, 247 residents were registered to use the service and in the year 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, 10,269 journeys were made, an increase on the previous year of 9.1%.
17. **WAITROSE, WOODLEY – APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE**
Information regarding this item had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting as a response had been required by Wokingham Borough Council by 21 May 2014.
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note the proposal by Waitrose, Woodley to reduce the number of double, manned checkouts by 0.5, to introduce a bank of quick pay/self-scanning tills and to relocate the customer welcome desk.
 - ◆ To note that a “no comments” response was sent to the Licensing Officer, Wokingham Borough Council, in accordance with the replies received from four Committee members.
18. **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**
Members reviewed the draft Powers and Duties of the Community Services Committee document and made the following amendments:

- i. Point 11 should read: "To monitor and manage the Committee's budgets..." instead of "To manage the Committee's budgets..."
- ii. Point 16 should read: "To work with other organisations, agencies and charities..." instead of "To work with other organisations and agencies..."

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To recommend that the amended draft Powers and Duties of the Community Services Committee document be adopted.

19. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
 - Wokingham Volunteer Centre Newsletter – Spring 2014

20. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Under this item it was requested that an update on progress regarding the provision of a public toilet in the town centre be included in the next agenda.

21. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

There were no suggestions for items to be publicised.

The following items were notified to Councillors after the agenda had been published.

22. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – PARKING ON VERGES, FOOTWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Members were pleased to receive information on this subject and welcomed the clarification of the legal position. The consultation document was discussed and it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To respond to the consultation as follows:
 - The cycleway must not be allowed to become a parking area
 - Enforcement of the regulations should be the responsibility of the Borough Council

23. **WOODLEY CARNIVAL**

Members considered a request from the Carnival Committee that the Council sponsor the provision of Inflatable World on Carnival Day.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that the budget allocation to the Carnival Committee be increased by £311 to cover the sponsorship of Inflatable World.

24. **CONDITION OF ROADS IN WOODLEY**

Members noted correspondence received from a Woodley resident regarding the condition of the road surfaces in Woodley, particularly Fairwater Drive and Wallace Close.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To write to Wokingham Borough Council requesting that consideration be given to the resurfacing of Fairwater Drive and Wallace Close.

- ◆ To reply to the resident informing him that the Town Council is not responsible for maintaining the roads but that representation will be made to the Borough Council regarding the resurfacing of Fairwater Drive and Wallace Close.
- ◆ That Councillor Walker will raise this issue at the next Road Works/Street Works Major Project Co-ordination meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:15 pm

Chairman