

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, MARKET PLACE, NEWBURY
ON MONDAY 17 JUNE 2019 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Councillors Jeff Beck; Martin Colston; Jo Day; Billy Drummond; Nigel Foot; Chris Foster; Jon Gage; Olivia Lewis; Steve Masters (substitute); Vaughan Miller (substitute); Sarah Slack, Martha Vickers.

In Attendance

David Ingram, Community Services Manager
Caroline Edmunds, Community Services Officer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Leader of the Council, Councillor Martin Colston, presided over the election of the Chairperson.

PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston

SECONDED: Councillor Vaughan Miller

RESOLVED: That Councillor Olivia Lewis be elected as Chairperson of the Community Services Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

Councillor Olivia Lewis took the Chair for the remainder of the Committee meeting.

PROPOSED: Councillor Jon Gage

SECONDED: Councillor Jo Day

RESOLVED: That Councillor Martha Vickers be elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Community Services Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/2020.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Roger Hunneman; David Marsh

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Community Services Manager declared that Councillors Jeff Beck, Billy Drummond, Steve Masters, 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.

4. MINUTES

PROPOSED: Councillor Martha Vickers

SECONDED: Councillor Jo Day

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 11 March 2019, be approved.

5. QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question 1 from Mr Stan Green (read by the Chairperson): “Why does NTC refuse to provide some all-weather shelters in Victoria Park when there is clearly a need?”

Answer from the Chairperson: “A number of years ago, a ‘teen shelter’ was discussed but it was not put into place due to concerns with rough sleepers and anti-social behaviour in one area. Newbury Town Council also take note of the decision by Hungerford Town Council, September 2018, to remove their Shelter in “Skate Park” for similar reasons.

The provision in due course of a Community Café with its extended roof area as well as the proximity of the Parkway development provides adequate shelter should the users of the Park encounter inclement weather”.

Question 2 from Mr Stan Green (read by the Chairperson): “Why does NTC refuse to stop dog ‘walkers’ allowing their animals defecating in Victoria Park? You (NTC) have already deemed it necessary to introduce a rule, compelling dog walkers, in the Newtown Road Cemetery, to keep their animals on short leads at all times, as a potential solution, why do you refuse to introduce a similar Bye-law in Victoria Park?”

Answer from the Chairperson: “Newbury Town Council have adopted the recommended National standard framework for its Bylaws, which makes no mention of control of dogs.

Local Councils are under an obligation to assist Dog Owners under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to consider suitable places for dogs to be exercised, this needs to be borne in mind.

The only area which has specific control is the Children’s Play area in accord with RoSPA standards.

Newtown & Shaw Cemeteries are different facilities; closer control of dogs is required due to graves and other protected areas.

These are not areas for dogs to be exercised in the same way as in Victoria Park”.

Question from Mr. David Fenn: “When you agree the membership of Newbury in Bloom Working Group at item 11.1 are you reappointing existing members of the public?”

They are the following who have been in the group for the last three or four years:-

**Paul Barker
Samantha Carpenter
David Fenn
Tony Hammond
Fran Lawton
Fiona Walker**

Answer from Chairperson: “Both Newbury in Bloom & the Regional Entry for Britain in Bloom are well under way, it is intended to keep the current Working Group in place until the post competition review has taken place in October 2019.

The outcome of that review will be taken into account how Newbury Town Council will manage these competitions in the future”.

6. MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT

The Community Services Manager's Report was noted.

There was discussion regarding the following items on the report:

2. Town Hall Structural Survey – it was suggested by the previous Council that when this is carried out, we could include thermal imaging.

The Community Services Manager stated that the cost of this is significant and as the building is a listed building, with no cavity wall, the results could be pre-empted as 'orange'.

It was noted that West Berkshire District Council have the equipment to do this, which could be loaned to the Town Council.

The Community Services Manager was asked to source the National guidelines which are available to try to minimise the heat loss from the Town Hall and at the same time respect the integrity of the historic building. The Deputy Chair advised that Thermal Imaging equipment may be available via West Berkshire Council.

3. Bowls Club Roof

It was confirmed that Newbury Town Council own the Bowls Club building in Victoria Park and that the Bowls Club let it on a 10 year lease from NTC, which has 8 years to run.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that solar panels on the roof of the building are feasible and he is waiting for specific technical detail for this.

7. Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Community Services Manager was asked if there was any scope for the use of electric lawnmowers. He explained that the NTC contract is with West Berkshire Council and runs until 2023. Amendments could be made, although there would be significant penalties. The CSM undertook to discuss this matter with the Contractor & WBC.

12. Architectural Illumination of the Town Hall

It was noted that this item may not now be in keeping with the new Council's sustainability and environmental aims.

8. NEWBURY IN BLOOM

The minutes of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group of 14 March, 12 April and 17 May 2018 were noted.

Councillor Martha Vickers expressed thanks to the very skilled volunteers that are part of the group and are very valuable and should be thanked for their participation.

9. ALLOTMENT TENANTS MEETING

The minutes of the Allotment Tenants Meeting of 16 April 2019 were noted.

Councillor Olivia Lewis asked if there was scope to leave the strimming and cutting of the hedges at the allotment sites. CSM would discuss this with the Contractor & WBC.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that the cutting of the hedges is only done in the winter months once a year and this is continually being reviewed.

There was discussion regarding the 'out of parish' fees for allotment tenants who live outside of the Newbury Parish boundary. Councillor Billy Drummond suggested that NTC contact Greenham Parish Council to discuss options.

10. MARKET WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the Market Working Group held on 1 April 2019 were noted.

It was discussed that a meeting is held with Councillors and Market Traders at around 4pm in the Market Place. It was agreed this was a good idea and would be set up for the summer by the Community Services Officer liaising with the Market Manager.

11. WORKING GROUPS AND SUB-COMMITTEES

11.1 PROPOSED: Councillor Steve Masters
SECONDED: Councillor Martha Vickers

RESOLVED: That the members of the Newbury in Bloom Working Group remain with Members being invited to attend on an ad hoc basis and will be reviewed after the 2019 judging.

11.2 (a)

PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston
SECONDED: Councillor Billy Drummond

RESOLVED: To appoint a Sub-Committee to deal with issues around the construction of the Community Café and the changing rooms in Victoria Park. The members were noted as:

Councillors Martin Colston; Billy Drummond; Jon Gage; Roger Hunneman; Steve Masters and one more place to be agreed with 4 substitutes. It was agreed that Officers would send an email to all Members asking if any other Councillors would like to be a member of the group.

11.2 (b)

PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston
SECONDED: Councillor Jon Gage

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference for the Victoria Park Sub-Committee are agreed.

11.3 PROPOSED: Councillor Olivia Lewis
SECONDED: Councillor Vaughan Miller

RESOLVED: That a decision regarding the Working Groups is deferred until the September Community Services Meeting with the following immediate actions:

- Officers to arrange a meeting with Market Traders and Councillors in the summer as noted in the MWP minutes of 1 April 2019.

- The Community Services Manager compiles a presentation for the September Community Services meeting with a summary of the current Market situation and what steps have been taken/advice received in the past.
- A meeting is set up with the Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery with a view of holding an annual meeting with Councillors if required.

12. ALLOTMENT COUNCILLOR VISITS

- 12.1 PROPOSED:** Councillor Martha Vickers
SECONDED: Councillor Chris Foster

RESOLVED: To hold the 2019 Councillor Allotment visits over 3 evenings this year during mid-August after the Newbury & Britain in Bloom awards judging.

- 12.2 PROPOSED:** Councillor Billy Drummond
SECONDED: Councillor Steve Masters

RESOLVED: That for the purpose of the Allotment Awards, the Allotment Stewards judge the best in each category to provide an award list for Councillors to visit & congratulate on the three days. Certificates will be awarded to the winners at the Community Services Committee Meeting of 23 September 2019.

- 12.3** Officers will contact all Members and arrange the dates for August and ask volunteers to attend.

13. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2019/20

The Forward Work Programme was noted.

It was confirmed that litter and dog bins were emptied on a set routine for each site in accordance with the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Any concerns about frequency should be directed to the CSM.

Officers are asked to investigate the reconnection of the Water Fountain at the Town Hall and other opportunities for Water bottle replenishment on NTC property.

14. CITY RECREATION GROUND CONSULTATION

The consultation outcomes were noted.

The Community Services Manager confirmed that there was currently no budget in place for any works at present until a decision was made on the outcomes & recommended options to be put forward at the next meeting.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

- PROPOSED:** Councillor Steve Masters
SECONDED: Councillor Billy Drummond

RESOLVED: That under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business (agenda item 17) because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

16. NEW COMMUNITY CAFÉ & SPORTS CHANGING FACILITY – VICTORIA PARK

16.1 The Community Services Manager updated the Committee on the current plans for the proposed community café.

It was noted that the current application has been withdrawn pending the review of Environmental credentials of the proposals.

PROPOSED: Councillor Martin Colston

SECONDED: Councillor Steve Masters

RESOLVED: To 'de-couple' the changing rooms and the community café and treat them as two separate projects, giving priority to the café and to research the demand for the changing rooms by football teams and the tennis coaches.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9:40pm.

CHAIRPERSON