

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the  
Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 12 April 2016 at 8:00 pm**

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**Present:** *Councillors: D. Smith (Chairman); J. Cheng; R. Dolinski; M. Forrer;  
J. MacNaught*

**Also present:** *Councillor T. Barker  
N. Durman, Healthwatch Wokingham Borough  
S. Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity*

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

85. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D. Mills, W. Soane and M. Walker.

86. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

87. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON 19 JANUARY 2016**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

88. **HEALTHWATCH WOKINGHAM BOROUGH**

The Chairman welcomed Nick Durman, Healthwatch Wokingham Borough, to the meeting.

Nick Durman informed Members that Healthwatch Wokingham Borough had been in existence for just over two years and was the independent consumer watchdog for health and social care services in Wokingham Borough. The aim of Healthwatch Wokingham Borough was to support and enable all members of the public to influence local health and social care services by reporting their experiences – good or bad. The information received from local residents, the service users, was passed on to the people responsible for service design and provision so that they would know what was working well and what needed to be changed.

Nick Durman explained the importance of community engagement to inform local residents of the existence of Healthwatch and to explain what its function was. Healthwatch therefore engaged with a wide variety of groups and organisations across the borough and had so far listened to the views of around 2,500 residents.

Members were interested to hear of some of the ways in which Healthwatch Wokingham Borough had helped to improve services, for example by highlighting the need for service providers to be trained in the specific problems encountered by deaf people when accessing health services. Nick Durman also reported that

visits to one school to talk to the students had highlighted the surprising extent of mental health problems in the young people and Healthwatch had subsequently been invited to have a representative on the School Council.

Members commented that Healthwatch Wokingham Borough had had a good deal of success after only a short time and suggested some local clubs and societies that Healthwatch could contact with a view to extending their community engagement. It was agreed that officers would forward the contact details of these groups to Healthwatch.

The Chairman thanked Nick Durman for his informative presentation, which was much appreciated.

89. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

The Chairman welcomed Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity (JAC), to the meeting. Sam Milligan distributed a written report, which had not been available prior to the meeting and reported that the atmosphere around Woodley was still very positive overall.

Members were pleased to hear that volunteers from McDonald's restaurants Reading group had joined with Sam Milligan and volunteers from JAC to clear the overgrown Loddon Mead area.

Sam Milligan informed Members of the new social media twitter and Instagram account for the JAC van and the suggestion box to allow the young people to put forward ideas about what they would like to see or do. Suggestions for possible activities that could be provided at the Loddon Mead area had included a remote controlled car track and a cage where handball could be played and Sam Milligan suggested that the area should be as multi-functional as possible to cater for a wide variety of young people.

The Chairman said that it was pleasing to see that JAC were using social media to engage with young people and he thanked Sam Milligan for his report.

90. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 5/16.

91. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Dolinski presented Report No. CS 6/16 of the Community Youth Partnership meeting held on 23 March 2016 and noted that there was still money in the budget allocated to give help to youth projects.

In reply to a question about when the youth shelter in Woodford Park would be repaired the Town Clerk reported that the volunteer team from McDonalds had not been able to undertake this work as they had helped with the clearing of the Loddon Mead area instead. However, Sam Milligan had arranged for volunteers from Thames Water to help at Rehoboth and it was hoped that they might also be able to help with the repair of the youth shelter.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 6/16.

92. **WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE**  
Members noted the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative meeting held on 27 January 2016. Councillor Dolinski informed Members that the main concern raised at the meeting was the matter of security in and around the town centre and some assaults that had been reported in the car park. The provision of cctv in the town centre had been discussed and would be investigated.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the report of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative meeting held on 27 January 2016.

93. **ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**  
Members noted the update on matters relating to the allotments that had been provided in the agenda

94. **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 Project Co-ordination meetings held on 12 January and 16 February 2016.

- b) **Fairwater Drive**  
Members noted the temporary closure of Fairwater Drive between its junctions with Antrim Road and Nightingale Road to allow this section of road to be resurfaced. This work had been due to be completed by 8 April 2016.

- c) **Western Avenue**  
Members noted the temporary closure of Western Avenue between its junctions with Butts Hill Road and Tiverton Close to enable BT Openreach contractors to undertake essential telecoms repairs. This work was expected to be completed by 13 April 2016.

95. **COLEMANS MOOR LANE**  
As resolved at the previous meeting (Community Services Committee, 19 January 2016, minute number 69) a request had been made to Wokingham Borough Council for a traffic survey to be carried out in Colemans Moor Lane. Members noted the information given in the agenda regarding the response received from Wokingham Borough Council explaining that they had to give priority to areas where accidents had occurred or to major through routes and were currently unable to carry out a traffic survey in Colemans Moor Lane.

Members discussed the possible purchase of a solar powered vehicle activated sign by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ Not to consider the purchase of a vehicle activated sign as there was insufficient evidence that it was needed.

96. **VERGE PARKING IN CAMPBELL ROAD**  
Members noted the information given in the agenda regarding the problem of verge parking in Campbell Road and were pleased that the situation seemed to be improving.

97. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL CONSULTATION: EVENING AND WEEKEND PARKING CHARGES**

Members were pleased to note that Wokingham Borough Council had agreed to trial an increase of 10p in hourly charging rates in Woodley car parks in lieu of the evening and Sunday charging that had been proposed. This would be monitored by the borough council over the next 12 months and would be compared with the income generated in other areas with a view to reviewing the overall charging regime at the end of the 2016/17 financial year.

98. **CONSULTATION BY ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE: INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note that Members' views on the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service Integrated Risk Management Plan consultation were collected after the last meeting and a response was sent with the following comments:
  - Greater emphasis could be given to managing the risk of fires through prevention, particularly to dwelling fires.
  - Specific reference could be made to reducing the risk of school fires.

99. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL LIBRARY OFFER CONSULTATION**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the information received regarding the Wokingham Borough Council Library Offer consultation.
- ◆ To note that Members' views on the Wokingham Borough Council Library Offer were sought prior to the meeting as responses were required by 25 March 2016, and a response was sent with the following comments:
  - The Committee was in favour of the proposed increase to opening hours and the use of technology to facilitate this.
  - The proposal to develop and adopt a flexible approach to the use of the available space to attract revenue streams seems sensible.
  - The move towards shared facilities in the "spoke libraries" will give a better use of buildings to meet community demand.
  - The development of pop-up libraries for smaller communities is welcome.
  - The Committee was very pleased to note that Wokingham Borough Council is proposing to extend the library service and bring more books to local communities.

100. **APPLICATION FOR MINOR VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE: MARTINS, 141 CROCKHAMWELL ROAD, WOODLEY**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the information received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding an application for a minor variation of the premises license for Martins, 141 Crockhamwell Road, Woodley.
- ◆ To note that Members' views on the application were sought prior to the meeting as responses were required by 23 March and a response was sent raising no objections.

101. **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT PLANS**  
Members noted the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the plans for the borough council to take on civil parking enforcement across the borough from May 2017.
102. **REPLACEMENT OF STREET LIGHTING**  
Members noted the press release received from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the replacement of street light columns and lanterns across the borough.
103. **FOSTERS RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME**  
Members were pleased to note the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding the start of construction for the new Fosters residential care home.
104. **WOODLEY AGE CONCERN**  
Members noted the press release from Wokingham Borough Council announcing that the management of the day centre and residential care service had been taken on by the borough council as Woodley Age Concern had ceased trading.
105. **MY JOURNEY WOKINGHAM**  
Members noted the information given in the agenda, and information circulated by email prior to the meeting, regarding the progress of the My Journey Wokingham project.
106. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**  
  
**RESOLVED:**  
◆ To note receipt of the following:  
▪ *Swan Lifeline Newsletter – Spring 2016*
107. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**  
It was requested that the following item be included in a future agenda:  
• Consideration of information to be sent to Healthwatch Wokingham Borough regarding groups and societies that they could engage with.
108. **PUBLICITY/WEBSITE**  
  
**RESOLVED:**  
◆ To place photographs on the website to publicise the clearing of the ground at Loddon Mead by volunteers from JAC and McDonalds.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm

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Chairman