

Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 10 November 2015 at 8:00 pm

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

Also present: *S. Milligan, Just Around The Corner charity*

Officer present: *L. Matthews, Committee Officer*

39. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D. Smith.

40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

41. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

42. **HEALTHWATCH WOKINGHAM BOROUGH**

Nick Durman, Healthwatch Officer for Wokingham Borough, was unable to attend the meeting due to ill-health and had sent his apologies. The Healthwatch presentation would be rearranged for another meeting.

43. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER (JAC)**

Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity, was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report, pointing out that Inside Out had stopped for 3 weeks in October, not September as mentioned in the report.

Sam Milligan reported that the atmosphere in Woodley was generally very good and had improved considerably over the last 6 or 7 years, with fewer young people being out at night. Those that were out at night tended to be in smaller groups, which were quieter and caused fewer problems than in the past, when young people from outside Woodley had come into the town to join with the large groups. Members noted that since the opening of the Bosco Lounge there was more adult activity in the town centre at night and this seemed to have reduced the number of young people in the town centre.

In reply to a question about the JAC community shop, Sam Milligan informed Members that this had opened recently in Wokingham and would provide retail training for young people and would also help those who were socially anxious to cope with their difficulties. JAC had run a market stall for some time, selling bric-a-brac and craftwork, and by helping at the market stall young people were helped to gain in confidence. The community shop would now be a training hub that young people could move on to after gaining confidence on the market stall.

Sam Milligan had previously invited Members to visit Rehoboth to see the facilities provided and the work that JAC were doing there and it was agreed that the visit would take place on Saturday 28 November at 10:30am.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for coming to the meeting and hoped the success of JAC's work would continue.

44. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 15/15.

45. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

The Chairman presented Report No. CS 16/15 of the Community Youth Partnership meeting held on 21 October 2015 and explained that information was awaited from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the safety of the area under the roadway at Loddon Mead with respect to debris falling from the road. This information was required before a decision could be made on the viability of the land for use as a location for a youth project.

Councillor Soane suggested that Loddon Mead might be a suitable area for a new scout hut and was informed that this had already been suggested by the Community Youth Partnership.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note the minutes of the Community Youth Partnership meeting of 21 October 2015.

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

Members noted that a meeting of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative had taken place on 28 October 2015, but that the minutes of the meeting were not currently available. The minutes would be provided with the agenda for the next meeting of the Community Services Committee.

47. **ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

Members noted the information provided regarding the poor state of the six untenanted plots, which made them unsuitable for use without a great deal of improvement work being undertaken, and the work that would be carried out by the Maintenance Team to reinforce an area of fencing along the boundary with Pitts Lane footpath. There were currently 21 people on the waiting list.

Members were sad to hear that Chris Lynam, a long time allotment tenant and previous Chairman of the Allotment Tenants Association, had passed away in October following a period of ill health. Chris had spent many years working with the Council on allotment matters and was a familiar face at the allotment site, in the Town Council offices and at the leisure centre.

48. **HIGHWAYS**

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 11 August, 15 September and 13 October 2015.

Members were disappointed to note the delay to the resurfacing of Fairwater Drive, which had been caused by the discovery of contamination under the

concrete. The resurfacing of Fairwater Drive had now been scheduled to take place during the 2016 Easter holidays.

49. **APPLICATION FOR VARIATION TO A GOODS VEHICLE OPERATORS LICENCE: HEADLEY PARK EIGHT, HEADLEY ROAD EAST**

Members considered the following application for a variation to a Goods Vehicle Operators Licence, which had been notified by Wokingham Borough Council:

Operating Centre: Headley Park Eight, Headley Road East, Woodley, RG5 4SA
New authorisation: 4 vehicles, 0 trailers

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To raise no objections to this application.

50. **CONSULTATION BY WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, GAMBLING ACT 2005**

Members noted that correspondence had been received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the renewal of its Statement of Principles, required every 3 years under the Gambling Act 2005. The proposed policy document had been circulated to members of the Community Services Committee and the views of Members sought prior to the meeting, as responses were required by 28 October 2015. A response had subsequently been sent in support of the proposals.

51. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PUBLIC CONSULTATION: PARK AND RIDE**

Members noted the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the public consultation on proposals to build a new park and ride at Thames Valley Park.

52. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL STRATEGIC HOUSING MARKET ASSESSMENT**

Members noted the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

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

Members noted the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the results of the trial changes to the grass cutting service that were introduced in 2015.

54. **BUS SHELTERS**

Members considered a request from Wokingham Borough Council that three new bus shelters be added to the Town Council's maintenance schedule. The bus shelters would be installed by Wokingham Borough Council: two in Woodlands Avenue near the new housing development and one in Mohawk Way.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the three new bus shelters be added to the Town Council's maintenance schedule.

55. **SOUTH LAKE**

Members were pleased to note that Wokingham Borough Council had advised that the accumulated silt had been dug out of the area near the outflow from South Lake and a programme of planting would commence by spring 2016.

56. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
 - *Me2 Club Newsletter – September 2015*
 - *Me2 Club Newsletter – November 2015*

57. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following item was suggested by Members:

- An update on the proposals for the land at Loddon Mead.

58. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**

There were no suggestions for items to be publicised.

59. **SUPERFAST BERKSHIRE**

Members noted Councillor Mills' report, distributed at the meeting, on the meeting he had attended on 3 November 2015 regarding the Superfast Berkshire project to provide funding to extend superfast broadband to areas where it was not considered to be commercially viable. As the whole of Woodley would shortly be covered by superfast broadband the meeting had not been applicable to Woodley residents.

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm

Chairman