



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
New Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham
Berkshire RG41 5DU
Phone 0118 978 0244
e-mail clerk@winnersh.gov.uk
www.winnersh.gov.uk

Minutes of the **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **Tuesday 2 JUNE 2020.**

PRESENT: Cllrs L. Wooldridge (Chairman); S. Hanna (Vice-Chairman); P. Fishwick; A. Greenwood; J. Southgate.

IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Stoneman (Clerk).

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN:

1.1 **Election of Chairman:** Cllr Hanna opened the meeting and invited nominations for the position of Chairman. Cllr Southgate nominated Cllr Hanna who said that whilst grateful for the nomination he was unable to accept as he may not be able to fully commit to regular attendance later in the year.

Cllr Fishwick nominated and proposed Cllr Wooldridge as Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Hanna and unanimously agreed.

1.2 **Election of Vice-Chairman:** Cllr Southgate nominated and proposed Cllr Hanna as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Fishwick and unanimously agreed.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr A. Caston.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

4.1 The committee agreed to deal with actions relating to allotments and projects under the respective agenda items.

4.2 (Minute item 6.2) The Clerk advised that he had contacted Wokingham Borough Council and the matter had been referred to Kate Warren in the Localities Team for consideration and a response was awaited. Cllr Hanna asked about the specification for benches and if more robust metal benches could be considered as had been provided in Winnersh Meadows. The Clerk was asked to raise that with WBC. **ACTION: CLERK**

4.3 (Minute item 9.2) The Clerk advised that the Finance & Admin Officer was identifying community facilities to benchmark against and that would be delayed until contact could be made with staff in other Town and Parish Councils. **ACTION: CLERK/FAO**

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

6 **WINNERSH ALLOTMENTS UPDATE:**

6.1 **Water:** All water leaks had been identified and repaired. Cllr Harper was thanked, in his absence, for helping to identify the leaks alongside the WBC contractor.

6.2 **Allocation:** There were 7 half-plots and 2 full-plots available. These were in the process of being offered to the 8 people on the waiting list. A small number of people that had not been cultivating their plots had been contacted and a deadline of 8 June had been given after which, if there had been no response, the plots would be re-allocated.

6.3 **Communal composter:** Despite attempts to introduce a communal composter this had been abused with garden rubbish and other non-gardening items being added. The decision was taken to remove the composter and all materials in and around it. A skip had been arranged and a volunteer working party of allotment holders would remove it.

6.4 **Manure plots:** The lorry delivering manure was getting bogged down when the ground was wet. A hard-standing area of 5m wide x 6m length x 500mm depth was suggested. It was likely that a granular MoT Type 1 or 2 material (approx. 30 Tonnes) would be required and Nick Robbins was providing a quote. **ACTION: CLERK**

6.5 **Yellow vehicular gate:** The gate had once again dropped on its hinges and needed realignment. The Clerk advised that he had emailed WBC and requested that it be repaired.

6.6 **Strimming areas:** Cllr Harper had been strimming areas of the allotments using his own strimmer that was now in need of repair. It was suggested that an industrial quality strimmer be purchased for the allotment garden. Research had revealed that prices varied between £500-800 for a good quality strimmer. The Committee agreed to a budget, up to a maximum of £1,000, for the purchase of a strimmer and safety PPE (helmet, mask, ear defenders) and Cllr Harper would seek advice from Nick Robins about the products.

6.7 **Security and COVID-19:** At the outbreak of COVID-19 the council requested that the green vehicular gate be left open when vehicles were on site, to avoid the need for allotment holders to touch as many gates/padlocks. It was understood that many plot holders were supportive of this, but a small number were not as they had concerns about security of the site. It was agreed that the original request to leave the green vehicular gate unlocked when vehicles were on the site remained the council's position.

6.8 **Allotment Agreements:** The Clerk advised that following a review of the allotment agreement, there was very little to change. The committee asked that Cllr Harper be invited to review the draft before approval by the committee. **ACTION: CLERK**

6.9 **Allotment Association:** The Clerk was asked to investigate the roles, duties and responsibilities of an association and how that body could be established. It was agreed that this would need careful consideration and that it would be appropriate to delay any introduction until the allotments were fully occupied and outstanding issues dealt with. **ACTION: CLERK**

- 6.10 **The National Allotment Society:** At the suggestion of the Clerk it was agreed that the council should become a member of the Society at an annual cost of £55.

ACTION: CLERK

7.0 PROJECTS:

- 7.1 **Community Centre cladding and extension:** The Clerk advised that the architect had confirmed that he would have draft proposals available by the end of the week. The cladding was deteriorating quite badly in some places and temporary repairs had been carried out by the caretaker.

- 7.2 **Outdoor Gym:** The Clerk advised that quotations had been sought to replace the existing gym and safety surfacing and when these had all been received, they would be assessed and presented to the committee. The proposed footprint of 70 sqm was discussed and if necessary, may need to be increased to accommodate the equipment. The type of equipment, able to offer a broader range of exercises, was also discussed and the Clerk was asked to ensure that the new gym would offer greater variety than the existing.

8.0 COVID-19 AND PLAN FOR RE-OPENING FACILITIES:

- 8.1 The Chairman led a discussion on the measures that would be necessary for re-opening the facilities when the time was right. The committee agreed that government advice had to be followed on how community centre facilities, play parks etc. could be opened and that would almost certainly be on a phased basis with an appropriate plan.

- 8.2 At the suggestion of Cllr Hanna it was agreed that COVID-19 be a standing item on the R&A agenda.

- 8.3 The Clerk advised that Winnersh Rangers Football Club (WRFC) had sought a view from WPC on whether training could restart for their boys and girls. WRFC had received guidance from the FA and subject to all parties agreeing, the guidance would be followed. The committee agreed to the request in principle but wanted some further reassurance from WRFC about how the training would be managed, what facilities would be required, such as toilets, and how these would be kept safe. It was also agreed that, subject to government guidance, the facility may have to be withdrawn if necessary.

10 CORRESPONDENCE:

- 10.1 The Clerk advised that an email had been received from Wokingham Borough Council containing a CIL report. The committee discussed the proposed Natural Flood Risk Management Scheme south of the M4 to help reduce the risk of flooding to infrastructure and properties affected by fluvial flooding from the River Loddon, north of the motorway. The Clerk was asked to seek more information for consideration at the next meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

11 MATERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN: None

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 7 JULY 2020 at 19:30

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.45.