



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
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Minutes of the **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **Tuesday 3 NOVEMBER 2020.**

PRESENT: Cllrs L. Wooldridge (Chairman); S. Hanna (Vice-Chairman); P. Fishwick;
J. Southgate.

IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Stoneman (Clerk)
Joanne Yeomans (Community Engagement & Lettings Officer) (CELO)
Nathan Winyard (Sindlesham Baptist Church)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs A. Greenwood; F. Obileye.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

3 CHRISTMAS EVENT ON BEARWOOD RECREATION GROUND

3.1 Nathan Winyard from Sindlesham Baptist Church had been invited to inform the Council of a proposal to hold a Christmas service event on Bearwood Recreation Ground in early December with the theme of advent and a Christmas message. The proposal was to hold the event between 6.00 pm and 7.15 pm with short seasonal videos being shown on a large screen using audio/visual equipment.

3.2 The event would need to take place close to the Allnatt Pavilion as power would be required for the audio-visual equipment and lighting.

3.3 The public would be required to register in advance, would be socially distanced and would need to bring their own chairs.

3.4 A discussion took place about health & safety issues and the risk assessment, including measures that would be necessary in the event of inclement weather.

3.5 The committee, having considered the risks, including how the organiser would put in place measures to minimise the risk of transferring coronavirus, **RESOLVED** that, after careful consideration, it would not support the event going ahead at this time. The committee thanked Mr Winyard for attending the meeting and explaining the proposal in detail.

- 3.6 The committee asked that the organisers be thanked for presenting the idea and to advise that the Parish Council, whilst supportive of community events, would be willing to consider a similar proposal at a time when the situation with the coronavirus pandemic had improved. **ACTION: CELO**

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE 6 OCTOBER 2020

- 4.1 (Item 3.3) The Clerk advised that an invoice had not yet been received from Berkshire Youth, but it was expected. Cllr Hanna confirmed that the normal procedure was that the invoice would be reviewed by him to ensure it was purely to help cover the costs of staffing the sessions. It was agreed that if the costs were in line with those received previously the council would authorise the payments.
- 4.2 (Item 7.2) The Clerk confirmed that the planning application, submitted by the architect, had included an environmental statement and reference to the works being completed within a conservation area.
- 4.3 (Item 9.4) The Clerk confirmed that the hardstanding base at the allotments had been completed and payment made.

5 PUBLIC SESSION: There were no members of the public or press in attendance.

6 COVID-19

- 6.1 Following the announcement by government that a further period of lockdown would commence from Thursday 5 November, members of the Executive Committee had agreed that the Community Centre and Parish Office would close until the 2 December and longer if necessary. It was agreed that measures put in place for the closure would be reviewed at the next meeting on the 1 December and earlier if possible.
- 6.2 Whilst some hirers considered their activities to be exempt for educational reasons the committee agreed that the Community Centre (Winnersh Hall and Sindlesham Room) and Allnatt Pavilion would all be closed without exception.
- 6.3 The Clerk advised that measures had been put in place including access to a virtual network to ensure that staff could work from home. Ansaphone messages could also be accessed remotely.

7 HIRE CHARGES

- 7.1 The Community Engagement and Lettings Officer (CELO) put forward a proposal to review how the Winnersh Hall and Sindlesham Room hire charges are set. Whilst during the week hourly charges are applied, the weekend had a block charge for the entire evening from 6pm and included both the Winnersh Hall and Sindlesham Room as a package.
- 7.2 This would be fairly normal practice for casual bookings, particularly parties, but as these were not currently taking place it was considered that a more flexible charging policy be applied where a hirer could book for a shorter period of time and for one or both rooms depending upon the requirement. It was suggested that a minimum charge of two hours be applied, and it was agreed that the CELO would develop a proposal for consideration at the next meeting. **ACTION: CELO**

8 COMMUNITY CENTRE - EXTENSION AND CLADDING

- 8.1 The Clerk reminded the committee that the planning application for the extension to the main hall, and for the cladding to the side and rear of the community centre building, had been submitted and was going through the consultation period that was due to end on the 12 November.
- 8.2 The process for seeking quotations and/or tenders was discussed and, in line with the financial regulations, the architect acting as agent for the council could seek these, advise on them and present a recommendation to the committee and council for approval.

9 ALLNATT PAVILION

- 9.1 The Clerk advised that the architect was in the process of drawing up a plan of the Allnatt Pavilion, having recently completed a measured survey. It would then be possible to consider options for the future use of the Allnatt Pavilion, John Grobler Room and Parish Office with one option being to relocate the Parish Office to the Allnatt Pavilion.
- 9.2 As part of the review, consideration would be given to access arrangements to the John Grobler Room that could include a passenger lift and internal staircase. This would make the first floor accessible and a more attractive proposition as a hireable space.

10 OUTDOOR GYM

- 10.1 The Clerk advised that works to install the outdoor gym and safety surface were due to start on the 11 November. Following on-site discussions with the contractor the option of installing a short length of pathway to link the gym and the car park were considered. The Great Outdoor Gym Company (GOGC) subsequently costed the works and provided a quotation of £1,035 + VAT. The committee approved the additional expenditure.

11 PLAY AREA

- 11.1 The Clerk advised that ARD Playgrounds had been asked to complete repairs identified as high risk in the recent playground report. The repair of the SPICA Spinner would be an expensive repair as it was not possible to just replace the worn bearing. The cost was approximately £1,000 for a repair or £1,500 for a complete new unit. The Clerk had been able to source a refurbished unit for £350 +VAT from the sub-contractor who would be installing the outdoor gym. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 11.2 The committee agreed to progress with the lower cost refurbished item that would be installed at the same time the outdoor gym equipment was installed.

12 WINNERSH ALLOTMENT GARDEN

- 12.1 The CELO advised that, with exception of five allotment holders, rents had been collected. The outstanding payments would be followed up and if necessary, the council would recover and re-let plots. **ACTION: CELO**
- 12.2 Positive feedback had been received from several allotment holders about setting up an allotment association and consideration was being given to how that could be progressed. **ACTION: CELO**

13 TREES

13.1 The Clerk advised that whilst Nick Robins (Grounds Maintenance Contractor) monitored the condition of trees around the Bearwood Recreation Ground it was necessary to carry out a periodic detailed tree survey. The committee agreed that the survey should be carried out and accepted the quotation of £880 +VAT. **ACTION: CLERK**

13.2 Cllr Fishwick put forward a proposal to plant some additional trees on Bearwood Recreation Ground, near the boundary with Mole Road, as an initiative to help support the climate change emergency. The committee supported the proposal and agreed to recommend to Full Council that the cost of approximately £600 + VAT be funded from the Climate Change budget. It was also agreed that as part of the project that Reading Thames Rotary Club would plant crocus bulbs in the vicinity of the new trees in support of World Polio Day that was marked on the 24 October 2020.

14 LITTER BINS

14.1 Cllr Fishwick put forward a proposal that the existing litter bins around the Bearwood Recreation Ground be replaced with dual recycling and general waste bins.

14.2 The committee supported the proposal and agreed to recommend to Full Council that the cost of approximately £4,000 + VAT be funded from the Climate Change budget. Subject to that approval it was agreed that Cllrs Fishwick, Wooldridge and Hanna in conjunction with the Clerk and CELO would consider the most suitable style of bins for the open space environment and progress the project. **ACTION: CLERK/CELO/CLLRS**

15 NOTICEBOARDS

15.1 The Clerk explained that whilst it was intended to review the locations and use of public noticeboards, that had not been possible and it was agreed the project would be deferred for the time being and brought back to a future meeting. **ACTION: CELO**

16 ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY

16.1 Cllr Wooldridge advised the committee that she and the CELO had considered WBC's draft Arts & Culture Strategy and had invited input from all councillors. A response was being drafted and it was agreed that this would be submitted to Wokingham Borough Council on behalf of the Parish Council. **ACTION: CELO**

17 CORRESPONDENCE

17.1 The Clerk advised of an email exchange with Thames Valley Police, PCSO Emily Treadgold, who was part of the Winnersh and Sindlesham Neighbourhood Team. The Clerk explained that he had subsequently met with PCSO Treadgold to discuss local policing issues and in particular some of the anti-social behaviour around Winnersh Railway Station.

18 MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN: None

19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2020 at 19:30

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.30.