

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre  
on Tuesday 10 April 2018 at 8:00 pm**

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**Present:** *Councillors W. Soane (Chairman); B. Franklin; K. Gilder; S. Rahmouni;  
D. Stares; M. Walker*

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

**Also present:** *Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity  
David Provins and Bob King, Friends of Woodford Park  
1 member of the public*

57. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T. Barker and M. Green.

58. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

59. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2018**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 16 January 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

60. **JUST AROUND THE CORNER (JAC)**

Sam Milligan, Just Around the Corner charity (JAC), was welcomed to the meeting and presented the JAC report.

Sam Milligan informed Members that the atmosphere in Woodley was reasonably good again; young people were congregating in fairly small groups and were engaging with JAC. Members noted the examples of support that JAC had been able to give to certain individuals, as described in the report.

Sam Milligan reported that there was currently one young person living in JAC's Journey to Independence House and there was space for another young person to move in in due course.

In reply to a question about how JAC works in partnership with Woodley schools, Sam Milligan informed Members that JAC receives referrals from primary and secondary schools in Woodley and pupils attend the JAC equine centre at Rehoboth to help them work through issues.

The Chairman thanked Sam Milligan for coming to the meeting.

61. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Gilder presented Report No. LS 8/18 of the Community Youth Partnership meeting held on 28 March 2018.

Councillor Gilder reported that the one-day conference on anxiety in young people, which had been held at the Oakwood Centre, had been very well received by parents and

professionals and the feedback had been very positive. The main comments that had been raised at the event had been the need for organisations offering help to link up and communicate with each other and for information to be made available at a very basic level, for example at GP surgeries, before problems became too severe.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 8/18.

62. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 9/18 and noted that expenditure was lower than the revised budget figure and income was generally higher. In particular, Woodford Park Leisure Centre was on track to greatly exceed its target income, and income from the 3G pitch would be higher than the revised estimate, partly because grass football had been moved to the 3G pitch during wet weather. Members thanked the Leisure Services Manager for his hard work in promoting the gym and the 3G pitch.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 9/18.

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

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 10/18. He informed Members that the organisers of the My Journey initiative, run by Wokingham Borough Council, had been searching for a location in Woodley to install a bike hub, where bikes could be stored to be used for local activities, and had identified a suitable location close to the tennis court in Woodford Park. Members considered a request that this area of land be used for a bike hub.

Members noted the arrangements for Woodley Sports Week, which would take place between Monday 21 May and Thursday 24 May 2018, with the swimming gala being held at Bluecoat School, due to the closure of Bulmershe Leisure Centre. Members were pleased to note that the Wokingham Schools' orienteering competition would again be held in Woodford Park in May 2018.

The Leisure Services Manager reported that the recent wet weather and late snow meant that the cricket pitch would not be ready for the start of Woodley Cricket Club's provisional fixture list and the number of matches would therefore be reduced from 30 to 29. Members also noted that Woodford Park Leisure Centre would be hosting a judo showcase on 21 April.

There was a brief discussion of matters relating to the Gym on the Park, but due to the sensitive nature of the discussion, in relation to commercial matters, the Chairman proposed that the discussion be continued in a confidential session at the end of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 10/18.
- ◆ To recommend that the Strategy and Resources Committee recommends to Full Council that permission be given for My Journey to install a bike hub in the identified location close to the tennis court in Woodford Park.
- ◆ To continue the discussion of matters relating to the Gym on the Park in a confidential session at the end of the meeting.

64. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 11/18.

Members were pleased to note that works to install the new steel joist to the roof of Woodford Park Leisure Centre had been completed and the new ceiling to the reception area would be installed in the next few weeks. They also noted that the new paddling pool liner would be installed at the end of April.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that, as suggested by the Committee at the meeting on 16 January, minute number 55, Wokingham Borough Council had been contacted to enquire whether the Town Council might accommodate activities that would be displaced during construction of the new Bulmershe Leisure Centre, but following an initial acknowledgement of the enquiry no further response had been forthcoming.

Members were informed that the 20-year ground lease for the new Woodley Pre-School building had been signed and the building had been installed. Ground works and connection to utilities were underway and the school was expected to start operating from the new building in the next few weeks.

The Deputy Town Clerk informed Members of work that had been carried out in Woodford Park, including the preparation of wild flower beds and tidying of the Garden of Remembrance, which had been undertaken with help from the Friends of Woodford Park. Following a request from the Friends of Woodford Park, the Rotary Club of Loddon Vale had agreed to donate up to £1,000 towards materials for the resurfacing of the pathways in the Rotary Garden and up to £500 for new shrubs. Members were pleased to note that the tree works to the lake had been completed and that the stage two application to the Landfill Communities Trust for £50,000 for the lake project had been submitted, with a decision expected in May. The Deputy Town Clerk also reported that he and a representative from the Friends of Woodford Park had met with representatives from the Britain in Bloom initiative to look at the possibility of Woodley entering the "town" category in future years, which would incorporate the community and town centre entries.

Members received an update on matters relating to the Reading Road allotments and noted that there had been problems with a small number of tenants driving too fast on the site. Signage had been erected and the tenants' committee was contacting tenants to raise awareness of the issue. The Council would write to tenants who were observed diving carelessly on the site and advise that they could lose their allotment plot if they continued to do so. Members were informed that several thefts had occurred at the allotments site in recent months, including the theft of one of the cctv cameras purchased by the tenants' committee.

Members also noted that installation of the new, inclusive play area in the town centre was nearing completion and noted the report of the Friends of Woodford Park meeting held on 6 March 2018 and the minutes of the Allotment Tenants' Committee AGM, which took place on 26 March 2018.

Following concerns raised by Members, the Deputy Town Clerk agreed to investigate the presence of a large amount of stones at the park in Rivermead Road, and to replace signs that had gone missing from around the Woodford Park lake which explained the need for the tree work that had taken place. In reply to a question, the Deputy Town Clerk also updated Members on the plans to provide a new base for the Maintenance Team.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 11/18.

65. **TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC TOILET UPDATE**

Members noted that the order for the semi-automatic public toilet had been placed and it was hoped that an installation date would be identified soon.

66. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A report on the upcoming meeting of the Woodford Park Leisure Centre Regeneration Task and Finish Group was requested.

67. **PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To publicise the following:
  - The opening of the new, inclusive play area in the town centre.
  - The Town Council's contribution to the new building for Woodley Pre-School.

68. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:**

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

69. **THE GYM ON THE PARK**

Members continued their discussion of matters relating to the Gym on the Park.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm

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