



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
New Road, Sindlesham, Wokingham
Berkshire RG41 5DU
Phone 0118 978 0244
e-mail clerk@winnersh.gov.uk
www.winnersh.gov.uk

Minutes of the **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **Tuesday 6 APRIL 2021.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Stoneman (Clerk).
Joanne Yeomans (Community Engagement & Lettings Officer - CELO).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE 2 MARCH 2021

Item 5.1 – The CELO advised that regular hirers had been contacted about their intentions to return following the lifting of lockdown restrictions and the majority would be returning on a phased basis. Some additional enquiries had been received from potential regular hirers and there was one confirmed casual booking for the end of June.

Item 7.2 - The Clerk advised that he been in contact with Thames Water and Castle Water about billing for the water supply and when the account was live would raise the issue of potentially increasing the water pressure given the relatively poor pressure at the top end of the site near plots 1 to 6.

Item 9.3 – The Clerk and CELO would investigate options for catering at the Community Centre/Bearwood Recreation Ground when lockdown restrictions were lifted.

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

5 COVID-19

5.1 The CELO advised that the Outdoor Gym had re-opened with effect from the 29 March.

6 HIRE CHARGES AND DEPOSITS

6.1 The CELO explained the current arrangements whereby refundable damage deposits of £200 were taken from regular and casual hirers. It was explained that this was an

administrative and accounting burden and had discouraged some potential hirers. The Committee **RESOLVED** to cease the practice of holding damage deposits with, the exception of parties for adults, particularly those involving alcohol, and deposits already held would be returned to regular hirers. **ACTION: CELO/APC**

6.2 The Committee considered the current charges for parish facilities, including allotments and **RESOLVED** to not make any increase at the present time but to review the situation in September allowing the CELO to carry out some benchmarking against similar type facilities in neighbouring town and parish council areas. **ACTION: CELO**

6.3 The committee noted that any increase in allotment charges from October 2022 would need to be agreed, and allotment holders notified, by October 2021 at the latest.

7 COMMUNITY CENTRE - EXTENSION AND CLADDING

7.1 The Clerk advised that the works to replace the cladding to the Community Centre had commenced and that good progress was being made. The data sheets for the insulation and UPVC cladding materials had been provided by the builder and had been sent to Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service to ensure they were compliant with regulations.

7.2 The construction of the extension to the main hall would follow and the architect was in the process of finalising the detailed drawings.

8 WINNERSH ALLOTMENT GARDEN

8.1 The CELO and Cllr Hanna advised that the inspection of the allotments had taken place on Saturday 27 March 2021 and that a member of the Winnersh Allotment Association had participated in the inspections. They were pleased to confirm that the majority of the allotments were being cultivated and were looking good. Approximately 17 out of 90 (full and half plots) were identified as needing some attention and the plot holders would be contacted to establish their intentions and to encourage activity. **ACTION: CELO**

8.2 Cllr Hanna raised the issue of land drainage between plots 80 and 86 explaining that as the ground levels appear to fall in the opposite direction to the newly installed drainage run, it may not be practical to extend the drainage to run towards the car park end of the site. The Clerk was asked to raise this with Wokingham Borough Council to determine what solution could be found to ensure plots 80 to 86 could be drained of surface water. **ACTION: CLERK**

9 LAND ADJACENT TO WINNERSH ALLOTMENT GARDEN: TO SUGGEST POTENTIAL USES

9.1 Cllr Fishwick explained that Wokingham Borough Council and ward councillors had met virtually with allotment holders to explain the proposal for the development of a SEND school and a housing scheme.

9.2 It was explained that the land (formerly worked by a local farmer) between the allotment garden and the British Legion Social Club would not be allocated for development and views were being sought for its potential use. Such uses as additional allotments, an orchard and play area were discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Wokingham Borough Council and explain that Winnersh Parish Council would, in principle, be interested in taking some form of ownership or lease of the land and to explore what options that could include. It was suggested that if progressed, legal advice

would need to be sought to assist with lease/purchase in due course.

ACTION: CLERK

10 CAPITAL PROJECTS

10.1 Cllr Wooldridge thanked the committee for their involvement and participation in the workshop on the 24 March that considered options for the refurbishment and/or replacement of council facilities. A confidential paper had been circulated setting out a range of options including how schemes could potentially be funded.

10.2 The committee agreed not to consider in isolation any refurbishment of the Allnatt Pavilion or Sindlesham Room and Parish Office. Options and a detailed business case would be produced, and it was expected this work would be carried out over the next three to four months. It was agreed that a recommendation, based on this approach, would be made to Full Council on the 13 April 2021. **ACTION: CLLR WOOLDRIGE/CLERK**

11 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

11.1 The Clerk advised that information had been received from Keep Britain Tidy about the Great British Spring Clean event scheduled to run between the 28 May and 13 June 2021.

11.2 Wokingham Borough Council were considering how they would participate, and no decision had yet been made. Concerns around coronavirus would possibly mean that local activity would be delayed until later in the year and the Clerk would continue to liaise with WBC about plans for that. In Winnersh and Sindlesham it was anticipated that the annual litter pick would be the focus for Winnersh Parish Council and the local community.

ACTION: CLERK/CELO

12 CORRESPONDENCE: There were no items of correspondence.

13 MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN: There were no urgent matters.

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14.1 The Clerk advised that the government had written to all local authorities explaining that The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 do not apply to meetings on or after 7 May 2021. Essentially, this would mean that all virtual meetings of the council would have to cease after the 6 May 2021.

14.2 In order to ensure compliance it was agreed that the date set for the next meeting of the Recreation & Amenities Committee (4 May, 2021) would be offered to Full Council to enable the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be brought forward from the 11 May to the 4 May. It was further agreed that a discussion would be held at Full Council about the Annual Parish Meeting (also scheduled for the 11 May, 2021) and a re-scheduled Recreation & Amenities committee if that was considered necessary.

14.3 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was **Tuesday 1 June at 19.30.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.45.