



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
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Minutes of the **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **TUESDAY 5 MAY 2020**

PRESENT: Cllrs S Hanna (Chairman); A Greenwood; F Obileye; J Southgate.

IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Stoneman (Clerk); Cllr P Fishwick (observing).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs L Wooldridge; A Caston.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

- 3.1 (Item 3.2) The Clerk advised that a quote of £420 had been received for cleaning the solar panels but having received further advice it was agreed that cleaning was not necessary at this time and any drop in solar energy generation would be monitored and, if necessary, the need for any maintenance/cleaning would be reviewed.
- 3.2 (Item 4.3) The options for an allotment association and/or allotment stewards would be explored and presented when the allotment garden was in full use and all remaining issues had been resolved.
- 3.3 (Items 6.3) The Clerk confirmed that an architect had been appointed and that work to carry out the measured survey and design would commence on the 12 May 2020. Subject to planning permission, tenders and appointment of contractors, work would start as soon as possible and ideally later in the summer.
- 3.4 (Item 6.7/6.8) The Clerk confirmed that budget provision had been made in 2020/21 with £5,500 for the Youth Club Project and £1,000 for the Christmas Lights event.
- 3.5 (Item 7.3) The issue of the noticeboard at Winnersh Railway Station would be considered after the Council had decided on whether to progress the 'adopt a station' scheme. The decision to establish whether WPC noticeboards were providing an effective means of communication would be progressed when the coronavirus lockdown was lifted.
- 3.6 (Item 9.1) The Blue Badge signage would be purchased and installed when the Community Centre re-opened.

4 PUBLIC SESSION: There were no members of the public in attendance.

5 WINNERSH ALLOTMENTS UPDATE:

5.1 The Clerk gave a brief update on progress at the allotments.

5.2 A leak in the water supply had been identified by Cllr Harper who had been taking water meter readings. Wokingham Borough Council and their contractor had attended the site and identified and tightened the joints at several standpipes and this had reduced the leakage. It had been identified that a leak still existed and with no obvious cause/location further investigation was being carried out.

5.3 A solution to help prevent flooding on some parts of the allotment garden during periods of inclement weather was being investigated and WBC draining engineers were producing a design and proposal to carry out remedial works.

5.4 The Clerk advised that the site was almost fully occupied. However, it was noted that several full and half plots were not currently being cultivated and it was agreed that a letter/email should be sent to those plot holders to determine whether there were any issues for not doing so. It was noted that some problems around flooding, lack of water supply and the coronavirus lockdown may be contributory factors, but this needed to be determined and the plots re-let as necessary. **ACTION: CLERK**

5.5 The allotment agreements would be produced and whilst the first payment would not be due until October 2020, the agreements could be issued in advance and this would make clear what the plot holders' obligations were. **ACTION: CLERK**

5.6 The Committee thanked, in his absence, Cllr Harper for all the support and advice he had provided during the establishment of the allotment garden and for providing a very helpful interface between the allotments (and allotment holders) and the council.

6 PROVISION OF SEATING AT JERSEY WAY PLAY AREA/OPEN SPACE:

6.1 The Clerk referred to an email from a local resident requesting that a bench be provided in the open space largely used by more elderly people and dog walkers. Whilst benches were provided in the play area these were too far away.

6.2 The Clerk was asked to liaise with WBC about the request and whether permission would be granted to allow a bench to be installed, possibly funded in partnership with a local business. The committee wanted to establish what arrangements would need to be put in place for maintenance and public liability. The Clerk was also asked to investigate the costs of a suitable bench. **ACTION: CLERK**

7.0 PROJECTS:

7.1 Community Centre cladding and extension: the project was being progressed and a design and proposal was being developed.

7.2 Community Centre decoration and provision of new hand dryers: the Clerk updated the committee on progress and confirmed that the Winnersh Hall, Sindlesham Room, link-corridor, entrance lobby, toilets and kitchen had all been decorated to a high standard and

the caretaker and relief caretaker were thanked for carrying out the task. New hand dryers (seven in total across the facilities) were being sourced at an anticipated cost of around £1,000 plus installation. The hand dryers would be more efficient and that would help reduce energy consumption. **ACTION: CLERK**

- 7.3 Outdoor Gym: the project to replace the existing gym and safety surfacing would be progressed and the Clerk would contact companies that may have an interest in quoting for the supply and installation work. **ACTION: CLERK**

8.0 BYELAWS:

- 8.1 Cllr Fishwick referred to a recent incident in which fireworks were being set off from the Bearwood Recreation Ground causing a nuisance. It was noted that whilst a copy of the byelaws were placed on the noticeboard on the front of the Allnatt Pavilion, this was not an ideal location to show the rules for using the recreation ground.

- 8.2 It was agreed that a sign in a more prominent position should be provided and that all signage across the site be reviewed and replaced where necessary. The Clerk reminded the Committee that a budget provision of £15,000 had been made for such projects. **ACTION: CLERK**

9.0 REVIEW OF HIRE CHARGES:

- 9.1 In advance of the meeting, the RFO had provided a schedule of charges that reflected an inflationary increase of 2% to hire Community Centre facilities. Given the concerns surrounding coronavirus the committee, upon the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr Hanna, **RESOLVED** not to make any increase in hire charges in the current year.

- 9.2 It was agreed that the opportunity should be taken to benchmark WPC services and hire charges against similar type facilities and to review the arrangement for how the various rooms are let, including the flexibility to allocate the Winnersh Hall and Sindlesham Room separately on weekend evenings if the hirer only wanted one of the rooms. **ACTION: CLERK/RFO**

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 10.1 The Clerk advised that the following emails had been received:-

- 1) Wokingham Borough Council - the Rights of Way Improvement Plan had been approved.
- 2) Wokingham Borough Council - update from the Localities Officer about fly-tipping.

11 MATERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN: None

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2020 at 19:45

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.05.