

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Victoria Park sub Committee of the COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 12th August 2019 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors; Roger Hunneman, Jon Gage; Billy Drummond; Nigel Foot; Jeff Beck, Sarah Slack,

In Attendance

David Ingram, Community Services Manager

Also in attendance: Cllr Elizabeth O'Keefe

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Martha Vickers, Olivia Lewis, Chris Foster, David Marsh, Martin Colston

- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Community Services Manager declared that Councillors Jeff Beck & Billy Drummond, are also Members of West Berkshire Council, which is declared as a general interest on their behalf and a dispensation is in place to allow them to partake in discussions relating to West Berkshire Council business.

- 3. Mins of Meeting of 8th July 2019**

Mins of the meeting of 8th July 2019 were unanimously approved with amendments to the resolution Item 5 d to read:

Resolved: To recommend to the Community Services Committee that the area currently set aside for a football pitch should be retained as open play area for casual use by the public and the use monitored for future discussion

- 4. Questions and Petitions from members of the Public,
None submitted**

- 5. Members Questions & petitions
none received**

- 6. Blue Plaque for Lottie Dod**

Members discussed the best location for this plaque and it was unanimously agreed

that if it was to be placed in Victoria Park, the best location would be on or close to the Tennis Courts It was proposed by Cllr Beck, seconded by Cllr Foot that this sub Committee recommend to the Heritage Working Group

that a location on the perimeter of the Tennis Courts be found to place this plaque.

7. Friends of Victoria Park

It was unanimously agreed that the provision of the new Café was unlikely to impose on the Victoria Park rose beds and that

subject to confirmation that the material used is safe and complies with Council environmental policy these were no objections by the subcommittee in the Newbury in Bloom Working Group committing to the rose spraying programme over the next 2 or more years.

8. Sensory Garden

The sub Committee discussed the merits of this project and it was agreed that it would be of significant benefit to both Victoria park and the residents of Newbury It was suggested that the original location should be reviewed and the materials must comply with the environmental outlook of the Council set out in the Climate Change agenda.

Proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Drummond that the Community Services Committee should consider the inclusion of a new Sensory Garden within the new Café project subject to reconsideration of the design & funding by Sponsorship be sought, recommended it.

9. Queen Victoria & the lions

Discussion took place in respect of the Terracotta statues in Victoria Park and it was agree that this Heritage should be preserved.

The sub Committee recommended, proposed by Cllr Beck, seconded by Cllr Gage **that the Community Services Committee should consider the options for the restoration and or preservation of the Statues currently in Victoria Park**

10. Exclusion of Press & Public

Under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential financial nature of the business to be transacted.

11. COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

The Community Services Manager's Report was noted.

Resolved: - that the Café building be the focus for this project

- that the Committee endorse the recommendations from the Design meeting of 17th July 2018 and in particular,
- that the building will be Carbon Neutral
- that the building design will target BREEAM Excellent with an expectation that it will pass Very good aspiring Excellent
- that the risks post Planning be mitigated with minimal Conditioning of a Planning Consent given
- that at the earliest opportunity the Café design is discussed with a proven operator to ensure operationally the building is fit for purpose

Proposed: Cllr. Jeff Back

Seconded: Cllr. Billy Drummond

11. The Chair invited Cllr E. O’Keefe to outline the result of the Straw Poll held on the Family Day in Victoria Park as it referenced the proposed new café facility
The outcome suggested that:

Significate majority were in favour of the new café facility.

The summary of the finding are :

Write ONE thing you would really like to see in the Park

Toilets 8

Café 3, all year round, upgraded, food drink ice cream

1st aid point 1

Range related to play/ activity areas 7 responses more for toddlers, monkey bars for older children, climbing area, adventure area for 8-9-year olds, more slides, more stuff, more kids’ activities.

Other suggestions 1, Football park 2 splash park bigger one, 1 trampoline, 1 bouncy castel, 1 circus

1 shelter with bench

1 dedicated dog run, dog waste bins

1 police

Do you want to have a better café in the park?

Yes 36

don’t mind 5

no 2

Would you like a sensory garden for non-sited hearing-impaired elderly?

Yes 36

don't mind 7

no

Is there now enough in the Park and the rest should be left as open grass areas?

Yes 22

don't mind 14

No 6

Would you like to become member of The Friends of Victoria Park?

Yes 7 *contacts given and 1 not sure yet*

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 8.40 pm.

CHAIRPERSON