

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre on Tuesday 9 April 2013 at 8 pm

Present: *Councillors P. Challis (Chairman); T. Barker; B. Franklin; L. Hayward; S. Outen; S. Rahmouni; W. Soane; M. Willson*

In attendance: *A. Bunn, Leisure Services Manager; D. Mander, Town Clerk
K. Murray, Service Support Manager; K. Weller, Head Groundsman*

Also present: *P. Baveystock, Waste and Recycling Manager, Wokingham Borough Council
R. Waring and P. Wheat, Transition Reading
M. Rozzier, Woodley Football Forum*

39. **APOLOGIES**
Councillor A. Downes

40. **MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 15 JANUARY 2013**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ that the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee of 15 January 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

41. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor W. Soane	Agenda Item 8 Parks and Buildings	Personal Interest Councillor Soane is a Town Council representative on the Woodley War Memorial Project Group.
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Councillor S. Rahmouni	Agenda Item 8 Parks and Buildings	Personal Interest Councillor Rahmouni is a Town Council representative on the Woodley War Memorial Project Group.
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42. **WASTE AND RECYCLING**

The Chairman welcomed Peter Baveystock to the meeting and explained that he had offered to come and discuss the recent increase in fly tipping of domestic waste in the park and at Coronation Hall.

Mr Baveystock said the new waste scheme in Wokingham had been in place for over a year. An initial increase in fly tipping of mostly commercial waste had now diminished. There had been issues of fly tipping, again mostly commercial, at litter bins and this was something he and his team were working on. Mr Baveystock and the Town Clerk had discussed the problems at Woodford Park, this included regular, and often a high number of incidents of domestic waste in and around litter bins and skips and bags of dog waste brought to the park and placed in or around dog waste bins. The Chairman drew attention to the continued provision of dog bins at the Town Council parks, a service that had been withdrawn by Wokingham Borough Council. The situation had led to increased cost to the Council of skips. To understand more about the nature and incidents of the fly tipping to help address this Mr Baveystock proposed he spend half a day with the Grounds Maintenance

team. This was agreed. In response to a question Mr Baveystock explained that they only accepted plastic bottle type waste because there was a market for this in the UK. Once other plastics could be processed in the UK the waste scheme was likely to accept different plastics. Mr Baveystock also informed Members that if they had any general questions about the waste service arrangements these could be sent to him via the Town Clerk.

43. **TRANSITION READING**

The Chairman welcomed Rich Waring and Peter Wheat of Transition Town Reading who had been invited to the meeting to talk about a possible project in Woodley.

Rich Waring explained that Transition Town Reading was part of a global movement towards a more sustainable society. The organisation receives funding from the Forestry Commission's Big Tree Plant and Reading Voluntary Action's Get Involved scheme. A recent project had been to plant nut trees at Palmer Park and an orchard at Prospect Park was planned. Their orchard projects provide free local food, help community building through planting and harvesting and give training in new skills. The trees also provide a habit for wildlife. The group was looking for prospective sites for 2015 and, having discussed this with Town Council officers, understood that both Bulmershe Park and Woodford Park may be suitable. Possible sites were discussed and could be assessed for suitability if Members wished to proceed with a project. In response to questions the representatives from Transition Town Reading, who are Woodley residents, confirmed that their funding would cover projects in Woodley, that they would work with the Council on preferences for apple types and that the project would include maintenance by local people as part of the community building aspect of the project.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ that discussion between the Head Groundsman and Service Support Manager and representatives of Transition Town Reading continue with the aim of identifying possible sites to plant orchards.

44. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 7/13.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 7/13.

45. **LEISURE CENTRES**

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 8/13.

May Bank Holiday

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to approve the following hours at the leisure centres:

	Bulmershe Leisure Centre	Woodford Park Leisure Centre
6 May	Closed	9.00 am – 5.00 pm
27 May	Closed	9.00 am – 5.00 pm

Junior Park Run

The Leisure Services Manager reported that the first Junior Park Run had taken place on 7 April with 44 runners taking part. The Park Run website had pictures of the event.

Recycle Vouchers

Members considered the proposals for the coming year's Recyclebank promotions and noted that usage per household could be limited at a future date.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to approve the following Recyclebank offers:
 - Bulmershe Leisure Centre - £1 off public swimming session vouchers during weekday evenings;
 - Woodford Park Leisure Centre - £1 off group exercise classes.
- ◆ that take up be monitored and reported to the next meeting of the committee.

Swim for £1

The Leisure Services Manager presented the review of the Swim for £1 promotion along with the graphs demonstrating the increase in take up and the significant public swimming income from this promotion. It was noted that under Swim for £1 families regularly used the pool at weekends and swimming numbers at Bulmershe Leisure Centre were increasing and going against the downward trend for swimming nationally.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to continue the Swim for £1 promotion at weekends to 8 April 2014.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. 8/13.

46. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Service Support Manager presented Report No. LS 9/13.

Members noted the progress on improvements at Woodford Park Leisure Centre where the porta cabin had now been removed and that some drainage works in Woodford Park had been completed with more planned. The policy to keep Councillors informed of works being undertaken by the Town Council in their wards was welcomed. Members were also pleased to note the installation of the outdoor table tennis table.

The Chairman updated Members on the progress to create a Civic Space to incorporate a public war memorial. Outline sketches by the designer, commissioned by the Council, had been considered at a meeting with the Woodley War Memorial Project members and all had agreed that the memorial be placed further into the Memorial Ground, rather than nearer to Headley Road, so that more people could gather safely during commemoration ceremonies. Topographical surveys and further design work would be arranged.

The Chairman reminded Members that Councillor Outen would be running in the half marathon and was seeking sponsorship to raise funds for the Woodley War Memorial Project.

The Service Support Manager updated members on the tree works at Malone Park and reported that he was looking at how to address problems of vehicles driving on the grass area.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 9/13.

47. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE – CRICKET NETS AND BASKETBALL**

The Chairman explained the background to the report; Wokingham Borough Council had identified Section 106 funding to cover the installation of cricket nets and basketball goals and markings at Woodford Park Leisure Centre. The last meeting of the Strategy and Resources Committee had approved these items being added to the Council's Section 106 project list subject, to the Leisure Services Committee's agreement. Report No. LS 10/13 set out the proposed arrangements for the use: by

Woodley Cricket Club, on Friday evenings between 9 – 10.30 pm and by basketball clubs at the weekends. Members recognised that this would not be popular with the casual badminton players who play at this time but felt this was a more effective use of the sports hall and introduced other sports. In response to a question the Leisure Services Manager confirmed that the sports team at the centre would be focusing on filling empty day time slots in the hall this year.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to approve the proposals to install cricket nets and basketball markings and nets at the sports hall at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.
- ◆ to approve the use by Woodley Cricket Club of the sports hall on Fridays from 9 – 10.30 pm and the proposals for weekend use of the sports hall by basketball clubs.

48. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS WORKING PARTY**

Councillor Challis presented Report No. LS 11/13. He reported that a planning application for a new large sign on the Sports Hall was about to be submitted and that a designer would be working up some sketches to show how the area outside the centre could be improved. The working party was also hoping to replace the existing entrance at the centre with sliding doors which would be a visual improvement and make the centre more accessible. The Service Support Manager would seek designs for this. The proposed project items list with priorities was noted.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 11/13.

49. **PUBLICITY AND WEB SITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to publicise the following:
 - Success of Swim School
 - Recyclebank vouchers
 - Swim for £1
 - Junior Park Run
 - Councillor Outen running in the half marathon in support of the Woodley War Memorial Project and
 - to introduce links from the Council's website to Woodley Football Club websites.

50. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE – DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS**

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 12/13 Part A and the report from Sport Solutions, commissioned by the Council to carry out a preliminary assessment of a project to provide a 3rd Generation Artificial Grass Pitch (3G AGP), improve facilities for tennis and netball and provide additional car parking. The report from Sports Solutions considered that the project was viable in terms of local need and able to justify the loss of a green pitch to Sport England on this basis. Four options for the size of the pitch had been included in the report with a recommendation that the 9 v 9 size be the option for this project. Mark Rozzier, Chairman of Woodley Town Football Club, had written to the Chairman of the committee supporting the proposed pitch size and spoke to the meeting on this matter. The letter was tabled at the meeting. Members also noted the funding opportunities towards the project identified in the report from Sports Solutions.

RECOMMENDED:

- ◆ that the Council seek external funding and planning approval for the 9 v 9 3G AGP project and the associated projects to improve the standard of tennis and outdoor netball and increase car parking at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ to note Report No. LS 12/13 Part A.

51.

RESOLVED:

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

52.

WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE – REDEVELOPMENT OPTIONS PART B

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS12/13 Part B and Members considered the quotes for the second stage of the work on the project to seek planning approval and funding.

After discussion on the comparison of the quotes and following confirmation from the Town Clerk that a full procurement and tendering process would be undertaken for a future construction and installation of the project, it was

RECOMMENDED:

- ◆ that the Strategy and Resources Committee allocate funding up to £11,500 to cover consultants and other anticipated costs for the second stage of the project to apply for planning permission and funding for the 3G AGP projects and associated projects to improve tennis and netball and increase car parking.
- ◆ that the Strategy and Resources Committee approve the appointment of Sports Solutions to carry out the second stage of the projects.

Meeting closed at 10.05 pm

Chairman