

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held at the Oakwood Centre  
on Tuesday 6 June 2017 at 8:00 pm**

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

**Officers present:** *D. Mander, Town Clerk; K. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk;  
E. Whitesmith, Leisure Services Manager  
T. Gough, Grounds Maintenance Manager*

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T. Barker.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2017**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting of 11 April 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

Members noted the written report from the charity. In response to a question it was also noted that JAC were intending to have a presence at Loddon Mead open space/area under the A3290 site once a week from late June and through the summer in order to progress the proposed parkour project.

5. **BUDGETARY CONTROL**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 14/17.

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

The Leisure Services Manager presented Report No. LS 15/17.

Members were pleased to note that this year's Schools' Sports Week had proved a very positive event with 2,400 children taking part from all 9 local primary schools. The Dance Festival and the Swimming Gala, with an exciting final, had been the highlights of the week. Forty-five reading University students had volunteered to help out on one of the days. The Leisure Services Manager reported that he was investigating alternative venues for the gala while Bulmershe Leisure Centre was being rebuilt. The Town Clerk reminded the meeting that part of the agreement, at the time that the centre had transferred from the Council to 1Life, included a commitment from Wokingham Borough Council that both the Borough Council and its leisure contractor will work and liaise with the Town Council to promote sports and health activities in the town.

The 10K and children's 2.5K runs had both gone well and had raised £800 for Launchpad, the Mayor's charity. It was noted that the runs may require rolling road closures next year, which would increase the events' costs.

Members noted the £1,000 funding that had been awarded to fund a pilot under 21s football league at the 3G pitch over the summer. Feedback had been good and there was a

further plan to set up a workshop for participants to receive training on running a football team.

Following an annual maintenance check it had been advised that the high usage of the 3G pitch meant that the pitch needed brushing 3 times a week, rather twice a week, which was the current regime. The Leisure Services Manager was looking at ways of meeting this requirement without incurring additional staff costs.

Members were also pleased to note the successful funding bids to Sportivate, estimated at £2,000.

The Leisure Services Manager also presented a proposal for a project to increase the volume of grass football at the centre, following a decline locally (and nationally) for which matched funding of up to £10,000 from the Premier League and FA Facilities Fund Small Grant Scheme could be available. The project would include the refurbishment of the changing rooms and equipment and the centre developing a strong link with a local home team for the 2018/19 football season. The Leisure Services Manager was in the process of investigating whether any local clubs would be interested in basing their teams at Woodford Park; their submissions would need to be evaluated and a selection made.

After discussing this proposal Members agreed to support a funding bid to increase weekend grass football and:

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 15/17.
- ◆ To recommend to the Strategy and Resources Committee that matched funding of up to £10,000 be allocated for the project to increase football at Woodford Park, subject to receiving grant funding for this purpose.
- ◆ To appoint Councillors Soane, Lay and Stares to a panel to evaluate submissions from local football teams and appoint a home team.

7. **PARKS AND BUILDINGS**

The Deputy Town Clerk Presented Report No. LS 16/17.

The paddling pool was opened for the late May Bank Holiday, following considerable work by the Grounds and Maintenance Teams to install a new entrance and pathway and make the area neat and tidy.

Members noted that the retention being held in respect of the 3G pitch project was due for payment. The annual support meeting with the FA and Football Foundation had reviewed the usage plan and the football development plan and found the project to be on track financially and usage wise.

The Deputy Town Clerk updated Members on Woodley Pre-School plans to construct their own premises near to the Haddon Drive entrance to Woodford Park. Their deadline had been extended by 10 months and lease terms would be considered by the Strategy and Resources Committee at its next meeting. In response to questions about the relocation of the Maintenance Team the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that there had been a long-term project to improve conditions for both the Grounds and Maintenance teams by combining the teams at the existing grounds depot. The project would require the Council to investigate drainage at the proposed site.

The meeting noted the responses to the lake and park consultation days and that this would be a useful annual exercise.

Members recognised the work carried out by the Friends of Woodford Park and Sage employees to create more planted beds near to the Oakwood Centre. Also noted was the group's intention to carry out another survey in August of dog mess left in the park. There was some discussion about dogs being kept on leads, however, this was a complicated procedure and it was felt there was already better awareness through the Friends group and social media.

The annual allotment site clean-up had taken place that week, with the Council providing skips for rubbish at the site to be taken away. Arrangements had also been made for planings to be distributed for the roads to be repaired by tenants during the August Bank Holiday weekend. In response to a question Councillor Stares explained that there was a rolling waiting list and that generally people on the waiting list did not have to wait a long time for a plot.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 16/17.

8. **COMMUNITY YOUTH PARTNERSHIP**

The Town Clerk drew Members' attention to the decision of the partnership to aim to arrange and host a one-day conference in Woodley to raise awareness of emotional health and wellbeing. The partnership would be seeking approval from the Strategy and Resources Committee for free use of the Oakwood Centre, if this was preferred venue for the event. Other items on the agenda were not discussed and would be picked up at the next partnership meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 17/17

9. **3G PITCH STEERING GROUP**

The Deputy Town Clerk presented Report No. LS 18/17.

This had been a useful meeting. The clubs were all happy with the pitch and how the time slot arrangements worked. The Football Development Plan had been revised and would be a more useful document going forward. It included a particular issue for clubs – that of the negative behaviour of players and parents during matches – and the Council agreed it would host an event to raise awareness to support football officials.

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To note Report No. LS 18/17

10. **TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC TOILET UPDATE**

Members noted that the Strategy and Resources Committee would be considering the proposed terms of a lease relating to the site and other terms at a meeting on 13 June. Once the lease terms were agreed an order for the toilet unit would be placed. This would have a 10 - 12 week lead in time.

11. **2018 COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WORLD WAR 1**

Members noted that Colin Lott, formerly of the Woodley War Memorial Committee would be making a presentation at the Council meeting on 27 June regarding a possible event in 2018 to commemorate the end of World War 1. It was also noted that 11 November would fall on a Sunday and how this might affect the arrangements, given that the service would be held at St John's Church.

12. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**  
WW1 Commemoration, depending on arrangements

13. **PUBLICITY & WEBSITE**

**RESOLVED:**

- ◆ To publicise the following:
  - School Sports Week
  - Green Flag application for Woodford Park

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

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