

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 8 November 2016 at 8:00 pm**

Present: *Councillors W. Soane (Chairman); T. Barker; K. Gilder; S. Rahmouni;
D. Stares*

Officers present: *D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk;
E. Whitesmith, Leisure Services Manager; L. Matthews, Committee Officer*

Also present: *David Provins, Friends of Woodford Park*

29. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B. Franklin and M. Green.

30. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

31. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2016**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 6 September 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

32. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER**

Sam Milligan had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

33. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 20/16 and pointed out that there had been no expenditure on the public toilet as it had not yet been installed. In reply to a question the Town Clerk informed Members that she did not yet know when installation would take place, but that planning permission would be required before this could be arranged.

Following a question about repairs to street lights the Deputy Town Clerk reported that some of the lights that had not been working had been repaired, but that new lantern units were awaited for the others, as the lanterns had been vandalised. He informed Members that all the lighting columns for which the Town Council had responsibility were due to be replaced and it was hoped that this work would start before Christmas. The new lighting columns would have sensors to automatically report faults.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 20/16.

34. **WOODFORD PARK LEISURE CENTRE, SPORTS DEVELOPMENT AND ACTIVITIES**

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 21/16 and gave an update on the plans for the 2017 Woodley 10km run, informing Members that Barnes Fitness had already made contact with the police to discuss arrangements and were hoping to also hold a 3km run for children on the same day. The date of the run would be Sunday 7 May 2017. In reply to a question the Leisure Services Manager confirmed that there would be the same financial arrangement for donations to the Mayor's charity as was made in 2016 and Barnes Fitness had already enquired about the charity.

Members were very pleased to note the progress of work on the new fitness gym at Woodford Park Leisure Centre and to note that everything was on schedule for a soft opening in December, with an official opening planned for January. The Leisure Services Manager tabled 3D pictures showing the gym interior and also passed around examples of the advertising flyer and the membership card. He answered Members' questions about the number of enquiries received and how many gym members would be needed for the gym to make a profit, and gave details about the proposed membership contract and the incentives for signing up early. He also informed Members that within the next month he hoped to take on an apprentice to train and qualify in fitness. The Chairman thanked the Leisure Services Manager for all his efforts and the hard work that had gone into planning and making arrangements for the new fitness gym.

The Leisure Services Manager reported on the new regular bookings taken on at Woodford Park Leisure Centre and informed Members that agreement had been reached with the Community Coaching Scheme (CCS) allowing them eight hours of 3G pitch use and over twelve hours of classroom time at Woodford Park Leisure Centre each week of the football scholarship programme.

Members also noted the reports on the Wokingham Schools Football Tournaments in October, the October half-term activities, which included a Halloween themed session named Spooky Sports Camp, and the proposed Christmas activity camps, including the Christmas "drop 'n' shop" sessions.

Members were asked to approve the proposed opening and closing arrangements for Woodford Park Leisure Centre over the Christmas and New Year period.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 21/16.
- ◆ To approve the proposed opening arrangements at Woodford Park Leisure Centre over the Christmas and New Year period, as follows:

Saturday 24 December	closed
Christmas Day	closed
Bank Holiday Monday 26 December	closed
Bank Holiday Tuesday 27 December	closed
Wednesday 28 December	open 10am – 5pm
Thursday 29 December	open 10am – 5pm
Friday 30 December	open 10am – 5pm
Saturday 31 December	closed
New Year's Day	closed
Bank Holiday Monday 2 January	closed
Tuesday 3 January	open normal hours

35. **3G PITCH STEERING GROUP**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 22/16 of the 3G Pitch Steering Group meeting held on 4 October 2016.

Members were pleased to note that the partner clubs all reported that they had received no negative comments about the 3G pitch and all felt that the 3G pitch was an excellent facility and wanted to help to make it successful.

Following an expression of concern from Members about incidents of vandalism to the pitch, the Deputy Town Clerk explained that these had occurred during the first few weeks that the pitch was open and had been carried out by people gaining access by climbing

over the fence. This problem had been resolved by painting the fence with anti-climb paint and putting up warning signs.

In response to a question about whether there had been any complaints from local residents about noise or light pollution from the 3G pitch the Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that correspondence had been received from a resident in Farriers Close regarding noise and light pollution and this was being investigated.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 22/16.

36. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 23/16 and advised Members that a new trainee would be joining the Maintenance Team the following week.

Members were informed that there had been vandalism to the roof of the youth shelter in Woodford Park and that this had been reported to the police.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that ecology, topographic and tree surveys had been carried out at Woodford Park lake and the landscape architect was processing this information to create a 3D model that could be used to input design proposals. The next stages in the lake project would be the development of designs with the landscape architect, consultation with the public, the calculation of costings and the seeking of funding.

Members were pleased to note that the Friends of Woodford Park had received 2,500 crocus bulbs through an initiative run by the Rotary Club and that these had been planted near the entrance to the park from Haddon Drive. The group had also pruned shrubs and removed brambles and scrub from the boundary of the Rotary Garden.

Members were reminded that a gathering of remembrance would take place at the war memorial on 11 November.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 23/16.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman asked David Provins from the Friends of Woodford Park whether he wished to speak. Mr Provins informed Members that the Queen's Birthday Garden in Woodford Park had received an award in the "Thriving" category from Britain in Bloom. Mr Provins also reported that he had attended a seminar run by Britain in Bloom and had gathered many ideas for next year's competition.

The Chairman thanked the Friends of Woodford Park for their hard work in the park and said that their efforts had been very worthwhile.

37. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Stares presented Report No. LS 24/16 of the Community Youth Partnership meeting held on 5 October 2016.

The Community Youth Partnership had discussed how to progress the possible development of the Loddon Mead area to provide activities for young people and had recognised the need to get formal agreement from Wokingham Borough Council for the use of the site. It had been suggested that this could take the form of a lease. The Town Clerk stressed the need for permission to be granted for the use of the site for the intended activities before the Committee allocated funding for the project.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:

- ◆ That the Town Council seek to lease the area under the A3290 from Wokingham Borough Council in order to work with other organisations to provide activities for young people at the site.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That permission be sought from Wokingham Borough Council to access the site as a base for the JAC van at least once a week while a possible lease is discussed.
- ◆ That the Youth Projects fund of £3,000 be allocated towards the costs of the Loddon Mead area project, subject to permissions being given to use the site as proposed.

38. **ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

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

39. **BUS SHELTERS**

- a) Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council intended to install a bus shelter in Lytham Road and considered adding this to the Town Council's maintenance schedule.
- b) Members noted that Wokingham Borough Council was to replace the damaged bus shelter in Headley Road and considered adding this to the Town Council's maintenance schedule.
- c) Members considered recommending to the Strategy and Resources Committee that Capital Programme funds be allocated to replace the bus shelter in Beechwood Avenue, at a cost of £5,000, as the existing shelter was old and in poor condition.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To add the intended new bus shelter in Lytham Road to the Town Council's maintenance schedule.
- ◆ To add the replacement bus shelter in Headley Road to the Town Council's maintenance schedule.
- ◆ To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that £5,000 from the Capital Programme funds be allocated to replace the bus shelter in Beechwood Avenue.

The following item was received from Wokingham Borough Council after the agenda had been published.

40. **CONSULTATION BY WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL: 21ST CENTURY LEISURE STRATEGY**

Members noted the press release from Wokingham Borough Council regarding its draft Leisure Strategy consultation and the drop-in information events being held across the borough.

As Members had not been able to view the consultation document prior to the meeting and responses were required before the next Committee meeting, it was

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That all Members review the consultation document and send their comments to the Committee Officer by Friday 9 December 2016.
- ◆ That the Committee Officer would collate the comments and circulate them to the Committee for agreement.
- ◆ That the agreed response be sent to Wokingham Borough Council before the deadline of 23 December 2016.

41. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

It was requested that the following items be included as future agenda items:

- A report on the opening of the fitness gym at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.
- An update on the lake project in Woodford Park.
- An update on the planning application for the public toilet.
- An update on the application for Green Flag status for Woodford Park.

42. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To publicise the launch of the new fitness gym at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:20 pm
