



## Winnersh Parish Council

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Minutes of the **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held in the Allnatt Pavilion on **TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2020**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs S Hanna (Chairman); F Breedlove; R Hamblin; J Southgate and L Wooldridge.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Philip Stoneman (Clerk) and two members of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES:** Cllrs A Greenwood and F.Obileye.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

**3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

3.1 (Item 4.8) The Clerk advised that the agreement for the new allotment lease and surrender of the existing allotment lease had been signed.

3.2 (Item 3.4) The Clerk was asked to make arrangements for the solar panels to be cleaned and to investigate the cost of replacing/repairing the three panels that were not working.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**4 WINNERSH ALLOTMENTS UPDATE:**

4.1 The Clerk gave an update, including that a meeting had taken place with Wokingham Town Council about allotment associations.

4.2 The Clerk explained that there were several options available to involve allotment holders in the management and running of the allotment garden, including a properly constituted association that could have responsibility for issuing agreements, collection and retention of rents, carrying out maintenance etc. The committee did not favour this option of relinquishing all responsibility but would consider some form of group made up of allotment holders with limited responsibilities.

4.3 An alternative was to have allotment stewards that would act as the eyes and ears on behalf of the Parish Council, but they would not have any powers to act on its behalf. The Clerk would explore the various options in more detail and seek views from allotment holders on the level of involvement they may prefer. **ACTION: CLERK**

4.4 The Clerk advised that he had liaised with WBC about the locking and unlocking of the yellow gate at the Wheatfield School end of the access track and was informed this was a requirement to ensure security for land used by the local farmer.

**5 PUBLIC SESSION:** There were two members of the public in attendance.

5.1 A question was raised by a member of the public about ownership of Winnersh Meadows. Attempts had been made to establish ownership and it was assumed, subject to confirmation, that WBC was the owner.

5.2 The questioner explained the interest she had in setting up a group to restore the meadows/orchard and was keen for more information about how that could be achieved.

5.3 The committee was asked about possible grant funding and it was explained that whilst a commitment could not be given at this stage it may be possible if the scheme was to progress.

5.4 It was suggested that the questioner contact Andy Glencross at WBC to establish the process involved in a group of local residents taking on the upkeep and management of the meadow and to see if the team at Dinton Pastures could assist in cutting back some of the area.

**6 PROJECTS:**

6.1 The Clerk advised that a feasibility report had been received from Allcott Associates setting out options for replacing the exterior cladding to the Winnersh Community Centre and for the building of an extension to provide additional storage space.

6.2 A discussion took place about the two preferred options of a composite insulated wall panel system and a masonry infill option. The committee were keen to explore the benefits in terms of how 'green' the alternatives were for construction and the on-going heating/maintenance implications for carbon reduction.

6.3 The Clerk was instructed, subject to budget approval at Full Council on the 11 February, to commission an architect and to investigate the process for planning permission and building control. **ACTION: CLERK**

6.4 Cllr Breedlove advised that Cllr Harper had offered to assist the Clerk with progressing the project, and this was gratefully accepted and agreed.

6.5 The Clerk advised that he was shortly to start work on seeking quotations for replacing the outdoor gym and safety surfacing on Bearwood Recreation Ground. Cllr Breedlove suggested liaising with Bracknell Town Council, as they had several facilities, and Cllr Wooldridge suggested looking at the facility in Tilehurst as part of the process for identifying suitable companies.

- 6.6 A discussion took place about other potential projects including the refurbishment/decoration of the Community Centre and Allnatt Pavilion. Given the limited funds available it was agreed to explore options for funding through local businesses and support through corporate social responsibility (CSR). Unless alternative sources of funding could be identified it was agreed to defer re-decoration until the 2021/22 financial year.
- 6.7 The Chairman updated the committee on the Youth Project and requested that a budget of £5,500 be sought from Full Council to help support the cost of a qualified youth worker. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 6.8 A discussion took place about the Christmas Lights event and it was agreed to seek a budget of £1,000 from Full Council. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 6.9 The History Project that had a ring-fenced budget of £2,379 had had not moved forward for some time and Cllr Hamblin agreed to consider taking a lead and progressing it.

## **7.0 PARISH NOTICEBOARDS:**

- 7.1 The Clerk informed the committee about the poor condition of the Parish Noticeboards and that they were in desperate need of replacement as hinges were broken, water had caused damage to the backboards and two could not be locked. The Clerk explained that, except for the noticeboard on Reading Road, the other three were not a good advertisement for the Parish Council.
- 7.2 A discussion took place about the current and potential locations and if they were required at all. It was suggested that notices be placed in each seeking the views of local residents about whether they were required or not.
- 7.3 A suggested location for a new noticeboard was at Winnersh Railway Station and the Clerk was asked to explore that option. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 7.4 The Clerk proposed that the noticeboard on the front to the Community Centre was not particularly visible and suggested that a new noticeboard be located on Bearwood Recreation Ground adjacent to the footpath leading from the car park.

## **8.0 CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 8.1 The Clerk advised that an email had been received from the Parliamentary Assistant working for Sir John Redwood MP about a complaint he had received concerning the opening hours of the accessible toilet adjacent to the Allnatt Pavilion.

Whilst the existing practice was to open the toilet daily at 11am, and close it when the caretaker was not on duty, the Clerk had asked the caretaker to ensure that, with immediate effect, it was open from first thing in the morning until as late in the day as possible, and at least until dusk. The Committee endorsed that decision.

**9.0 ANY OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN:**

- 9.1 Cllr Wooldridge requested that the signage for the two disabled spaces in the car park be improved and that two new signs indicating that the spaces were for use by 'blue badge holders' only be provided. The Committee agreed the purchase and installation of the signs.

**ACTION: CLERK**

**10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 3 MARCH 2020 at 19:45**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.50.