MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY**

**ON MONDAY 10th JULY 2023 AT 7.30PM**

# PRESENT

Councillors; Vaughan Miller; Jayne-French Drayton; Nigel Foot; Ian Jee; Martha Vickers; Alistair Bounds; Vera Barnett; Roger Hunneman; David Marsh

**In Attendance**

Martin Kavanagh, Services Delivery Manager

Caroline Edmunds, Community Services Officer

David Ingram, Projects Delivery Manager

Hugh Peacocke, Chief Executive Officer

## APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jayne French-Drayton

**SECONDED:** Cllr David Marsh

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Vaughan Miller be elected as Chairperson.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**SECONDED:** Cllr Vera Barnett

**RESOLVED:** That Cllr Jayne French-Drayton be elected as Deputy-Chairperson.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Sarah Slack.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

The Services Delivery Manager declared that Councillors Nigel Foot, David Marsh and Martha Vickers 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.

1. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 13 March 2023 are approved and signed by the Chairperson.

1. **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

There were none.

1. **MEMBERS’S QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

Question received from Cllr Meg Thomas:

**The Ancient Burial Mounds Area, Wash Common.**

**“Can Community Services pick up the following issues and move forward with them? I acknowledge however that Historic England needs to be involved in the process.”**

i “We feel the vegetation at the ring barrow and its neighbour should be lowered so the public can appreciate the site more”.

ii “The interpretation boards at all four sites need updating”.

iii “The path from Glendale Ave to Battle Road also needs updating.”

**Chairperson’s Response:**

“I thank the member for raising the question and would recommend that we frame this as a motion for the next Community Services Committee where this can be fully considered, and next steps can be determined.”

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN MILLER**

Simon Alston and Alex Wren from CSA07, a local youth football club were invited to speak regarding the current football pitch offering from Newbury Town Council as they use Wash Common Recreation Ground and City Recreation Ground for games together with a number of other pitches which are not looked after by NTC.

They have around 300 registered players from 7-year-olds to under 18’s. They have 40 volunteer coaches from the local community and players represented by over 20 nationalities.

They expressed concern that there are not enough floodlit pitches in Newbury for teams to train and play. They are also concerned that there are not enough pitches of varying sizes for different ages of children to play. They informed the committee that there is not a single FA approved 3G pitch for playing matches in Newbury. They also informed the Committee that there are grants available to clubs and suggested that perhaps NTC could partner with clubs to support improvements.

The Chairperson thanked them for their presentation.

The Services Delivery Manager confirmed that during the summer there is a schedule of Works to prepare both Wash Common and City Recreation Ground ready for the start of the season to make repairs and improve the pitches.

Concern was expressed with regards to dog mess on the football pitches.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**SECONDED:** Cllr Ian Jee

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Services Committee of Newbury Town Council resolve to improve the existing playing pitches and bring back online Victoria Park football pitch and explore marking out smaller pitches within the existing sites.

It was further agreed that the Council should consult residents in the vicinity of Victoria Park to advise them of this proposal and invite their views on how any impacts on them might be minimised.

1. **MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR VAUGHAN MILLER**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jayne French-Drayton

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Services Committee of Newbury Town Council resolve to seek to improve our provision of our allotments across the town. The first step would be to carry out a survey of all our allotment holders.

It was agreed that a task group would be set up with Cllrs Vera Barnett, Jayne French-Drayton and Sarah Slack. The Task Group will put together consultation questions which will be forwarded to Officers for input and brought to the next CS Committee meeting for approval in September.

1. **WORKING GROUPS**

**GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Terms of Reference for the Green Spaces Working Group.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**SECONDED:** Cllr Ian Jee

**RESOLVED:** That the members of the Green Spaces Working Group are:

Cllrs Jayne French-Drayton, David Marsh, Ian Jee, Sarah Slack and Martha Vickers

Substitutes: Cllrs Vaughan Miller and Alistair Bounds

**MARKET WORKING GROUP**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**SECONDED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Terms of Reference for the Market Working Group (with amendments as discussed and attached to these minutes).

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Alistair Bounds

**SECONDED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**RESOLVED:** That the members of the Market Working Group are:

Cllrs Jayne French-Drayton, David Marsh, Gary Norman, Nigel Foot, Vaughan Miller and Martha Vickers.

1. **THE VICTORIA PARK SUB COMMITTEE**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**SECONDED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Terms of Reference for the Victoria Park Sub Committee.

1. **BENCHES IN PUBLIC SPACES**

The Services Delivery Manager gave an update on the Council’s Policy on the provision of benches in public spaces, as attached at Appendix 6 of the agenda. Further context was also provided by the Community Services Manager.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**SECONDED:** Cllr Vera Barnett

**RESOLVED:** To Approve the Council’s Policy on the provision of benches in public spaces.

1. **SERVICES DELIVERY MANAGER’S REPORT**

The contents of the Services Delivery Manager’s Report were noted.

The Committee thanked our new Grounds Maintenance Contractors, John O’Conner for their commitment and support with the new contract.

The Committee also thanked NTC Officer James Heasman, our Parks & Open Spaces Supervisor for his support and commitment with Community Projects in particular.

1. **HUTTON CLOSE**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Vaughan Miller

**SECONDED:** Cllr Vera Barnett

**RESOLVED**: To approve the proposal to plant up to 30 donated trees and bulbs at Hutton Close and to continue to investigate other uses which were suggested through the Public Consultation in 2022.

1. **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 23/24 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

The Forwards Works Programme for 2023/24 was noted and Members were invited to raise any additional items for consideration for the next meeting.

It was requested that the Allotment Survey as discussed in this meeting is added to the Forward Works Programme for the next meeting in September 2023.

**Note: A vote of thanks was given to David Ingram, Community Services Manager on the occasion of his last meeting with the Committee.**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21:25**

**CHAIRPERSON**