

Woodley Town Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 28 January 2014 at 7:30 pm**

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**Present:** *Councillors: L. Hayward (Chairman); M. Holmes; C. Lawley; D. Mills; D. Smith; W. Soane; M. Walker*

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

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

56. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L. Higgs and R. Neall.

57. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

58. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted in relation to personal information, it was advisable in the public interest that the public and press were temporarily excluded and asked to withdraw for the following agenda item.

59. **CITIZENS AWARDS**

Following consideration of each of the nominations it was

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To award a total of six Citizens Awards.

60. **MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 NOVEMBER 2013**

**Minute 50: Cycle Network**

Councillor Lawley pointed out that he had not been included in the list of attendees at the meeting with the Wokingham Borough Council Senior Transport Planner.

**RESOLVED;**

- ◆ That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record after minute 50 had been amended to include Councillor Lawley in the list of attendees at the meeting with the Wokingham Borough Council Senior Transport Planner.

61. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

- a) Sam Milligan, Just Around The Corner charity, was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report. He reported that the atmosphere within Woodley currently seemed very positive with very little anti-social behaviour taking place and he hoped that JAC would be able to build on this in the future. In reply to a question Sam Milligan reported that the opening of the Bosco Lounge in Woodley Town Centre did not seem to have had a

quantifiable effect on the numbers of youngsters in the town centre at night, but the situation was certainly no worse that it had previously been.

Sam Milligan informed Members that youth workers from JAC were now able to take groups of young people to the new Friday night youth club at Bulmershe Leisure Centre and were starting to build relationships with the new personnel at the youth club. The facilities available at the youth club would enable JAC to give more extensive help to some young people in need. He also reported that in addition to the equine and horticultural activities available at the Rehoboth centre, they were hoping to add bee-keeping.

- b) Members noted that the three-year Service Level Agreement with JAC for the provision of outreach youth work in the town ends in March 2014 and the Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 1/14, which set out proposals for a new Service Level Agreement for a further three years.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for coming to the meeting and Sam Milligan invited Members to visit the Rehoboth centre and take part in an equine assisted therapy session.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the report from the Just around the Corner charity.
- ◆ To note Report No. CS 1/14.
- ◆ To approve the proposed Service Level Agreement with JAC for the provision of outreach youth work in the town for a further three year period ending in March 2017.

62. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 2/14.

63. **REVISED ESTIMATES 2013/14**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 3/14.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 3/14.
- ◆ To recommend that the Strategy and Resources Committee that the Revised Budget Estimates for 2013/14, as presented, be approved.

64. **BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014/15**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. CS 4/14.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 4/14.
- ◆ To recommend that the Budget Estimates for 2014/15, as presented, be approved.  
Voting: For: 5 Abstentions: 2

65. **YOUTH WORKING PARTY**

The Chairman informed Members that she had attended the Youth Working Party meeting on 15 January 2014. Councillor Gilder informed Members that she had visited the Friday night youth club at Bulmershe and was pleased to report that it had been well attended and the young people were very enthusiastic about the club.

In reply to questions about the possible early surrender of the lease at Bulmershe Leisure Centre, the future of the youth club and whether decisions had already been made about the lease when plans were being made to set up the youth club, the Chairman said that she understood these to be recent negotiations and the Town Clerk explained that the Council had not yet made any decision about the lease and Wokingham Borough Council had yet to agree the proposal on the lease. The matter of the youth club would need to be considered as part of any future discussions, should the proposals be agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 5/14.

66. **ALLOTMENTS WORKING PARTY**

Councillor Mills explained that the Allotments Working Party meeting on 16 January 2014 had been inquorate, but that an informal meeting had been held by those attending. In reply to a question he reported that the working party was trying to build a relationship between the Council and the Tenants Committee on a basis that both would be happy with.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. CS 6/14.

67. **WOODLEY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE**

Members noted that the next meeting of the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative would be held on 29 January 2014.

68. **HIGHWAYS**

a) Members noted that a letter had been sent to Wokingham Borough Council expressing concern over the scheduling of road works in Woodley and the disruption caused to local road users as resolved at the Community Services Committee meeting held on 12 November 2013, but that no reply has been received. Following discussion, Members asked for an email to be sent requesting a reply.

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

Members noted the reports from Councillor Walker on the Wokingham Borough Council Road Works/Street Works Major Project Co-ordination meetings held on 19 November 2013, 17 December 2013 and 20 January 2014 and thanked Councillor Walker for her monthly updates, which they found very useful.

69. **COMMUNITY REFUSE VEHICLE**

Members were disappointed to note that, although an additional community refuse vehicle was being provided at the Airfield Centre on one Saturday a month in January, February and March 2014, unfortunately Wokingham Borough Council was unable to supply a vehicle to continue the service after March 2014.

The Chairman explained that there was a contingency sum of £1,000 in the budget for 2014/15 to allow the service to be reinstated if a vehicle became available.

Following discussion, Members agreed not to vary the existing service at Drovers Way and Southlake Crescent and asked that an explanation be requested from Wokingham Borough Council as to how this situation had arisen. Members also requested that a notice be posted on the Town Council website to explain that the additional service would not be provided after March and to reiterate where the remaining sites were.

70. **CYCLE NETWORK**

Members noted the information received from the Wokingham Borough Council Senior Transport Planner following a meeting to review the plans for the proposed cycle network, but were concerned that the proposals would have a negative impact on road safety due to the confusing layout of the cycleways on Wokingham Road and the reduction in the number of crossing points. Councillor Smith stated that he thought the scheme was not a good use of financial resources.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That a letter be sent to the Borough Council expressing the concerns of the Community Services Committee.

71. **FOOTPATH LIGHTING**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note the following:
  - Wokingham Borough Council had installed an extra lighting column by the footbridge from Early Station to Nightingale Road, as a result of some reported incidents where pedestrians had slipped and fallen in the dark.
  - Column 1 on the footpath around Southlake, which had not been working for some time, had been repaired.
  - One lighting column in Woodford Park had been replaced due to age and poor condition. Several other lights in the park had been repaired.

72. **BUS SHELTER IN FAIRWATER DRIVE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note that the bus shelter opposite 98 Fairwater Drive, damaged by a bus in January 2013, had been removed as it had become unsafe and that officers were continuing to liaise with Reading Buses' insurers regarding the replacement of the shelter.

73. **PUBLICATIONS/INFORMATION**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note receipt of the following:
  - Swan Lifeline Newsletter – Summer 2013
  - Wokingham Borough Business Bulletin – November 2013
  - Wokingham Station Link Road Newsletter – November 2013
  - Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre Newsletter – Winter 2013
  - My Journey Wokingham Newsletter – December 2013

- Wokingham CAB winter Bulletin – December 2013
- Windows of Opportunity – Newsletter from Faith in the Community – December 2013
- Community Digital – CCB Newsletter – Winter 2014

74. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Under this item it was requested that an item regarding the air quality in Woodley be included in a future agenda.

75. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To publicise the following:
  - The community refuse vehicle at the Airfield Centre.
  - To notify the press of the new Service Level Agreement with Just Around The Corner charity.

The meeting closed at 9:25 pm

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Chairman