

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre
on Tuesday 5 April 2016 at 8.00 pm**

Present: *Councillors T. Barker (Chairman); B. Franklin; K. Gilder; M. Green; R. Lay;
D. Stares*

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

Also present: *Councillor R. Dolinski
3 members of the public*

44. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received From Councillors S. Rahmouni and W. Soane.

45. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

46. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 JANUARY 2016**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 5 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

47. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 7/16 and reported that in the majority of cost headings expenditure was lower than the revised budget figure and income was higher than anticipated. She noted that the staff at Woodford Park Leisure Centre had worked very hard to increase the income from leisure centre activities.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 7/16.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman asked the members of public present if they wanted to ask any questions or make any comments. As no one wished to speak the Chairman continued to the next item on the agenda.

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

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 8/16.

Members were pleased to note that the first ever Wokingham Schools Badminton Tournament, held at Woodford Park Leisure Centre in January, had been a great success and enjoyed by all, and that all the schools had expressed an interest in playing badminton on a more regular basis. The Leisure Services Manager informed Members that students from The Bulmershe School had volunteered to umpire the matches and had been very helpful. Members asked for a letter to be written to the headteacher of The Bulmershe School thanking the students for their help with several sporting events over the past year.

The Leisure Services Manager reported on the progress of arrangements for the Woodley 10km Road Race, including details of the necessary road closures and the design of the medal that would be given to each race finisher, which incorporated a version of the Woodley Town Council logo. Members noted that 231 entries had been received, up to 23 March.

The Leisure Services Manager informed Members that the winners of the Sid Hopkins Football Tournament, held in February, had been Willow Bank School for the boys' tournament and Southlake School for the girls' tournament. He also reported on the success of the Wokingham Schools Level 2 Orienteering Competition held in Woodford Park in March, which was won by Nine Mile Ride School from Finchampstead.

Members were updated on the plans to be involved with running a Football Scholarship Programme and were informed that the Council's potential partnership with VLUK had not gone ahead, following further investigation into the costs and work associated with the programme. The Leisure Services Manager reported that alternative ways of being involved with the programme had been sought and he had been approached by an independent organisation, Community Coaching Scheme, who were planning to run a similar scheme and hoping to hire both the 3G pitch and the Oakwood Centre to do so. Open evenings for the programme were being held at the Oakwood Centre and a minimum of 18 students were required to enrol in order for the programme to be viable.

In addition, Members were pleased to receive an update on bookings secured for the 3G pitch, a report on improvements to the online marketing of Woodford Park Leisure Centre and information about Woodley Sports Week, which would take place from 23 – 27 May. The Leisure Services Manager agreed to circulate the programme of events for Sports Week, which Members were welcome to attend.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 8/16.
- ◆ To write to the Headteacher of The Bulmershe School thanking students for their help with the Wokingham Schools Badminton Tournament and other events.

49. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 9/16.

Members were informed that tenants were expected to move into the newly refurbished flat at Woodford Park Leisure Centre within the next week and that quotes would be received shortly for potential uses of the ground floor space vacated by the Inn on the Park.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported on the progress of construction of the 3G pitch and informed Members that construction was currently ahead of schedule and therefore the work to the car park would be moved forward. Regular hirers of the leisure centre, and other users, would be notified of the dates when the car park would be out of action and residents in Haddon Drive would receive a letter advising them of the likely disruption and the potential knock-on effect of additional vehicles parking in Haddon Drive. The Chairman thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for circulating regular updates on the progress of the 3G pitch and asked for this to continue, as the updates allowed Members to answer residents' queries about the project.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members that the initial meeting of the Friends of Woodford Park had taken place at the Oakwood Centre in March and officers had subsequently met with the organiser of the group, Mr Provins, to discuss the potential for a Queen's Birthday flowerbed on the Memorial ground. Mr Provins was seeking sponsorship

for the project and had obtained help with the design of the flowerbed from a local garden design business, and it was hoped that the flowerbed could be completed before Woodley Carnival took place in June. Members noted that one resident who had attended the meeting had expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer community dog warden in Woodford Park and felt that this should be encouraged as the number of complaints about dog fouling in Woodford Park had increased recently. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that there were examples of volunteer dog warden schemes in other areas and Officers were looking at the potential for volunteers to become involved in such a scheme in Woodford Park.

Members were informed of an incidence of builder's waste being dumped along the footpath from Pitts Lane to Bulmershe Park. Wokingham Borough Council had cleared the waste and replaced a missing section of railing that had allowed vehicular access to the footpath. Damage to the ground in Bulmershe Park, where the vehicle had apparently become stuck, was repaired by the Town Council's Grounds Team.

In addition Members were informed of repairs and improvements to the play areas in Woodford Park, that a quote was awaited for the initial design work for the regeneration of the lake and its surroundings and that an energy assessment had been carried out by an independent assessor at Coronation Hall and Chapel Hall in order to produce Display Energy Certificates, which were required by law.

Following the presentation of the report the Chairman asked Mr Provins, who was present at the meeting, whether he had anything more to say about the Friends of Woodford Park and their plans. Mr Provins replied that he was currently waiting to find out how much sponsorship money could be raised before the size of the flowerbed could be determined. In reply to a question about the location of the flowerbed the Town Clerk said that Mr Provins had met with the Grounds Manager and a suitable location had been identified in the vicinity of the war memorial. Some concern was expressed that this might be a possible location for a flag pole, if one was erected in the future, and the Deputy Town Clerk replied that the provision of a flagpole was only a possible future project and the location had not been agreed. The Chairman asked that the Committee be kept informed of the dates of future meetings of the Friends of Woodford Park.

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 9/16.

50. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no suggestions for future agenda items.

51. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

RESOLVED:

- ◆ To publicise the volunteer community dog warden initiative when it is finalised.

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm
