

Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre New Road, Sindlesham Wokingham, Berks, RG41 5DU T: 0118 9780244 E: clerk@winnersh.gov.uk

:: clerk@winnersh.gov.uk www.winnersh.gov.uk

Minutes of the WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL meeting held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7:30pm at the Winnersh Community Centre

Councillors Present:

Cllr P Bray Cllr P Fishwick Cllr A Fyfe Cllr P Giacon Cllr G Harper Cllr N Kilby Cllr R Shepherd-DuBey Cllr J Southgate

Officers: Marcia Milsom, Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Boadu, Doyle, Green, Kak and Nicholson.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

3. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk's report with updates on matters arising from the previous minutes was attached as Appendix 1. **Noted.**

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2024 be confirmed and signed as a true record.

5. PUBLIC SESSION

There were no members of public in attendance.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence had been received:

- Letter from Matthew Barber, Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley regarding working in partnership to reduce crime – attached at Appendix 2a. Noted.
- ii. Notification from WBC of nomination of Bearwood Park Training Ground to be listed on the Council's Assets of Community Value (ACV) attached at Appendix 2b.

Cllr Bray explained that there is a restrictive covenant on the site to only allow Reading FC to use it for training. She advised that the ACV application allows an opportunity for a community group to submit a bid if the property were to be put up for sale.

It was noted that the sale of the site had now been included with the sale of the whole football club.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the nomination.

ACTION: CLERK

iii. BALC newsletter – attached at Appendix 2c. **Noted.**

7. MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL

i. Recreation & Amenities Committee

The notes of the informal Recreation & Amenities Committee meeting held on 2nd April 2024 (attached at Appendix 3) were noted.

a. Wetpour replacement – the initial quote of £16,537.50 had increased due to an increase in the cost of materials to £17,116.50.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the revised quote.

b. Main Hall Internal Redecoration – the Clerk had obtained two quotes - attached at Appendix 3a.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the quote from Handy Home Services in the sum of £2,900.00.

c. Overflow car park – the Clerk had obtained a quote from the contractor that had carried out the previous car park resurfacing works in 2023 – attached at Appendix 3b.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation that the quote from Unique Group in the sum of £2,250.00 + VAT.

Cllr Shepherd-DuBey joined the meeting at 7.40pm

ii. Planning & Transport Committee

As there was only one member of the Planning & Transport Committee in attendance, the approval and signing of the minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee meeting held on 9th April 2024 (previously circulated) would be deferred to the next meeting.

8. QUESTIONS

None.

9. REPORTS OF COUNCILLORS/OFFICERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OTHER BODIES.

None.

10. REPORTS FROM WBC WARD AND PARISH COUNCILLORS

i. A written report from Ward Councillors was attached at Appendix 3. Noted.

Cllr Bray advised that over 99% of primary school applications had been offered one of their preferred choices with 90% being offered their first choice.

ii. There were no reports from Parish Councillors.

11. RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT

Following the issue of resident engagement being raised at the February meeting, options to improve engagement with residents was discussed. It was noted that Cllr Green had suggested holding Councillor surgeries at Sainsbury's.

Other suggestions included:

- Having a display at the fete
- Suggestion box for residents at the fete
- Updating photo's of Councillors on the website
- Reviewing the noticeboards
- Putting advertising banner on the recreation ground
- Put a laminated copy of the newsletter on each noticeboard

A further discussion would be held at the next meeting.

12. CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

An update on 2024-25 capital projects was attached at Appendix 5. Noted.

13. FACILITY UTILITIES

The current 1 year gas and electricity contracts were due to end on 18th April 2024. A report showing new contract price quotes was attached at Appendix 6.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the officer recommendation to enter into the following contracts:

Site	Supplier	Contract length	Unit rate	Standing Charge
Allnatt Pavilion Gas	Valda Energy	2 year	6.94p Kwh	42p per day
Community Centre Gas	Valda Energy	2 year	6.94p Kwh	42p per day
Community Centre Electricity	Yorkshire Gas & Power (YGP)	2 year	23.65p Kwh	60p per day

ACTION: CLERK/APC

14. LITTER PICK

The litter pick was held on Sunday 24th March, starting from Rainbow Community Centre. The event was well attended with approximately 55 people (including 9 Councillors). **Noted.**

15. SUMMER FETE 2024

- i. A progress report was attached at Appendix 7. Noted.
- ii. Cllr Fishwick gave an update on the Winnersh Games, raffle prizes and sponsorship. Cllr Harper advised that the morris dancers were unable to attend.
- iii. The Clerk had spoken to a local farm which attended a WBC event at the recreation ground recently. They are able to bring small farm animals to the event at a cost of £475.00.

It was **RESOLVED** to book the farm at a cost of £475.00.

ACTION: CLERK

iv. The Clerk has also identified a birds of prey company used by other T&PC's for events. They are able to attend at a cost of £500.00 for a static display with option for holding a bird for £2.00 per person (payable by individual) or £1,000.00 for a static display and 30 minute flying display (no holding).

It was **RESOLVED** to book a flying display at a maximum cost of £1,000.00. The Clerk would also look at alternative companies.

ACTION: CLERK

v. WBC had advised they are unable to fund a face-painter for the event. The Clerk has requested quotes from local companies but these had not yet been received.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate up to £500.00 to book a face painter if there was no-one that came forward to offer the service FOC.

ACTION: CLERK

16. ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

A schedule of all payments was attached at Appendix 6.

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of payments.
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Bray and Kilby would examine and authorise the payments listed on the schedule.

ACTION: CLLRS BRAY & KILBY

17. FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT WORKING PARTY

i. Cllr Fyfe had expressed an interest in joining the Working Party.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Fyfe be appointed to the Facilities Development Working Party.

ii. The survey for the Allnatt Pavilion had now closed. The Working Group would meet to review the results and determine the next steps. **Noted.**

18. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY

Cllr Fishwick reported that the funding priority of the group was the facilities development.

Cllr Harper advised that the solar sheds and now been installed at the allotments and were being used by tenants.

19. SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT WORKING PARTY

Cllr Fishwick advised that LoveToRide were holding a May Bike Challenge. The Clerk was asked to circulate the relevant information.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Fishwick also advised that he was attending an event at Wokingham Station as part of his role with the Community Rail Partnership and had been invited to attend an event to promote the Windsor to Reading Route.

The next Full Council meeting would be held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 8.30pm following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.

Full Council Clerk's Report - April 2024

Meeting Action Point	Date Decision Ratified	Minute reference	Owner	Notes (updates in blue)	Status
CIL Co-funding - California Country	21.02.23	12	Clerk	Agreed to fund £5k CIL funds to California Country Park project. No further update received. Works	In progress
Park				due to commence April 23.	
Sindlesham Room/JGR drawings	18.04.23	7 i.i d	Clerk	R&A referring to Facilities Development WG	In progress
Investment Accounts	19.09.23	8 iii d	Clerk/APC	CCLA account open and funds deposited	Complete
Woodland Tree pack	23.11.23	19 ii	Clerk	15 trees planted. All three primary schools attended	Complete
Overview & Scrutiny	23.01.24	6 iv	Clerk	Clerk has submitted enforcement item to WBC for consideration. More info requested from DG	In progress
Insulation	23.01.24	7 i b	Clerk	Surveys carried out. Main Hall deemed to have sufficient insulation. Clerk arranging for additional insulation to be installed in JGR	In progress
Litter Pick	23.01.24	13	Clerk	Event complete	Complete
The Glass Company	20.02.24	6 ii	Clerk	Clerk confirmed advertising arrangement with The Glass Company. Item put in next e-	Complete
. ,				newsletter, added to website and on social media	
RBFRS Consultation	19.03.24	6 iii	Clerk	CELO added details to the website	Complete
IT Support review	19.03.24	13	Clerk	Clerk looking at suppliers and obtaining quotes	In progress

Meetings/Training attended	oy Clerk:							
19th March	Council meeting							
22nd March	Tree planting with scho	Tree planting with schools						
2nd April	R&A meeting	R&A meeting						
4th April	Allotment site meeting	Allotment site meeting with WBC						
Upcoming Staff Holiday								
30th Apr - 10th May	Marcia Milsom							



To all Town & Parish Councils

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner The Farmhouse, Thames Valley Police HQ Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 2NX

01865 541957 pcc@thamesvalley.police.uk www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk

March 2024

Dear Colleague,

Working in partnership to fight crime

I regularly meet with town and parish councils to discuss local concerns and talk about the work I am doing to support Thames Valley Police in fighting crime. Of course, with over 700 parishes across our three counties, I am not able to attend every council personally, but as a former town councillor I recognise the important role you play in your community.

I thought it would be useful to highlight some of the work that I and my office do with unitary, county and district councils in Thames Valley that may not always be visible to parishes and towns. One of the areas I am particularly passionate about is improving CCTV coverage. Better use of technology can never replace strong local policing, but it is an important tool. I have committed significant investment to this area, which is not a statutory function for either the police or local authorities. Earlier this year, we launched the first phase of the Thames Valley CCTV Partnership with new cameras – owned and operated, monitored and maintained by the police, with continued support from councils. The first phase covers Milton Keynes and Slough, with a second phase hopefully coming online in Oxfordshire later this year. We continue to talk to local councils elsewhere about continued expansion of the network.

Alongside this specific work on CCTV, I continue to support local authorities through our Community Safety Partnerships. These are vital partnerships harnessing the power of local government as well as the police to tackle anti-social behaviour and persistent crime concerns. I have recently written to council leaders informing them of a 15% increase in the funding that I have allocated from 2025/26, which will mean a total of £11.4m will be provided to crime prevention work in local areas over the next four years. I hope we will also repeat our success in bidding for additional funding from the Home Office through the Safer Streets fund, which has seen a further £5m brought into Thames Valley.

There is, of course, a continued opportunity for parish and town councils to apply for funding for crime prevention projects through my Community Fund. This takes money from criminals – through the sale of stolen goods – and provides it to good causes. In recent years, I have increased the level of funding to £400,000 per year and many parishes and towns have already benefited from the scheme. The next round of funding will be in September, and there is more information available on my website at thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-fund/.

Another area that I know causes great concern in many communities is speeding. Not only am I agreeing with the Chief Constable a new road safety enforcement team to provide a more flexible response to local concerns, but I continue to support Community Speedwatch. The Community Speedwatch scheme has recently moved into the new Citizens in Policing portfolio within the Force, which means as well as the free equipment available through my office, I hope that we will be able to improve the support for volunteers.

More broadly of course we have seen a reduction in crime overall across Thames Valley in the last twelve months, and we are on target to have doubled the number of neighbourhood officers in the Force by the end of this financial year. This increase is set to continue and I have committed further funds to put more officers into neighbourhood teams and continue to

recruit PCSOs and Special Constables. This is on top of the record number of police officers serving within Thames Valley. We will be just over 5,100 officers at the end of this month, almost 600 higher than back in 2010.

As always, please do feel free to contact me or my office if we can support your local council in our collective efforts to keep the public safe.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Barber

Police & Crime Commissioner

Good Morning,

I am writing to inform you of the nomination of Bearwood Park Training Ground, Mole Road, Sindlesham has been nominated to be listed on the councils Assets of Community Value.

The Localism Act (2011) gives communities a right to identify a building or other land that they believe to be of importance to their community's social well-being. If such an asset or piece of land comes up for sale, the community will be given a fair chance to make a bid to buy it on the open market. To the extent that they meet the definition of an Asset of Community Value, the right includes private as well as public assets.

A decision on whether to include the above property within the list of Assets of Community Value will be made by the Council within eight weeks of the above date of nomination (14th May 2024).

Details of Wokingham Borough Council's Policy on Assets of Community Value can be found on the Council's website at this address (Community Right to Bid (wokingham.gov.uk))

If you wish to submit any evidence either supporting or challenging this nomination, please could contact me at the above email address by 23rd April to ensure that it is included within the decision-making process.

I have attached a copy of the reasons for the nomination.

Kind Regards

Mark Tomkinson
Resident Access and Support Manager, Economy & Housing
Wokingham Borough Council

- a. Reading Football Club relocated to the development at Bearwood in 2020 as a new training ground for Reading Football Club (Reading FC or the Football Club), including its youth and women's teams, after it had outgrown existing facilities at Hogwood Park.
- b. The development of these facilities was to align with the ambition and objectives for the future, providing updated and modernised facilities, to serve not only the first team, but also every age group, the women's team and staff.
- c. Use of Bearwood was deemed necessary to meet the demands of player development and performance under the EPPP (Elite Player Performance Plan) structures for elite Academies. Through the wider entity of Reading FC and the elite academy structure that Bearwood affords, more than 71 young individuals have graduated to the Reading FC first team, with a considerable additional number having been provided opportunities to enter professional football at other clubs.
- d. In addition, Bearwood and the role of Reading FC enables the young locally based individuals to further their education, affording them opportunities to develop themselves in the event that they were unable to secure a career as a professional footballer.
- e. The process of identifying the site of this new training ground, securing permission for its development and dealing with a range of legal issues was a long and difficult process. The Football Club, supporters and various local authorities were all involved in overcoming these problems and ensuring Reading FC was able to move to its new training facilities, ensuring that this was designed to cater to various teams within the club, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration, enhancing training conditions and player development across all levels.
- f. The presence of Reading FC in Sindlesham is crucial in enabling Reading FC to deliver its social value and community benefit through sporting and social activities; in that the Club needs suitable facilities to train. The numerous difficulties that had to be overcome to find and develop a new training ground for Reading FC means that Bearwood Park Training Ground remains the only realistic and viable home for Reading FC in the borough, noting that previous facilities at Hogwood Park have been developed for housing.
- g. Reading FC delivers both social value and community benefit to Reading and Berkshire more broadly, as an integral part of the local area. The Club's history in Reading goes back to its founding in 1871. Its principal activity is the furtherance of local sporting interest, listed by the Localism Act as a particular social interest that a Community Asset should further.
- h. Beyonds its role as a training facility, Bearwood serves as a hub for community engagement, bringing together residents, fans and aspiring athletes. The local community benefits from this symbiotic relationship, strengthening community ties and fostering a sense of pride and ownership.

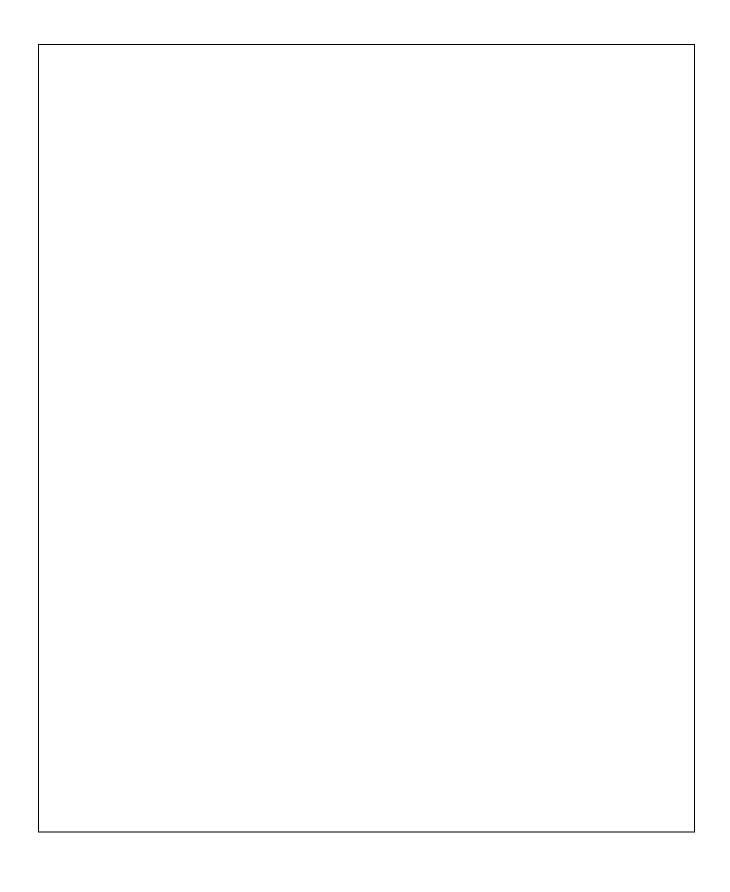
- i. The facility hosts open days, coaching clinics and events that encourage interaction between the club and its neighbours, including hosting individuals with SEND needs and collaborating with local schools (e.g. Forest School), community centres and youth organisations. Initiatives such as football camps, mentorship programs and school visits promote physical activity, teamwork and discipline among young people.
- j. Additionally local schools (e.g. Forest school), scouting groups and recreational teams have access to the pitches for training sessions and friendly matches. This inclusivity fosters a sense of ownership and pride among community members.
- k. Additionally Bearwood hosts educational facilities, including classrooms and meeting spaces, where players balance their academic pursuits with their football training.
- I. The presence of Reading FC in Wokingham and Sindlesham has a positive economic impact. Reading FC attracts visitors to Berkshire, boosting local businesses such as restaurants, pubs and shops. Additionally, the club's activities generate employment opportunities, benefiting the community at large.
- m. Reading FC proudly has a 24% female following within the fanbase, the highest percentage in UK football, has 58% of fans classified in the top four socio-economic groups (26% above UK average) and are 3x more likely to buy brands that they associate with Reading FC than the average UK football fan. The strength of brand association is a critical part of the economy of Berkshire, providing opportunities for local businesses to develop at scale. Stats provided from the Reading FC Partner Opportunities Brochure.
- n. Bearwood hosts a multitude of youth teams affiliated with Reading FC. These teams span various age groups, from the under-8s to the under-21s. The training ground provides state-of-the-art facilities, expert coaching and a nurturing environment for young talents from Berkshire to flourish.
- o. In addition to serving as the training complex for Reading Football Club, the surroundings of Bearwood Park Training Ground include a lake enabling local anglers, both young and old, to fish here. The facility encourages responsible fishing practices, emphasising environmental stewardship and community bonding.
- p. The facilities at Bearwood Park Training Ground provide opportunities of employment for local individuals and access to sporting opportunities for local children and young adults. The operation of Bearwood Park Training Ground through another entity would deny these opportunities for Wokingham-based individuals.
- q. At the point of development, Reading FC noted within the planning permission that Bearwood Park Training Ground:
 - helps with the restoration and provide a future for historic park and gardens
 - continues to secure and improve the club's links to Wokingham Borough, including its young people and the wider community (including its school links e.g. Forest School).
 - provides new and enhanced facilities which will allow the club to become more self-sufficient and produce more of its own high quality academy players.

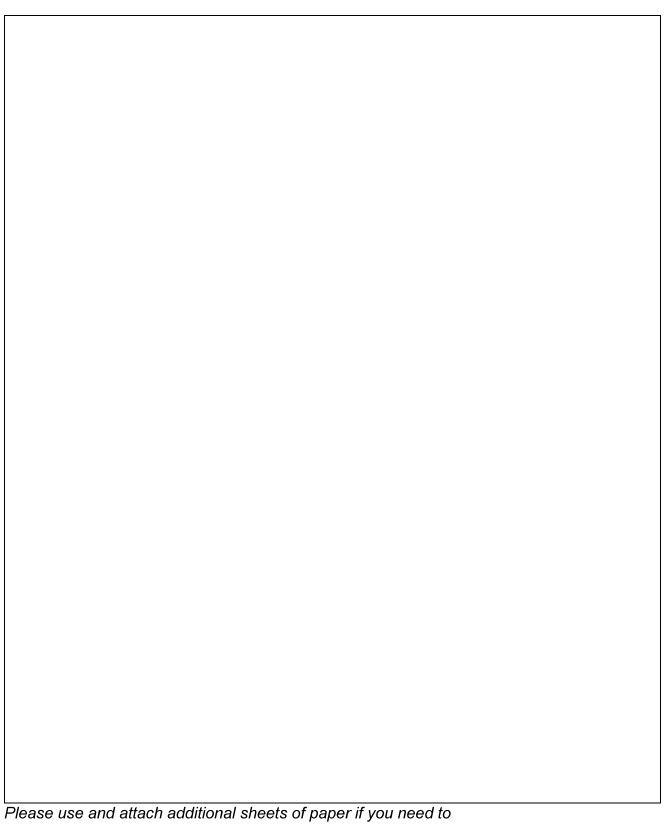
- will ensure that existing jobs remain within the Borough
- In addition the original application stated the site is located within an area classified as outside of development limits within the countryside, and therefore Core Strategy policy CP11 (Proposals outside Development Limits) is relevant. It was stated that the development proposals will not normally be permitted unless certain specific exceptions applied. In particular Criteria 1 of CP11 stated that development will be permitted if it 'contributes to diverse and sustainable rural enterprises within the borough, or in the case of other countryside based enterprises and activities, it contributes and/or promotes recreation in, and enjoyment of, the countryside'. Assigning this as Asset of Community Value will ensure that this part of the planning decision is protected.
- r. The wider tangible benefits to Berkshire that are provided through the existence of Reading Football Club, including through its integral base at Bearwood Park Training Ground complex:
 - Promotes the enjoyment of sport and exercise to local people throughout the community, particularly young people, both through its own matches (where a range of concessions including family tickets and discounted tickets for children and young adults are offered, as well as its school ticketing scheme), and through activities the Club undertakes via its Community Trust, including in Wokingham, and also through offering local 'parks' clubs the opportunity to play in cup finals there.
 - Serves as a focus for community pride as Berkshire's only Football League club, providing Reading with a shared history and heritage through the achievements of the Club and the many celebrated players from its history, and regularly celebrating the contribution that the Club's non-player employees, volunteers and supporters make to the Club's success.
 - Helps build a sense of community identity, bringing together diverse elements of Berkshire, across a range of ages and social and economic backgrounds, on a regular basis for a shared purpose.
 - Provides local people with an inclusive social environment open to all members of the community, which the Club works to foster, for example through its regular support of such initiatives as the 'Kick it Out' campaign (an equality and inclusion campaign for football and the wider community).
 - Engages fans in the support of local charitable causes, with bucket collectors being present at most Reading FC home matches.
 - Provides economic benefits to local businesses such as increased trade for nearby and associated hotels, pubs and restaurants on match days, as well as working to bring together a network of local businesses for mutual benefit.
 - **Is the subject of considerable local interest,** as attested to by the significant coverage in the local media, as well as regular coverage in the national media.

- Represents the town and area nationally,
- Working within the town and wider community operates a range of sporting, social inclusion, and educational activities and programmes under the aegis of its community trust. The Reading FC Community Trust reaches more than 3,400 young people in the Berkshire area every week, with a particular focus on local schools and social inclusion projects.
- s. An assessment of the original purpose of Bearwood Park Training Ground and its current usage would indicate that, through operating under the umbrella of planning permission, specifically Section 4, which designates its use exclusively for Reading FC, due to its impact on furthering the social wellbeing and social interests of the local community, indicates the fact the that while the land has multiple uses, some of which are not directly social wellbeing or social interest uses does not, in the applicant's opinion, take that land out of the asset of community value definition due to the wider community benefits.
- t. The land upon which the Bearwood Park Training Ground complex has been constructed was sold to Reading FC and planning permission granted by Wokingham Borough Council for the purpose of enabling the club to continue and succeed as a sporting entity with accompanying social value.

In addition, this application is fully aligned to Wokingham Borough Council's 2020 to 2024 Plan. It's supports the Council's community vision by meeting the following objectives:

- 1. Providing safe and strong communities:
 - nurture our communities: enabling them to thrive and families to flourish
- 2. Enriching lives:
 - enable our children and young people to achieve their full potential, regardless of background
 - engage and empower our communities through arts and culture and create a sense of identity for the Borough which people feel part of
 - support growth in our local economy and help to build business
- 3. Delivering the right homes in the right places
 - ensure the right infrastructure is in place, early, to support and enable our Borough to grow
 - develop policies to make sure development is vibrant with the right mix of housing, employment, leisure, community uses and green infrastructure that is well connected and meet community needs
- 4. Changing the way we work for you
 - listen to what our communities are telling us and use this feedback to shape service delivery, challenge how we do business and manage expectations in an open and honest way
 - work in partnership to deliver community led solutions that address the issues that matter most to our residents







Berkshire Association of Local Councils

Newsletter

April 2024

SHARING YOUR STORY - COMMUNITY **ENGAGEMENT**

WINNERSH PARISH COUNCIL

Tree Planting

The Woodland Trust at the end of last year offered all parish/town councils the opportunity to receive tree packs for planting around their property. Winnersh Parish Council took advantage of this offer and requested an Urban Tree pack consisting of fifteen "whips" ie small saplings, there were five "whips" each of Rowan, Crab Apple and Hazel. It was decided to get the local primary school children involved in the planting and an invitation was sent to each of the three primary schools in Winnersh, the offer was enthusiastically taken up.

Inside This Issue

- Sharing Your Story Community Engagement
- Training & Events
- Clerk/Officer Updates
- Member Services Update
- Local Council Opportunities

On the appointed morning in early March five pupils from each of the three primary schools turned up accompanied by their teachers at Bearwood Recreation Ground. A small working group of volunteers and councillors together with council staff were on hand to assist the pupils in the planting of the "whips". The morning was grey and unfortunately it rained but this did not dampen the efforts of the pupils who each planted a tree and inserted a cane to support it together with a plastic tree guard.

The volunteers then put a protective fence round the newly planted trees and the pupils were invited to return and monitor the progress of their tree.

Annual Litter Pick

Every year Winnersh Parish Council takes part in the Annual Litter Pick, this year it took place on 25th March. It is supported locally by Wokingham Borough Council who provide the litter pickers, waste bags and hi-viz waistcoats, they also collect all the rubbish bags once returned to the Centre and disposes of them. Winnersh Parish Council



organised the morning centred at a local Community Centre and invited everybody in the

parish to take part. The morning was sunny and bright and there was a very good turnout consisting of parish councillors, residents and the local scout and cub groups. Once kitted out with hi-vis jackets, waste bags and litter pickers they were assigned local roads around the parish to pick up any rubbish they found. An hour and a half later they returned with bulging bags of rubbish and enjoyed the refreshments laid on by the parish council as a reward for all their efforts.

Would you like to share your news stories? Please send any good news stories, achievements or local information that would be of interest to your fellow Clerks and Councillors to balcexec@balc.org. Publication deadline the first Tuesday of each month.

TRAINING AND EVENTS

The latest 2024 training courses are now on the website and can be booked <u>here</u>. The table below shows the current training sessions, including HALC courses open to BALC members*.

	APRIL 2024								
Councillor Development	Councillor Networking – Auditing *	Tuesday 16 th April	10:00 – 12:30	Hockley Golf Club, Twyford, Winchester					
Development For All	Managing Employees in Local Councils *	Tuesday 23 rd April	10:00 – 12:30	Weybrook Park, Basingtoke					
MAY 2024									
Councillor Development	Governance for Local Councils – Councillors*	Tuesday 7 th May	10:00 – 12:30	Weybrook Park, Basingstoke					
JUNE 2024									
Development for All	Introduction to Planning *	Thursday 6 th June	18:30 – 21:00	On-line via Zoom					
Officer Development	What You Need to Know *	Wednesday 12 th June Pt 1 Tuesday 25 th June Pt.2	10:00 – 12:30	Weybrook Park, Basingstoke					
Development for All	Managing Absence & Capability *	Wednesday 26 th June	10:00 – 13:00	Weybrook Park, Basingstoke					
Councillor Development	The Knowledge & Core Skills	Thursday 27 th June	10:00 – 14:30	School Green, Shinfield					

JULY 2024								
Councillor Development	The Knowledge & Core Skills *	Tuesday 2 nd July	10:00 – 14:30	Weybrook Park, Basingstoke				
Development for All	Handling Challenging Individuals*	Tuesday 9 th July	10:00 – 12:30	Weybrook Park, Basingstoke				
Development for All	Introduction to Planning *	Wednesday 10 th July	18:30 – 21:00	On-line via Zoom				
Councillor Development	Finance for Councillors	Thursday 11 th July	10:00 – 12:00	School Green, Shinfield				
Officer Development	Clerks/Officers Update	Thursday 18 th July	10:00 – 12:30	School Green, Shinfield				

Please remember that as BALC members, training fees are included within your membership and paid for by BALC on your behalf, this includes attendance at Hampshire ALC courses.

However, please also note that under the <u>Terms and Conditions</u> of booking, if places are booked and the attendees do not turn up, or cancel within 14 days, the respective Councils will be charged. Where attendees are unable to attend, and this is notified in advance, delegates will be rebooked on a future course.

To ensure that you are provided with the training you need, we need you to feedback and let us know what training courses you want. Please email the BALC Executive at balcexec@balc.org.uk.

CLERK/OFFICER INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Year End - Internal Audit

The key document to use during the end of year/audit period is the Practitioners Guide 2023 which can be downloaded here and guides you through the steps you'll need to take in order to comply with all audit requirements. The guide was updated in 2023 so do make sure you are using the most up to date version. We would urge all clerks and RFOs to familiarise themselves with this document.

Clerks/RFOs may also find it beneficial to share the guide with councillors, particularly those carrying out internal control functions, so that they can gain a full understanding of the audit process.

A new version of the Practitioners Guide has been produced for the financial year **starting** 1st April 2024 which can be viewed <u>here.</u> You can use this for the 2023/2024 audit but it is not mandatory. However, please note that the new version should be used for the upcoming financial year. A document describing the changes can be viewed <u>here</u>.

Year End - External Audit

PKF recently informed clerks that one of this year's intermediate testing audit requirements (over £200k plus 5% sample) involves demonstrating proficiency in using GPOC by presenting their Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) and proof of eligibility at the time of adoption. SLCC are looking at options to enable candidates who no longer have a copy of their certificate to capture a screenshot of their qualification, however it has not yet been confirmed if this would be acceptable by the auditors.

NALC's Model Financial Regulations

The Parkinson Partnership LLP have been working with NALC to update the model financial regulations and following a consultation, the new modernised version is currently being finalised. They are in a similar format to the model Standing Orders, in that items that are in legislation are in bold, and therefore should not be changed. Those items not in bold can be changed to suit Councils own situations.

The updated Model Financial Regulations should be available in time for your May Annual Meetings, and Councils are strongly encouraged to adopt the new version. The template will be available on the website as soon as it is released.

MEMBER SERVICES INFORMATION AND UPDATES

Funding Opportunities

Community Ownership Fund

The fourth and final round of the government's £150 million Community Ownership Fund opened for applications on 25 March. The fund, which was opened last year to allow applications from local councils, aims to support communities to take ownership of assets at risk of being lost and those already in community ownership but in need of essential renovations to be sustainable for the long-term benefit of the community.

Local councils can bid for up to £2 million in capital funding and £50,000 in revenue to help protect local assets such as sports facilities, arts and music venues, museums and galleries, parks, pubs, post offices, and shops. The first window of the fourth round is open until 10 April, with the second window due to open in late May. For more information, please click here.

Community Green Spaces Fund

The government have also announced a new £7 million Community Green Spaces fund, plus an additional £5 million to support capital improvement projects in village halls. The Community Green Spaces Fund will provide funding to support communities in creating, restoring, and enhancing their green spaces. While further details are still to be announced, we expect local councils to be eligible to apply. For more details, please click here.

Council Tax Levels

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has now published information on council tax levels set by councils in England for the financial year 2024/2025. The average Band D precept charged by local precepting bodies (including local councils) for 2024/25 will be £85.88, an increase of £6.74 or 8.5% on 2023/2024. Total precepts in 2024/2025 are £783 million, £75 million higher than last year and just 1.9% of overall council tax. You can read the statistical release on council tax levels set by local authorities in England here.

Committee on Standards in Public Life consultation on standards in public bodies

Last week, the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CoSiPL) issued a consultation on standards of behaviour in public bodies, including local (parish and town) councils. The consultation seeks views on accountability within public bodies and specifically acting on early warning signs. The terms of reference for this exercise can be found here, and the main consultation document with contact details, can be downloaded here.

5. LOCAL COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES

Don't forget, you can advertise an employment or voluntary opportunity on the BALC website, further information can be found on the following <u>link</u>: -

For current vacancies in Berkshire please see the following link: https://www.balc.org.uk/local-council-opportunities



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre New Road, Sindlesham Wokingham, Berks, RG41 5DU T: 0118 978 0244 E: clerk@winnersh.gov.uk www.winnersh.gov.uk

Notes of an informal meeting of the RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE held on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.30pm at the Winnersh Community Centre

Councillors Present: Cllrs Nicholson & Southgate

Officers: Marcia Milsom - Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Doyle, Fyfe and Green.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2024 (previously circulated) had been approved and signed at Full Council on 20th February 2024.

The Clerk's report with updates on matters arising from previous meetings was attached at Appendix 1. **Noted.**

4. BERKSHIRE YOUTH

Gareth Mepham and Ed?? from Berkshire Youth were in attendance. They gave an update on recent activities and current attendance levels. A report is attached at Appendix A. **Noted.**

5. WINNERSH ALLOTMENTS

i. An inspection was carried out by the CELO and Cllr Doyle on 25th March. There were a number of plots which showed little sign of work being carried out but the weather had been particularly wet which has made cultivation difficult.

The CELO and Cllr Doyle will carry out a further inspection at the end of April and contact any plot holders that have not begun cultivation. **Noted**.

- ii. The solar sheds were installed at the end of January. The Clerk had just been advised that the solar components had been installed. A sign-off meeting would be arranged with Ray Barry, WBC. **Noted.**
- iii. The Treasurer of the Winnersh Allotment Association (WAA) had provided a financial report for 2023/24 attached at Appendix 2. He had reported that he had not authorised any expenditure and therefore no monies were required. **Noted.**
- iv. The Clerk had had a discussion with the Treasurer of the WAA regarding the operation and management of the association.

The Clerk advised that there were some concerns over notice for meetings, signatories on the account and unfinished projects. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the Chairman of the WAA to discuss the concerns and determine the current structure and operation.

ACTION: CLERK

6. CAPITAL PROJECTS 2024-25

An update on 2024-25 capital projects was attached at Appendix 3. Noted.

- i. Wetpour replacement the initial quote of £16,537.50 had increased due to an increase in cost of materials to £17,116.50. **Members recommended that Full Council accept the revised quote**.
- ii. Teenage Shelter options for a replacement shelter were attached at Appendix 3a. The options were discussed and the Clerk was asked to obtain full quotes for the Caloo, Proludic and Sutcliffe options, together with a quote for repair of the existing shelter.

ACTION: CLERK

- iii. MH Internal Redecoration the Clerk had obtained two quotes attached at Appendix 3b. Members recommended that Full Council accept the quote from Handy Home Services in the sum of £2,900.00.
- iv. Overflow car park the Clerk had obtained a quote from the contractor that had carried out the previous car park resurfacing works in 2023 attached at Appendix 3c in the sum of £2,250.00 + VAT. **Members recommended that Full Council accept the quote**.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence had been received.

8. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was **AGREED** as Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7.30pm. The Clerk advised that she would be on annual leave and the CELO would cover the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Borough Ward member update to Winnersh Parish Council from Borough Councillors Prue Bray, Paul Fishwick and Rachelle Shepherd-DuBey

16th April 2024

Road maintenance condition

A month ago, the Department for Transport published its statistics on the national road condition data and Wokingham Borough was in the top quartile for the best roads. However, there was an alarming trend that the average was in decline, indicating the continued under funding by the government.

Three weeks ago, the Annual Local Roads Maintenance survey report (for England and Wales) was published which backed up the data reported by the government's transport department with an estimated £16.3 billion backlog in road maintenance.

This is an increase of £2.1 billion in just one year and shows the lack of proper funding for road maintenance by the government. Without proper investment the road condition will continue to decline further.

Winnersh Park & Ride service

In November last year the Winnersh Park & Ride commenced operating on Saturdays on a 20-minute frequency until at least mid-April 2024. This service will now be extended to operate on Saturday's until at least September 2024.

Electric vehicle charge points

Wokingham Borough Council has been awarded a further £264k of government funding to install on street charge points in residential areas where there is little or no off-street parking available.

The charge points will add to the 38 across 18 locations that were installed during the autumn last year.

Traffic signals

Wokingham Borough Council has also been successful in a bid to the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant have been awarded £528,445 to upgrade traffic signal systems, replacing unreliable and obsolete equipment to improve reliability.

Special Educational Needs

I am delighted to be able to report that the 2 new SEND schools that are to be built in Barkham have both been awarded to the Ascendency Trust. Ascendency is a new trust led by Addington, the Borough's outstanding special school. This is really very good news for our children.

Director of Children's Services

The new permanent Director of Children's Services, Emma Cockerell, joined the Borough Council on 8th April.

Capital Projects Update 2024/25 - April 2024

Aр	pendix	5
----	--------	---

Item No		Project		Budget	Actual Cost to date	Committed Cost to date	Original Project Detail	Action/Notes	Status
1	R&A	Wetpour replacement	£	16,538.00			Replace areas of wetpour in play area identified by ARD	Updated quote received from ARD £17,116.50. R&A to discuss	In progress
2	R&A	MH Ceiling Tiles	£	2,000.00			Replace ceiling tiles in hall, kitchen foyer, lobby and corridor	Clerk ordering and will arrange for installation during close-down in August	In progress
4	R&A	Teenage Shelter (£5,000 CIL)	£	14,000.00			Replace shelter near car park	Clerk obtaining quotes for R&A	In progress
5	R&A	MH Internal Redecoration	£	3,000.00			Paint walls, radiators and woodwork in hall and lobby	Clerk obtaining quotes for R&A. Work to be scheduled for August	In progress
6	R&A	Event gazebo and banner	£	600.00			New 3x3 gazebo plus sky banner to advertise raffle	Clerk placed order	In progress
7	R&A	Trampoline/Fitness Trail	£	17,000.00			Creation of new fitness trail around recreation ground and installation of 3x3 trampoline near play area	Clerk obtaining quotes for R&A	In progress
8	R&A	Miscellaneous	£	2,000.00					In progress
9	R&A	Top dress overflow car park	£	2,500.00			Top up of shingle to overflow parking area	Clerk obtaining quotes for R&A	In progress
11	R&A	SR/JGR lift/staircase (£21,250 CIL)	£	45,000.00			Strip out bar area and install internal lift and staircase from bar area to John Grobler Room	Referred to Facilities Development WG	In progress
13	FC	Climate Change Working Group	£	5,000.00					In progress
14	FC	Sustainable Transport Working Group	£	500.00					In progress
15	FC	Facilities Working Group (£5,000 CIL)	£	5,000.00			Incidental costs for planning of AP refurbishment		In progress
16	FC	AP Underpinning (£15,000 CIL)	£	10,000.00			Underpin building at SR end	Clerk obtaining quotes	In progress

Utility Contracts briefing paper

The current gas and electricity contracts for the Winnersh Community Centre and Allnatt Pavilion are due to end on 18th April 2024.

The existing contracts are as follows:

Supply	Current Supplier	Current unit cost	Current standing charge	Est Annual Cost
Gas Allnatt	British Gas Lite	8.93p Kwh	45p per day	£ 987.42
Gas CC	British Gas Lite	8.68p Kwh	61p per day	£5,356.52
Electric CC	YGP	31.32p Kwh	69.31p per day	£ 1,758.85

The Assistant Clerk has obtained quotes for new contracts as follows:

BGL393077	GAS Allnatt				
Supplier	Term	Unit Cost	Standing Charge	Est Annual Cost	
	1 Year	6.63p Kwh	42p per day	£764.45	
Valda Energy	2 Year	6.94p Kwh	42p per day	£793.03	No green
	3 Year	6.88p Kwh	41p per day	£783.85	power
	1 Year	6.71p Kwh	56p per day	£822.93	available for gas supplies
YGP	2 Year	6.77p Kwh	57p per day	£832.11	_
	3 Year	6.70p Kwh	58p per day	£829.31	
British Gas Lite	1 Year	8.89p Kwh	25.65p per day	£913.10	
	2 Year	8.54p Kwh	26.11p per day	£882.52	

BGL393062	GAS CC				
Supplier	Term	Unit Cost	Standing Charge	Est Annual Cost	
	1 Year	5.20p Kwh	216.50p per day	£3,865.82	
Smartest Energy	2 Year	5.27p Kwh	216.50 per day	£3,907.22	
	3 Year	5.45p Kwh	216.50 per day	£4,013.68	
	1 Year	6.63p Kwh	42p per day	£4,074.68	No green
Valda Energy	2 Year	6.94p Kwh	42p per day	£4,258.03	power
	3 Year	6.88p Kwh	41p per day	£4,218.89	available for gas supplies
	1 Year	5.99p Kwh	153p per day	£4,101.30	
Dyce Energy	2 Year	6.07p Kwh	155p per day	£4,155.91	
Dyoo Energy	3 Year	6.05p Kwh	158p per day	£4,155.03	
	1 Year	6.89p Kwh	68.59p per day	£4,325.51	
British Gas Lite	2 Year	6.96p Kwh	74.23p per day	£4,387.50	
	3 Year	6.96p Kwh	75.84p per day	£4,393.38	

YGPBP44397	Electric CC				
Supplier Term		Unit Cost	Standing Charge	Est Annual Cost	
	1 Year	23.76p Kwh	60.00p per day	£1,361.38	Green
YGP	2 Year	23.65p Kwh	60.00p per day	£1,356.09	Green
	3 Year	23.75p Kwh	60.00p per day	£1,360.90	Green
British Gas Lite	1 Year	25.42p Kwh	40.00p per day	£1,368.19	
Dillisti Gas Lile	2 Year	25.38p Kwh	42.00p per day	£1.373.57	
	3 Year	26.16p Kwh	45.00p per day	£1,422.02	
EDF Online	1 Year	24.00p Kwh	60.00p per day	£1,372.92	
	2 Year	24.30p Kwh	60.00p per day	£1,387.34	

NB: The electricity supply to Allnatt Pavilion is now linked to the solar power supply and therefore an account is no longer required.

Officer Recommendation:

To sign up for gas and electric contracts as follows:

Supply	Supplier	Term	Unit Cost	Standing Charge	Est Annual Cost
Gas Allnatt	Valda Energy	2 Year	6.94p Kwh	42p per day	£793.03
Gas CC	Valda Energy	2 Year	6.94p Kwh	42p per day	£4,258.03
Electric CC	YGP	2 Year	23.65p Kwh	60p per day	£1,356.09

Estimated annual saving on existing prices: £ 1,695.64.

Winnersh Summer Fete 2024 - Action List

Description	Detail	Status	Action	Who
Theme	Agree theme (if any)	Agreed no specific theme		Complete
Charities	Two local charities	SHARE Wokingham and Reading		Complete
		Family Aid agreed. Clerk has		
		advised charities		
Sponsorship	Sponsorship package levels	Packages same as 2023		Complete
	Business sign-up		PF to approach local businesses	PF
Publicity	Pre-advertising	Save the Date flyer uploaded to		Complete
		social media		
	Free press		Contact for advertising space	JY
	Winnersh Matters	Agreed no printed newsletter	E-newsletter draft complete. Will	Clerk
			be published early May	
	Flyer/poster design, printing,	Clerk has design on Canva. Will	Finalise design; Arrange printing;	Clerk/ All Cllrs
	distribution	update with current info as	Organise delivery to all households	for delivery
		received.		
	Banners	Banners updatd		Complete
	On-street publicity		Banners and posters	JS/GH
	Website		Upload flyer	JY
	Social media		Upload flyer	JY
	Local radio		Advertise nearer the time	Clerk
	School newsletters		Send flyer to schools	Clerk
	Winnersh Triangle news bulletin			PF
Stalls	Invitations to previous participants	Initial invitations sent to previous		Complete
		stall holders , equipment and		
		entertainment providers. 48		
		stalls/attractions currently booked		
	New groups	Post stall holding opportunity on	Repeating weekly	Clerk
		social media		
	Info point	Will set up next to raffle tent		Complete
Static	Inflatables	Inflatable assault course and		Complete
Attractions		bouncy castle confirmed by WBC.		
I		Additional toddler jungle inflatable		
		booked by WPC		
	WBC activity equipment(climbing	Climbing wall booked by WBC.		Complete
	wall/ archery)			
	Face painting		WBC not able to provide. Clerk	Clerk
			obtaining quotes for a provider	
	Magician/balloon modeller		WBC not able to provide.	Complete
	Circus Scene	Confirmed attendance		Complete
	Fire service/police	Fire Service confirmed attendance		Complete
	Musical entertainment	Saxcelerate confirmed		Complete
	Scouts	JY has confirmed Scout attendance		Complete
Arena	Dance display	Dance Zone confirmed display		Complete
Programme	Brass Band?	Alternative musical entertainment		Complete
		booked		
	Maypole dancing (Bearwood)	Bearwood School confirmed		Complete
	Wheelbarrow / Tug of War		Contact local schools	DG/PF

	Winnersh Games			JB/MK
Parking	Arena & car park perimeter		Book 4-6 weeks before	Clerk
-	(Volkers)			
	Marshalling		Contact Earley ACT for volunteer marshalls	GH
	Straw & sandbags (depending on weather)		GH to arrange	GH
	Signage for parking		Check existing signage	Clerk/JY
Equipment	PA system	Booked - same cost as 2023		Complete
	Wheelbarrows		Arrange use of wheelbarrows	GH
	Trophies		Order trophies/medals	JY
	Fire extinguisher		Book hire of mobile extinguisher unit (£86)	Clerk
	Music for races		Organise suitable music	Clerk/DG
Statutory	First Aid	First aid provision booked through Beyond First Aid		Complete
	TEN Licence	Licence received		Complete
	Insurance		Notify insurers of event. Obtain PLI certs from stallholders/ equipment providers	Clerk
	Risk Assessment		Update with 2024 details	Clerk
Catering	Ice cream van	Booked -Francas	·	Complete
· ·	Candy floss / sweet stall	Booked		Complete
	Burgers / drinks	Scouts confirmed attendance		Complete
	Tea, coffee, cakes	Church confirmed attendance		Complete
	Mobile coffee van	Gorilla Bakes left site. Bluebell Box attending		Complete
	Bar - who? Siren Brewery/	Southern Bar Services confirmed		Complete
	Southern Bar/ Outback	attendance		
	Pizzatron	Attending early		Complete
	Samosas	Stall holder confirmed		Complete
affle	Prizes		Source prizes	LD
	Ticket books	Sufficient books available		Complete
	Ticket Sales			RN
	SumUp machine		Ensure machine and mobile charged and ready	Clerk
Other	Mayor	Mayor booked to attend		Complete

Key:			
PF	Paul Fishwick		
GH	Geoff Harper		
DG	David Green		
RN	Raf Nicholson		
JB	Joseph Boadu		
JY	Joanne Yeomans		
MK	Maniu Kak		

	Schedule of Payments - April 2024					
	Payee	Description	An	nount	Comments	
	Payroll					
1	Net Salaries	Net Salaries (MM/CF/VC/JY/KS)	£	6,445.98		
2	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£	1,578.20	Apr-24	
3	Berkshire LGPS	LGPS Contributions	£	2,466.52		
	Invoiced Payments					
4	A Solo Security	Alarm Monitoring & Maintenance	£	1,107.60	2024/2025	
5	A Star Signs	Date change to fete banners	£	36.00	Apr-24	
6	BALC	BALC/NALC Annual subscription	£	1,816.47	2024/2025	
7	Bowak	Caretaker Supplies	£	199.99	Mar-24	
8	Castle Water	Water - Main Hall	£	75.30	Mar-24	
9	Collard	Waste Collection	£	116.80	Mar-24	
10	Gallagher Insurance	Annual Contract 2024/2025	£	4,545.55	Apr-24	
11	Geoff Harper	Expenses - rope/posts for new trees	£	67.00	Apr-24	
12	Holly Digital	Printer/Copier Service	£	39.18	Mar-24	
13	ITQED	IT monthly support	£	98.80	Apr-24	
14	ITQED	PC backups & anti-virus	£	40.19	Apr-24	
15	ITQED	365 backup	£	57.60	Apr-24	
16	Nick Robins	Grounds maintenance	£	502.80	Mar-24	
17	Rialtas	Annual Support - Omega	£	1,465.20	2024/2025	
18	Rialtas	Annual Support - Bookings	£	532.80	2024/2025	
19	Rialtas	Annual Support - Allotments	£	298.80	2024/2025	
20	Rialtas	Annual Support - VAT submissions	£	132.00	2024/2025	
21	Surrey Fire & Safety LTD	Emergency Lighting - 6 month service	£	246.00	Apr-24	
22	Web Marketing Matters	Website Support & maintenance	£	202.80	Mar-24	
23	M Qureshi	Damage Deposit Refund	£	200.00	Mar-24	
24	U Lade	Cancelled booking	£	147.60	Apr-24	
	TOTAL for Payroll/Invoiced Payme	nts/Refunds	£	22,419.18		
	Direct Debits					
25	British Gas	Gas - Main Hall	£	587.16	14/03/24 - 16/04/24	
26	British Gas	Gas - Allnatt Pavilion	£	59.56	14/03/24 - 16/04/24	
27	Daisy	Caretaker mobile phone	£	9.71	Mar-24	
28	Sage	Accounts Software	£	15.60	Mar-24	
29	Sirus Telecom	Monthly maintenance	£	55.98	Mar-24	
30	YGP	Electric	£	43.21	20/02/24 - 20/03/24	
	TOTAL for Direct Debits		£	771.22		
	Lloyds/UNITY Bank Multipay Card					
31	Wokingham	TEN - Fete	£	21.00	Mar-24	
32	Argos	Clocks, batteries and mops	£	47.50	Mar-24	
33	Meadowmania	Wildflower seed mix	£	23.98	Mar-24	
34	Sainsburys	Litter pick refreshments	£	11.40	Mar-24	
35	Sainsburys	Wooden teaspoons	£	2.50	Mar-24	
36	Lloyds	Monthly fee	£	3.00	Apr-24	
	TOTAL for Multipay Card by Direct Debit		£	109.38 23,299.78		
	TOTAL SPEND					
	Paid since the last meeting					
	R Iqbal	Damage Deposit	£	200.00	Mar-24	
	TOTAL paid since last meeting		£	200.00		
	Bank Balance held					
	Unity Bank		_	81,658.65	Mar-24	
	Redwood Bank			85,000.00	Mar-24	
	CCLA			100,000.00	Mar-24	
	TOTAL for all Bank Accounts		£ 2	266,658.65		