

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 11 November 2014 at 8:00 pm**

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

**Also present:** *Councillor K. Baker  
E. Taylor, Environmental Health Officer, Wokingham Borough Council  
S. Milligan, Just Around The Corner Charity*

*1 member of public*

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

51. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W. Soane.

52. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

53. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2014 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

54. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To appoint Councillor Walker as Vice Chairman of the Community Services Committee.

55. **AIR QUALITY IN WOODLEY**

Erica Taylor, Environmental Health Officer, Wokingham Borough Council, was welcomed to the meeting to talk to Members about air quality matters across the borough and in Woodley in particular.

Erica Taylor explained that local authorities had a legal obligation to monitor the levels of seven pollutants across their area and in Wokingham Borough the only one of these pollutants found to occur in significant concentrations was nitrogen dioxide, which was caused by traffic pollution. The nitrogen dioxide levels were constantly measured across the borough, mainly using movable monitoring stations, which could be moved to another location if the observed levels in a particular area were found to be low. The problem areas in Wokingham Borough were adjacent to the M4 motorway, for its whole length across the borough, and in the town centres of Wokingham and Twyford. An action plan to control the levels of pollution in Wokingham and Twyford town centres was under development.

Erica Taylor informed Members that the two monitoring stations that had been located in Woodley adjacent to the A329(M) had been moved to other locations as the measured levels of pollution had been continually low.

In reply to a question Erica Taylor confirmed that air quality was a material planning consideration for large developments and if assessments showed that air quality might be a problem the planning authority would require monitoring of pollutants during construction and afterwards.

Replying to a question from a member of public Erica Taylor reported that the local authority did not have an obligation to inform the public if recommended levels of pollutants were exceeded, but that all of the monitoring data was published on the Wokingham Borough Council website.

The Chairman thanked Erica Taylor for coming to the meeting.

56. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report.

Members were interested to note that, of the games and activities on offer in the mobile units, the traditional group participation games, such as charades, were increasing in popularity. Sam Milligan thought that the easy availability of electronic games on mobile phones and other devices meant that the games consoles provided by JAC on the mobile units were no longer so attractive to young people. Members were also pleased to note that the young mums' sewing group was doing well and still growing.

In reply to a question about police reports of an increase in drugs use locally, Sam Milligan said that he could not comment on data collected by the police but that JAC had not noticed an increase in the use of drugs by young people and were not aware of an increase in young people talking about drug use taking place.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for his report, which had been very informative.

**RESOLVED:**

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

57. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 15/14.

58. **YOUTH WORKING PARTY**

The Town Clerk informed Members that Coronation Hall had been booked for the next Streetz event on 10 January 2015 and that she had arranged a meeting with the organiser and the police to discuss the management of the event.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 16/14.

59. **ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY**

- a) Members reviewed the membership of the working party as Councillor Storry and Councillor Haines were no longer able to attend the meetings.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That Councillor Lawley replace Councillor Storry on the Allotments Working Party.
- ◆ That Councillor Walker replace Councillor Haines on the Allotments Working Party.

- b) As there had not been a meeting of the Allotments Working Party since the last meeting Members noted the update provided in the agenda on developments at the allotments.

The Town Clerk informed Members that she had investigated the procedures for pest control at the allotments, as requested at the last meeting, and confirmed that there was a risk-assessed process in operation for baiting and that a review was carried out each year to ensure that the people handling the bait were properly trained.

As the working party had been unable to meet for more than seven months and the allotments were currently running smoothly, Members discussed whether it was necessary to continue with regular working party meetings or whether meetings should be arranged only when necessary. Members felt that the views of the Allotment Tenants Association should be sought regarding the frequency of meetings and it was

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To invite the Chairman of the Allotment Tenants Association to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee to review the aims of the working party and the frequency of the meetings.

60. **KEEP WOODLEY CLEAN WORKING PARTY**

Members noted the recommendation made by the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party that a second member of the Woodley Adopt a Street Project be co-opted to the working party.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 17/14 of the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party meeting held on 8 October 2014.
- ◆ To co-opt Chris Gillett as a member of the Keep Woodley Clean Working Party for the current municipal year.

61. **PUBLIC TOILETS WORKING PARTY**

As the working party had not met since the last meeting of the Committee Members noted the update on progress provided in the agenda. The Town Clerk reported that it had been impossible to arrange a meeting of the working party that would have been quorate, partly due to a vacancy on the working party, and informed Members that at the next meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee there would be an agenda item to appoint new members to the working party.

62. **WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative meeting held on 8 October 2014.

63. **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 19 August, 26 September and 21 October 2014.

b) **Fairwater Drive, Woodley**

Members noted that the extent of Fairwater Drive scheduled for resurfacing work had been reduced to the section between Woodlands Avenue and Antrim Road and that an explanation had been requested from Wokingham Borough Council but had not been received.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To write to Reading Buses to seek their views on the state of the road surface in Fairwater Drive.

c) **Kingfisher Drive, Rickman Road and Larch Drive**

Members noted that the Service Delivery Manager at Wokingham Highways Alliance had agreed to put Kingfisher Drive, Rickman Close and Larch Drive forward for consideration when the next resurfacing programme was compiled.

d) **Lytham Road**

Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council had investigated the possibility of providing a bus shelter at the bus stop in Lytham Road, as requested, but had reported that there was insufficient space on the footway for a shelter at this location.

e) **Exit from Marks and Spencer car park**

Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council had investigated the adequacy of the signage at the exit on to the A4 from the Marks and Spencer car park and no incidents of people turning the wrong way had been reported.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ Not to request the addition of another "one way" sign at the car park exit at this time but to make a request in the future if evidence of a problem is reported.

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

Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council intended to undertake repairs to the traffic island outside the Oakwood Centre on the evening of 7 December 2014, subject to the granting of a temporary road closure.

64. **BUS SERVICES IN WOODLEY**

Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council and Reading Buses had been contacted by letter to enquire whether a review of the 19 bus service would take place following the comments made by residents at the Community Services Committee meeting on 16 September and both had confirmed that there were

currently no plans to make changes to the bus services but that the situation would be reviewed next year.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To write to Reading Buses again early in 2015, when the new Chief Executive Officer would be in post.

65. **AMENITY VEHICLE PROVISION**

- a) Councillor Holmes gave a verbal report of the Wokingham Borough Council Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting which she attended on 27 October, along with representatives of other towns and parishes in the borough, to discuss the future of the amenity vehicle scheme.

Councillor Holmes reported that 10 towns and parishes were represented at the meeting and all wanted the scheme to continue. Wokingham Borough Council had explained that all the waste collected by the amenity vehicles went to landfill sites and in order to meet new government directives, which would take effect in the New Year, all waste would have to be separated for reuse or recycling. The Borough Council had agreed to look at ways of modifying the scheme in order to allow the service to continue.

- b) Members noted that, with effect from 1 November, Wokingham Borough Council had suspended the amenity vehicle service in Drover's Way and instead the vehicle would be stationed in South Lake Crescent from 8am until 11am during each scheduled visit. This action had been taken as a result of increasing safety and traffic issues when the amenity vehicle was stationed in Drover's Way.

66. **APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005: 143 CROCKHAMWELL ROAD**

Members noted that an application for a premises licence under the Gambling Act 2005 had been made in October for the property at 143 Crockhamwell Road in the town centre. Although the Town Council was not consulted on the application, a letter of objection was sent to the licensing authority after gathering the views of the Community Services Committee by email. The Town Council had subsequently received notification that the application was to be determined at a hearing on 19 November 2014 and had been invited to send a representative to attend the hearing.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That Councillor Baker would attend the hearing on 19 November on behalf of the Town Council.

67. **SUPERFAST BERKSHIRE BROADBAND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME**

Members noted correspondence received from the Wokingham Borough Council Economic Development Officer regarding the Superfast Broadband Improvement Programme.

68. **APPLICATION TO RENEW STREET TRADING CONSENT**

Members considered the following application to renew Street Trading Consent:

Application No: ST26

Applicant: Mr Jan Ratip – Adems Kebabs

Trading Site: Woodlands Avenue, Woodley (opposite university site)

Trading Times: Sunday to Thursday: 0700 to 0100 hours  
Friday and Saturday: 0700 to 0300 hours)  
(One hour shutdown at 3pm to prepare for evening food)

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To respond to the West Berkshire and Wokingham Environmental Health and Licensing Service with no objections.

69. **CAMPAIGN AGAINST WASTE MEETING**

Councillor Walker informed Members that she had not received notification of this meeting and therefore had not attended. This had been pointed out to the Waste and Recycling Manager at Wokingham Borough Council and the distribution list had been amended.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Campaign Against Waste meeting held on 8 October 2014.

70. **WOKINGHAM+ TRAFFIC FORUM**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Wokingham+ Traffic Forum meeting held on 2 October 2014.

71. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON GRASS CUTTING AND GREEN SPACE MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council was undertaking a review of its grass cutting and other open green space maintenance services.

72. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
  - *Reading Family Aid Newsletter – October 2014*
  - *Press Release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the future of Dinton Pastures.*

73. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following items were requested by Members:

- An update on the number 19 bus service in Woodley.
- To invite the Chairman of the Allotment Tenants Association to attend the next meeting to discuss the future of the Allotments Working Party.
- An update on the provision of the public toilet in the town centre.
- An update on the result of the hearing into the premises licence application for 143 Crockhamwell Road.

74. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

There were no suggestions for items to be publicised.

The following item was notified to Members after the agenda had been published.

75. **CONSULTATION BY WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: PROHIBITION OF WAITING ORDERS**

Members noted correspondence received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding proposals to prohibit waiting at the following locations:

- a) The Parade, Brecon Road and Glendevon Road, Woodley.
- b) Bodmin Road and Nightingale Road, Woodley.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To reply in support of the proposals to prohibit waiting at the suggested locations.

The meeting closed at 9:50 pm

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Chairman