

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 31 March 2015 at 8:00 pm

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

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

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

99. **APOLOGIES**

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

100. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

101. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2015**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

102. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 6/15.

103. **ALLOTMENTS**

- a) The Chairman welcomed Scott Golding, the Chairman of the Allotment Tenants Association, to the meeting and asked him to give Members an update on allotment matters.

Scott Golding reported that over the past year progress had been made on improving site security with the installation of a cctv camera on the front gate, which had reduced unauthorised access. There were still some problems at the Bulmershe end of the site, where intruders had cut the fence to gain access, but the Tenants Association intended to install cctv cameras in this location to act as a deterrent. The fencing had been repaired by the Council's Maintenance Team with money raised by the allotment tenants. Mr Golding mentioned that some investment would be required from the Council in the future to repair the roadways on the site, as these were becoming very worn.

Mr Golding reported that over the past year Council officers and tenants had worked together to identify empty plots and ensure that they were reworked. The waiting list had been cleared and the tenants felt that the site was being well managed. Mr Golding expressed the tenants' thanks to the Administration Officer for organising this. He said that the next aim should be to increase demand for the allotments so that there would always be new tenants to take

over when plots became vacant and thereby ensure that the site continued to be well maintained. It was agreed that the Council would raise the profile of the allotments by providing information more prominently on the Council website and on the town noticeboards.

Mr Golding was asked about the control of vermin on the site and informed Members that the number of rats had increased in previous years and it seemed that they had become immune to the bait; this had been resolved by using stronger bait and the situation was now under control.

When asked if the tenants had any suggestions for improvements at the allotments Mr Golding informed Members that some tenants had suggested the possibility of drilling a borehole to provide water for the allotments. The Service Support Manager was looking into this as there were restrictions on the abstraction of ground water and permission would be required from Reading Borough Council, from whom the land is leased.

Finally Mr Golding stated that the main request the tenants had of the Council was to ensure that the site was kept secure and for the Maintenance Team to continue to respond quickly when a problem occurred

The Chairman thanked Scott Golding for attending the meeting and for giving the tenants' views on progress at the allotments.

- b) Members noted the update on matters relating to the allotments that had been provided in the agenda.

Councillor Lawley again expressed his view that the management of the allotments should be overseen and controlled by councillors by means of the Allotments Working Party.

104. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

The Chairman welcomed Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity, to the meeting and Mr Milligan apologised for not submitting a written report prior to the meeting.

Sam Milligan reported that the mood around the town was still good and young people were starting to come out in the evenings now that the weather was improving. The precinct was getting busier in the evenings, but there was no antisocial behaviour to report. Skaters had started to use the skate park in the evenings again.

Members were pleased to hear that alcohol use did not appear to be a problem among the young people, and Sam Milligan mentioned that news reports seemed to suggest that alcohol use by the young was generally on the decrease. Members asked Sam Milligan for his views on the possible increase in the number of outlets selling alcohol in the town centre and he said that his personal view was that convenience stores, where alcohol was readily visible, were likely to lead to greater alcohol consumption by young people and were also likely to become hot spots for youngsters to gather in the evening.

Sam Milligan informed Members that JAC would be taking a group of young people to visit the household cavalry in London in the Easter holidays.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for his report

105. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**
Councillor Walker presented Report No. CS 7/15 of the Community Youth Partnership meeting held on 18 March 2015.
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note Report No. CS 7/15.
106. **KEEP WOODLEY CLEAN WORKING PARTY**
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note Report No. CS 8/15 of the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party meeting held on 4 February 2015.
107. **WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE**
Councillor Holmes presented the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative meeting held on 28 January 2015.
- Members noted that the reported car parking figures were incorrect, as the wireless link for reporting usage had not been working for three months resulting in an inaccurately low figure. Some Members reported that they were receiving complaints that people were unable to find parking spaces in the town centre at weekends.
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative meeting held on 28 January 2015.
108. **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 13 January and 10 February 2015.
- b) **Fairwater Drive**
Members noted that letters had been written to Wokingham Borough Council asking why the extent of the resurfacing scheduled for Fairwater Drive had been reduced and requesting that consideration be given to resurfacing the entire length of Fairwater Drive, but that no reply had been received.
109. **CAMPAIGN AGAINST WASTE**
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note the report of the special Campaign Against Waste meeting held on 16 January 2015.
110. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – CLEANER AND GREENER SERVICES**
- RESOLVED:**
- ◆ To note information received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the new Cleaner & Greener Services team.

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

- a) Members noted the report from Councillor Walker on the session of the Wokingham Borough Council Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme Peer Review, which she attended on 5 February 2015.
- b) Councillor Neall reported on the Action Planning Day on 20 March 2015, which had taken place following the Peer Review. He said that the meeting had generally felt that heavy traffic was a significant issue across the borough and needed to be addressed.

Councillor Baker clarified that the purpose of the peer review was for non-local people to review matters and to write an independent report on their findings.

112. **PROPOSED TELECOMMUNICATIONS BASE STATION UPGRADE WORKS – PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATIONS**

The views of Committee members had been sought prior to the meeting on proposed telecommunications upgrades at the following locations, as responses were required before the date of the meeting:

- a) The Bulmershe School, Chequers Way, Woodley.
- b) St. John's Ambulance Station, Church Road, Woodley.

Members noted that for each location a response had been sent stating that the Committee had no objections, and asking that the views of local residents be taken into consideration.

113. **APPLICATION FOR GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

Members noted that the Council had been notified by Wokingham Borough Council of the following application for a Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence:

Applicant:	AYS Business Moves Ltd, Unit 3, Headley Park Nine, Woodley, RG5 4SQ
Operating Centre:	MCH Vehicle Rental, Viscount Way, RG5 4DZ
Authorisation:	1 vehicle and 0 trailers

Objections were required by 24 March 2015.

The views of Committee members had been sought prior to the meeting and no objections had been received.

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

Members discussed the application for a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 that had been made by Martins, 141 Crockhamwell Road.

It was felt that the sale of alcohol should be limited to no later than 9pm, in line with other outlets in the town centre, especially as young people gather in the town centre in the evening due to the fast food outlets in this location.

Members also did not want the sale of alcohol to start until 10am.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To send a response to Wokingham Borough Council asking for the sale of alcohol at 141 Crockhamwell Road to be restricted to between the hours of 10am and 9pm.

115. **ANNUAL GRANTS 2015/16**

Members noted that thanks had been received from the Lend and Play Toy Library, Readibus and Keep Mobile and all had confirmed that they had the necessary insurance to carry out their activities.

Members asked if thanks had been received from the CAB and the Town Clerk agreed to check this.

116. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
 - *TCMI Newsletter*
 - *Historic Towns Forum March Newsletter*

117. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A future agenda item on the proposals for the Best Kept Street competition was requested.

118. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To publicise the following:
 - The Beat the Street campaign.
 - The Woodley allotments.

When the business of the meeting had been concluded, Councillor Lawley expressed his appreciation of how the meetings had been chaired over the past year.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm

Chairman