

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the  
Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 9 June 2015 at 8:00 pm**

---

**Present:** *Councillors: D. Smith (Chairman); J. Cheng; R. Dolinski; M. Forrer;  
J. NacNaught; D. Mills; W. Soane; M. Walker*

**Also present:** *S. Milligan, Just Around The Corner Charity  
Councillor K. Baker  
2 members of the public*

**Officers present:** *D. Mander, Town Clerk*

1. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON 31 MARCH 2015**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

The Chairman welcomed Sam Milligan from Just Around the Corner to the meeting and explained that the charity had an agreement with the Council to provide support to young people. Sam Milligan presented the written report he had provided. Members discussed the reasons for the lower numbers of young people being out in the evenings and the increase in the one to one work JAC was doing to support local young people. Members agreed with a suggestion that the committee members and other councillors visit the Reboboh Centre and the Town Clerk agreed to liaise with JAC to organise this.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for attending the meeting.

5. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No.s CS 9/15 and CS 10/15.

6. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Walker presented the minutes of the meeting of the Community Youth Partnership on 27 May 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To appoint Paul Cassidy of ARC Counselling to the Community Youth Partnership.
- ◆ To note the minutes of the Community Youth Partnership of 27 May 2015.

7. **WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (WTCMI)**

Mary Holmes who was present at the meeting was invited to comment on the minutes of the last meeting of the Town Centre Management Initiative. She reported that the next meeting of the Management Committee would be looking at the project to refurbish the north end of the centre. It was noted that the project may also include new play equipment, for which Section 106 funds were available and that this may affect the scope of the project. In response to a question it was confirmed that the disabled spaces would not be taken away and that the assistance of the Neighbourhood Police team could be requested to prevent contractors using these spaces to park their vehicles.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative meeting held on 8 April 2015.

8. **ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

Members noted the information provided regarding the banners advertising vacant plots, the annual clear up at the site, the installation by tenants of an additional CCTV camera at the site and that planings would be delivered in late summer for tenants to continue their work repairing the roadways at the site.

In response to a question on the number of plots, Councillor Mills explained that the Council had worked hard to bring neglected plots back into use and that there were now 360 plots at the site. An improved process for dealing with untended plots was also helping the Council meet demand. It was noted that the site had 7 plots available for rent.

9. **HIGHWAYS**

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

Members noted the minutes of the Wokingham Borough Council Road Works/Street Works Major Project Co-ordination meetings held on 17 March, 14 April and 12 May 2015.

b) **Temporary road closures**

Members noted the following temporary road closures to enable Wokingham Borough Council to carry out their annual road resurfacing works in safety. Access for residents and businesses within the boundary of the closures would be maintained.

- i) **Kingfisher Drive Service Roads, Woodley** would be closed at the junction with Kingfisher Drive. It was anticipated that the works would be carried out between 21 November and 1 December 2015.
- ii) **Fairwater Drive, Woodley** would be closed between its junctions with Antrim Road and Campbell Road. It was anticipated that the works would be carried out between 19 October and 28 October 2015. Councillor Baker informed Members that the reason for the delay in resurfacing this section of Fairwater Drive was because this section of the road was constructed on a concrete plinth and the necessary research into the resurfacing requirements had delayed the work.
- iii) **A4 Bath Road, Sonning** would be closed in both directions between Shepherds Hill roundabout and Sonning Lane. This would be a night time closure and it was anticipated that the works would be carried out between

5 October and 9 October 2015. Members noted that the diversion route for this work would result in extra traffic passing through Woodley.

Concern was expressed that repairs were being carried out to the road surface in Redwood Avenue and Oak Drive when a gas main was due to be laid in these roads shortly. Councillor Walker reported that work to the new gas main had been delayed and that Southern Gas would be required to reinstate the road surface when the work was eventually undertaken. It was noted that residents would be concerned that utility companies were unable to co-ordinate their work.

10. **BEST KEPT STREET COMPETITION**

Members discussed report No. CS12/15 which set out the resolution of the Town Council at its meeting on 10 February 2015 to ask the Committee to investigate the possibility of two new awards; the Best Kept Street and Best Community Street. During the discussion on this matter Members raised issues on the practicalities of the proposed competitions including setting the criteria for judging, the resources available in terms of funding and time to promote and arrange the competitions and a view that only smaller streets and cul de sacs would be able, in practice, to enter the competitions.

Members believed that the Council should concentrate on promoting the existing Best Kept Garden competition where entries had been quite low. It was also suggested that the winner of the Best Kept Garden competition be invited to the Citizens Awards Reception in future and the Town Clerk agreed include this in the arrangements for the next reception.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- ◆ That the proposed new competitions for Best Kept Street and Best Community Street not be progressed because of the practicalities of organising and managing such competitions and the lack of capacity within the Council to provide the resources that would be required to establish and manage these.

11. **BUS SHELTER – LIVINGSTONE GARDENS**

It was noted that the proposed bus shelter was on Nightingale Road, near Livingstone Gardens and

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To include the new bus shelter on Nightingale Road (Livingstone Gardens) to the Council's maintenance regime.

12. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL GRASS CUTTING SERVICE**

Members noted the proposed grass cutting regime which had been reviewed in the light of experiences last year and a consultation exercise. Members agreed to keep an eye on the new arrangements and to report in instances where, for example, the view of traffic at junctions was obscured by tall grass.

13. **CONSULTATION BY WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL:  
PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDER**

Members noted the response to the consultation, made in between meetings, supporting the proposal to prohibit waiting on Nightingale Road and Campbell Road, at the junction of Livingstone Gardens and Nightingale Road.

14. **APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003: MARTINS, 141 CROCKHAMWELL ROAD**

Members noted that that the premises licence was granted following a hearing on 12 May 2015, at which the Council had been represented by Councillor Mills who put forward the Committee's concerns regarding the licensing hours. Councillor Mills reported that the hearing had been fair and the Council's concerns listened to. However, he advised that any future responses to premises licence applications should be better researched and in particular the views of the police should be sought. It was also noted that other licensed premises had similar licensing hours (6am – 11pm), although opening hours were shorter. In the case of Martins it was understood that the shop would close at 6.30pm, as at present.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Mills for attending the hearing on the Council's behalf and said that despite the outcome the Council had shown that it was concerned about the easy availability of alcohol in Woodley.

15. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL GYPSY AND TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION**

Councillor Baker explained the background to the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan and that this was key to the Borough Council being able to manage the provision of sites, rather than applications being allowed on appeal, which was likely to be the case in the absence of such a policy.

Members considered the questions set out in the consultation and agreed to respond supporting the options proposed by Wokingham Borough Council.

16. **ANNUAL GRANTS 2015/16**

Members noted that thanks had been received from the CAB, which had also confirmed that it had the necessary insurance cover for its activities. The Town Clerk reported that the letter had taken three weeks to arrive in the post at the Council offices.

17. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
  - *The Volunteers' Voice*
  - *Historic Towns Forum May Newsletter*

18. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

No future agenda items were requested.

19. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To place a link on the Council's website to road closure information on the Wokingham Borough Council website.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm

---

Chairman