MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

**ON MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

# PRESENT

Councillors Martin Colston; Olivia Lewis (Chair) Jeff Beck; Nigel Foot; Chris Foster; Roger Hunneman; Steve Masters; Sarah Slack; Martha Vickers (Vice-Chair).

**In Attendance**

David Ingram, Community Services Manager

Jo Lempriere, Community Services Officer

Before the meeting commenced – Chair Olivia Lewis asked attendees to take a moment to Remember the Little Boy who lost his life in the canal on Saturday 13 March 2021.

## 31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jon Gage – No Substitute as stuck in traffic

## DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

The Community Services Manager declared that Councillors Jeff Beck, Steve Masters, Martha Vickers and Phil Barnett (in attendance as asking a question) 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.

## MINUTES

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**SECONDED:** Cllr Chris Foster

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on 14 December 2020, be approved.

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

**There was one question from Marion Fenn, Wash Common:**

“Is the maintenance of existing trees on your forthcoming consultation to residents of Wash Common?

Whilst it is great to see extra trees planted it is important to look after our existing trees which are established important habitats for a multitude of wildlife and oxygenators, as well as beneficial to the mental health and general well-being of humans.

We have some beautiful, mature trees growing in the neighbourhood – woods, allotment, etc. but many are camouflaged by ivy which could eventually weaken the trees, or its weight cause them to topple.

Could volunteers be asked to sever the ivy and help restore the trees for environmental advantages and appeal?”

The Chair’s Reply was:

*Members will be aware that the Town Council recently carried out its 5-year Tree Surveys. The result has provided the Council with a schedule of necessary works phased over the following 5-year period. The urgent works, including felling several trees at Wash Common has been completed. The next phase is to consider the ongoing management matters which include issues such as those raised in this question. Members will also be aware that the Town Council has instructed Info Nature to carry out a Biodiversity survey in Wash Common.*

*The outcome of both the Trees works & biodiversity survey will inform the Council to what extend where and how any ivy and or similar should be removed.*

*The Parks & Green Spaces Officer will at that point look at any opportunity to involve the Public to assist in any agree works.*

## MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

**There was one from Cllr Phil Barnett:**

“Now that the Government has offered £30m to local authorities under Changing Toilets Grant Would this grant be if interest to NTC and if so could this Community Services Committee meeting request the council to bid against the grant fund”

Chair’s Reply was:

*The Council can confirm that on the 4th March 2021 the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government issued a statement which in summary stated:*

*• £30 million available from government to install life-enhancing Changing Places toilets in existing buildings in England*

*• Changing Places toilets are a lifeline for more than a quarter of a million disabled people across the UK*

*• Government working in partnership with Muscular Dystrophy UK (MDUK) as co-chair of the Changing Places Consortium to provide support to councils*

*• Local authorities will soon be invited to “opt in” to receive a proportion of this funding, based on need, to install facilities in their communities*

*The Council has requested further information from the Ministry on this funding.*

**There was one from Cllr Martha Vickers who asked:**

“Would the Town Council be agreeable to Community Matters adding a Little Free Library (LFL), a recycled plastic bench. a small tree and some plants to the small section of land on the edge of Dyson's Close and Russell Rd. which is in Newbury Town Council ownership subject to a local consultation being carried out?

The Chair’s Reply was:

*The Town Council is in discussion with Community Matters on this subject. Community Matters insurance liability is acceptable, the project in principle is agreed subject to meeting the Town Council’s requirement for Public Consultation.*

*Subject to a positive result from a Consultation exercise of residents and The Green Spaces Working Group, and approval by this Committee, the Town Council would be willing to agree by exchange of letter that Community Matters use this area for the purposes set out above.*

**One question from Cllr Vaughan Miller:**

“Wash Common Investment Consultation proposal.

In particular, the document provides a suggested list of streets for letter drops.

Whilst they cover quite a large neighbouring area, I would suggest that even these are insufficient for the consultation.

We should be including as wide an area as possible; I attach a map that Members might wish to consider.”

The Chair’s Reply

*Members can debate the Wash Common Consultation shortly. Can I suggest that Cllr Miller raises this question during that discussion and Members can debate this in more detail? The map has been distributed to Members for this meeting.*

**36. GREEN SPACES WORKING GROUP – NEWBURY IN BLOOM**

**36.1** The minutes of the Green Spaces meetings of 20 December 2020, 14 January 2021 and 18 February 2021 were noted

Cllr Beck requested his name be added to 20 December attendee’s as he was at the meeting,

**36.2** Due to technical issues, Cllr Martha Vickers was unable to give a report from the Friend of Newtown Road Cemetery, the Chair asked that she send an email with the report as soon as possible.

**36.3** Green Spaces Working Group Activity Plan

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**RESOLVED:** That the Green Spaces Working Group Activity Plan for the 2020/21 be appoved as published.

1. **COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGERS REPORT**

Councillors received an update from the Community Services Manager on activities undertaken as per the items as attached at Appendix 3 of the Agenda.

**37.1** Newbury in Bloom

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**SECONDED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**RESOLVED:** To approve the fall-back option and engage in the public in a digital Newbury in Bloom competion, with a view to returning to the full event for 2022.

**37.2** Greenham House Gardens

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff beck

**RESOLVED:** That subject to suitable agreed adjustment because of the Consultation feedback by the Green Spaces Working Group, within allocated Budget with the phased delivery of the project, th Council approvesthe transfer of the land to NTC.

**37.3** Victoria Park Wild Flower Meadow

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Chris Foster

**SECONDED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**RESOLVED:** That subject to any minor adjustment by the Green Spaces Working Group, within allocated Budget, the wild meadow seed planting along Park Way, Victoria Park be approved.

**37.4** Old Hosptial Green NHS Garden

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**SECONDED:** Cllr David Marsh

**RESOLVED:** That subject to any minor adjustment by the Green Spaces Working Group, within allocated Budget, the Council approves the NHS Commemoration Garden on Old Hospital Green and to organise of a formal opening of the Gardens in late Spring 2021 by a suitable representative of the NHS family.

**37.5** Boidiverstity

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**SECONDED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**RESOLVED:** That subject to any minor adjustment by the Green Spaces Working Group, within allocated Budget, the Biodiversity investigation works at Victoria Park, Newtown Road Cemetery and Wash Common open space, be awarded to Future Nature, the Consultancy arm of BBoWT.

**37.6** British Spring Clean Event 2021

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**SECONDED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**RESOLVED:** To approve, subject to date setting by the Green Spaces Working Group, within allocated Budget, that the Council participates in the Great British Spring Clean event, 28th May to 13th June 2021

**37.7** One Tree Park Allotment Extention

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**SECONDED:** Cllr Roger Hunneman

**RESOLVED:** To approve, subject to any additional requirements of the Green Spaces Working Group, the area of land oposite the main allotment site to be incorporated into the One Tree Allotments.

* 1. Fifth Road Play Areas

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**RESOLVED:** To bring the project forward in the 10-year Playground Replacement Plan, ahead of the Consultation on Greenham areas.

* 1. The overall contents of the Community Services Manager’s Report were noted, and comments made as above.
1. **WASH COMMON INVESTMENT CONSULTATION PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Chris Foster

**SECONDED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**RESOLVED:** That the Consultation be carried out as outlined in appendix 4 of the Agenda.

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Martha Vickers

**SECONDED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**RESOLVED:** To approve the phase 1, General Public Consultation exercise as set out in Appendix 4.1 of the Agenda, within the outline approved by the Green Spaces Working Group, be carried out as wide rangingly and as quickly as possible.

It was recommended that as wide an area as possible be covered by letter delivery to ensure as many residents as possible have direct contact from the Council on this project. It was recommended that the map produced by Cllr Vaughn Miller be used as the delivery area.

1. **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE 2021/22**

**39.1** The forward working programme of the Community Services Committee was noted.

**39.2** There were no additions to the Community Services Forward Working Programme.

1. **NEW COMMUNITY CAFÉ FACILITY – VICTORIA PARK**
	1. The Draft Minutes of the Victoria Park Sub-Committee meeting of 11 February 2021 were noted.
	2. The Community Services Manager gave a verbal update of the current plans to the Committee. The revised plans showing the Flood eleviation & mitigation strategy have now to be submitted to the West Berkshire Council, this project will be tabled at their West Area Planning Committee, hopefully in early June.

A Workshop with potential business partners for the Café has been held, with positive results. The initial Tenders to select an operator have been issued with a retun date of 5th April 2021

**40.3** Cllrs Roger Hunneman and Martin Colston, thanked the Community Services manager for his continued hard work on this project.

1. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Jeff Beck

**SECONDED:** Cllr Martin Colston

**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 12) because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential financial nature of the business to be transacted.

1. **TENNIS IN NEWBURY**

**PROPOSED:** Cllr Nigel Foot

**SECONDED:** Cllr Sarah Slack

**RESOLVED:** That further discussions and negotiations with National Tennis Association and the LTA to see if a joint approach to management to Tennis in Newbury can be achieved to maximise court usage.

Cllrs Jeff Beck, Vaughan Miller and Nigel Foot have volunteered to attend future discussions as part of a Working Group.

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRPERSON THANKED ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE AND DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.44pm**

**CHAIRPERSON**