

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 27 January 2015 at 7:30 pm

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

Also present: *S. Milligan, Just Around The Corner Charity
1 member of public
1 member of the press*

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

76. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W. Soane and M. Willson.

77. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Higgs, Holmes, Lawley and Neall declared personal interests in Agenda Item 4: Citizens Awards, as some of the nominees were known to them, and they took no part in the discussions concerning those nominations.

Councillor Lawley left the room for the discussion of one of the nominations.

78. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to personal information, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw for the following agenda item.

79. **CITIZENS AWARDS**

Following consideration of each of the nominations it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To award a total of eight Citizens Awards.

80. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2014**

Minute 63b: Fairwater Drive, Woodley

In reply to a question, the Committee Officer reported that no reply had been received from Wokingham Borough Council explaining why the extent of Fairwater Drive scheduled for resurfacing had been reduced and agreed to write again.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

81. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 1/15.

82. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Sam Milligan, of Just Around the Corner charity, was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report, correcting an error in the printed report of the trip to a skate park, which should have reported that 9 skaters had visited the Rush Skate Park in Stroud.

Sam Milligan reported that the atmosphere around the town was currently very positive and with nothing untoward to report. The numbers of young people out on Friday and Saturday evenings was fluctuating from week to week, probably due to the changeable weather conditions.

In reply to a question Members were informed that JAC were working with more young people on a one to one basis than in the past and it seemed that the number of children needing this intensive help was increasing. There also seemed to be more need in the primary school age range than in older age groups, possibly because children tend to mature before going to secondary school. Sam Milligan commented that the education process in schools had become so intensive that less time was available for pastoral care and that this may have contributed to the increase in behavioural problems.

Sam Milligan reported that JAC were working at capacity at the Rehoboth Centre and were in the process of putting together a new 5 year plan, which would be forwarded to the Council when it was agreed by the charity's trustees.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for coming to the meeting.

83. **YOUTH WORKING PARTY**

- a) The Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 2/15, of the Youth Working Party meeting held on 14 January 2015. Members expressed the view that although there would be no more Streetz events they hoped that the organiser would be encouraged to attend future meetings of the working party.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 2/15.

- b) The Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 3/15, which reviewed the Youth Working Party's terms of reference and proposed that in future the working party be called the Community Youth Partnership. Members discussed the proposed revised terms of reference and it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the name of the Youth Working Party be changed to the Community Youth Partnership.
- ◆ That the new terms of reference, attached at **Appendix A**, be adopted.

84. **REVISED ESTIMATES 2014/15**
The Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 4/14.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 4/14.
- ◆ To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that the Revised Budget Estimates for 2014/15, as presented, be approved.

85. **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015/16**
The Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 5/15.

A suggestion from Councillor Lawley that the level of grant awarded to the CAB for the year 2015/16 be increased was discussed. It was pointed out that the stated costs of running the CAB in Woodley were significantly higher than the grant proposed and that, as the population of the town had increased in recent years and would continue to rise, there were now more families in Woodley who might need help from the CAB and it was important that the Woodley office should remain open.

It was therefore proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Holmes, and

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that the grant awarded to the CAB for 2015/16 be increased from £4,000 to £7,000.
Voting: For: 5 Abstentions: 2
- ◆ To note Report No. CS 4/15.
- ◆ To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that the Budget Estimates for 2015/16, as amended to include a grant of £7,000 to the CAB, be approved.
Voting: For: 3 Abstentions: 4

86. **ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**
Members discussed the update that had been provided in the agenda and were pleased to note that there were currently no problems to report. It was noted that the Allotments Working Party had not met for almost a year and it was therefore suggested that the terms of reference of the working party should be reviewed, and that the views of the Allotment Tenants Association should be sought on this. The Town Clerk agreed to send a copy of the current terms of reference to all Committee members.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To invite the Chairman of the Allotment Tenants Association to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee.

87. **PUBLIC TOILETS WORKING PARTY**
The Town Clerk gave an update on matters relating to the provision of a public toilet, for Members' information as the Public Toilets Working Party reports to the Strategy and Resources Committee. She reported that it had proved to be very difficult to find a suitable site for the new toilet and that the working party had agreed to contact Wokingham Borough Council again about the possibility of locating the toilet in the Waitrose/Crockhamwell Road car park.

88. **HIGHWAYS**

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

Members noted the minutes of the Wokingham Borough Council Road Works/Street Works Major Projects Co-ordination meetings held on 18 November and 16 December 2014.

b) **Traffic island outside the Oakwood Centre, Headley Road**

Members noted that the repairs to the traffic island outside the Oakwood Centre were undertaken in December.

c) **Fairwater Drive**

Members noted that a reply had been received that morning from Reading Buses regarding their views on the condition of the road surface in Fairwater Drive. The reply was read out at the meeting and made reference to the cracks and potholes in the road surface. The Committee requested that it be circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed that officers would write to Wokingham Borough Council accordingly and that Councillor Walker would also raise this matter at the next Major Projects Co-ordination meeting, after discussing it with the representative from Reading Buses.

89. **TREE PLANTING**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that new trees were planted by Wokingham Borough Council in Antrim Road and Welford Road during National Tree Week in December 2014.

90. **SOUTH EAST PERMIT SCHEME**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that Wokingham Borough Council's application to join the South East Permit Scheme had been approved and the scheme had come into effect on 19 January 2015, but that there was a grace period until 1 March 2015 during which no fees for permits and variations would be charged.

91. **PREMISES LICENCE: 143 CROCKHAMWELL ROAD**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that a premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005 had been granted to Coral for the property at 143 Crockhamwell Road.

92. **Xn/WOKINGHAM TIMES**

Members noted the information provided in the agenda regarding the proposals of the editor of Xn to increase the frequency of publication following the closure of the Wokingham Times.

Members regretted that the Wokingham Times was no longer being published.

93. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – PEER REVIEW – HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT**

Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council was organising a Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme Peer Review, in conjunction with the Local Government Association, which was taking place on 4 - 6 February 2015, and that the Woodley Town Council had been invited to send a representative to a session on 5 February.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That Councillor Walker would represent the Town Council at a session of the Peer Review on 5 February.

94. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL STREET LIGHTING REPLACEMENT AND LED LANTERN PROCUREMENT PROJECT**

Members noted information received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding a forthcoming major street lighting project and considered whether Woodley Town Council wished to be included in the project.

The Service Support Manager had proposed that that the Town Council register its interest in being included in the street lighting and procurement project and provide the Borough Council with an inventory of the Town Council owned columns that may need replacing in the short to medium term. The Town Council could then consider the associated costs and potential savings once they were known.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To register an interest in being included in the Borough Council's street lighting and procurement project.
- ◆ To provide the Borough Council with an inventory of the Town Council owned columns that may need replacing in the short to medium term.

95. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON CARER'S STRATEGY**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note that Wokingham Borough Council was consulting carers on its draft carer's strategy.

96. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
 - *The Volunteer's Voice*
 - *Historic Towns Forum December Newsletter*

97. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Under this item it was requested that an item on ongoing matters regarding the bus routes in Woodley be included in a future agenda.

98. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

There were no suggestions for items to be publicised.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

Chairman

Community Youth Partnership - Terms of Reference

Parent Committee: Community Services Committee

Overall purpose

The partnership's purposes are:

- to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information on youth services and activities in the town
- engender good working relationships between providers of youth services and activities in the town
- to enable and/or be involved in joint projects and plans to improve services and support to Woodley's young people
- to consider and make recommendations on applications to the Town Council's youth project fund

Membership of the working party

There shall be at least five members of Council and up to ten representatives of voluntary sector organisations working with young people appointed to the working party.

Chairmanship of the partnership will be held by a voluntary sector representative. The Vice Chairman will be held by a town councillor. Agendas for meetings of the partnership will be set jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Officers will be in attendance at all meetings.

Representatives from other organisations working with or providing services and activities for young people in Woodley and other interested parties, as agreed by the working party, will be invited to each meeting of the working party.

Meetings

Meetings of the working party shall take place at least quarterly.

Terms of operation

- To liaise with organisations and bodies providing services and activities for young people in Woodley.
- To receive information on activities and services to young people in the town from youth service providers.
- To receive and consider representations and proposals from young people and representatives providing services and activities for young people and make any recommendations to the Community Services Committee, Council or any other relevant Committee or organisation, as appropriate.
- To receive and consider applications to the youth projects fund held by the Town Council and make any recommendations on those to the Community Services Committee.
- To be part of a network of providers of youth services and activities and encourage exchanges of information and joint working, where appropriate.
- To take part in joint projects to make provision for and support young people.
- To take any relevant matters forward, as agreed by the working party, to the appropriate body or organisation.
- To consider any other matters relating to young people in Woodley.

- To make any recommendations outside the working party's remit to the Community Services Committee.
- To provide reports of meetings held to the Community Services Committee.