



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
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Minutes of the Informal **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **Tuesday 6 JULY 2021.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Philip Stoneman (Clerk)
Joanne Yeomans (Community Engagement & Lettings Officer - CELO).
Gareth Mephram (Berkshire Youth Service)
Lesley Doyle (Member of the public)

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- 1.1 Cllr Wooldridge opened the meeting and invited nomination for the Chairman.
- 1.2 Cllr Fishwick proposed Cllr Wooldridge for the position of Chairman and that was seconded by Cllr Hanna.
- 1.3 Cllr Wooldridge invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Cllr Fishwick proposed Cllr Hanna and that was seconded by Cllr Wooldridge.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr J. Southgate.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

4 BERKSHIRE YOUTH

- 4.1 Gareth Mephram from Berkshire Youth was welcomed to the meeting and provided an update on youth service provision at Rainbow Park. Gareth explained that he was responsible for overseeing the youth service provision that his team delivered at Rainbow Park community centre. They have been trying to offer a range of activities but were unable to operate in the facility until May and had only been able to operate for 3 weeks.
- 4.2 It was explained that Berkshire Youth had undergone a restructure and Jessica Kirby's role was being moved to Newbury. WBC have potentially two members of staff that would be going into Rainbow Park. Some monitoring of the service had been introduced to help ensure the growth of the service.

- 4.3 Gareth confirmed that the service would be running over the summer with at least one activity a week being provided. Jessica had been working with schools to help promote interest in the activities and currently around 15 young people were actively engaged. The service work on a ratio of 1:10 (staff to young people).
- 4.4 Cllr Fishwick and Cllr Hanna both felt that promotion was key and in addition to what Gareth and his Team were doing, WPC should also promote through its own sources.
- 4.5 Gareth agreed to provide a further update at the next R&A meeting on the 7 September and offered to share the report that Jessica had produced.
- 4.6 The Clerk provided an update on funding and the agreement by WPC to provide this in the form of two grants of £2,250 each throughout the year.
- 4.7 Cllr Hanna expressed the view that this was a vital service and the importance of supporting it. Gareth was thanked for taking the time to meet with the committee and for a very helpful update.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING OF THE 6 APRIL 2021

- 5.1 Item 6.1: The CELO explained the current arrangements whereby refundable damage deposits of £200 taken from regular and casual hirers had now ceased, the only exception being parties for adults, particularly those involving alcohol. Deposits already held were in the process of being returned. **ACTION: CELO**
- Item 6.2: The benchmarking against similar type facilities to be considered at the next meeting in September. **ACTION: CELO**
- Item 8.1/8.2/9.2: Relating to allotments would be considered under Item 11 on the agenda.
- Item 10.2: relating to capital projects would be covered under Item 12 on the agenda.
- Item 11.2: In light of the pandemic, it was apparent that there would not be a Great British Spring Clean event this year although WBC had advised that September may possibly be an option.

- 6 PUBLIC SESSION:** Lesley Doyle, having applied to become a Parish Councillor, was attending as an observer to see how the R&A Committee operated.

7 COVID-19

- 7.1 The Clerk and CELO gave an update advising that most of the regular hirers had returned and that demand for casual bookings, mainly children's parties, was increasing. An update from government was awaited about the potential lifting of restrictions from the 19 July and if these were lifted it was expected that usage of the facility would return to pre-covid days.
- 7.2 Arrangements would remain in place to ensure that areas were cleaned and sanitised to a high standard with emphasis on touch points including door handles, light switches and high footfall areas.

8 WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE UPGRADES

- 8.1 The Clerk advised that the cladding works to the community centre were complete and had been finished to a high standard. The cost had increased as some additional cladding works, not included in the original quotation, were agreed in consultation with the Chairman. The total cost of the works were £28,090.37.
- 8.2 The flooring in the Sindlesham Room had been fitted by Berkshire Construction and had blended in well with the existing floor. The flooring material had been provided by the Parish Council and was installed by Berkshire Construction at a cost of £885.40 +VAT.
- 8.3 The Clerk advised that the external doors to the Sindlesham Room needed replacement and two companies had recommended that they be replaced with aluminium doors. A window in the Sindlesham Room was blown and needed replacement. The main doors to the Winnersh Hall were sticking and were proving difficult to open. Berkshire Construction had provided the most competitive quotation at £2,788.16+VAT to complete the works and the committee recommended that the Clerk progress the works. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 8.4 The Clerk explained that the quotation for the construction of the extension to provide storage space for tables/chairs and Winnersh Rangers FC goal posts and nets had been reviewed since it was submitted over 6 months ago. Due to an increase in the cost of building materials and some unforeseen work that emerged when the detailed drawing had been produced the revised cost was now £43,047.88. The committee recommended that the Clerk progress the works. **ACTION: CLERK**

9 NOTICEBOARD AT WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE

- 9.1 The CELO set out a proposal for a public notice board to be installed at the Community Centre, the type recently installed at the allotment garden, at a cost of £1,327 + £97.50 delivery + VAT. It was suggested that the grounds maintenance contractor be asked to install it. The committee recommended that the CELO progress with ordering and installing the noticeboard. **ACTION: CELO**

10 WPC GAZEBO

- 10.1 The CELO had obtained a price for a WPC branded gazebo and at around £1,000 that was considered an unnecessarily high cost.
- 10.2 Cllr Fishwick advised that he had recently purchased a gazebo, details had been sent to the Clerk, and one could be purchased at a lower cost. The gazebo was of good quality and included an easy fold structure, included a back and side panels and was available in green to match the WPC logo. The committee recommended that the CELO progress with purchasing the lower cost version.
Post meeting note: A green coloured gazebo (with WPC logo) was ordered at a cost of £285.79 + VAT.

11 WINNERSH ALLOTMENT GARDEN

- 11.1 The CELO informed the committee that the Winnersh Allotment Association (WAA) had held their AGM. Postholders remained unchanged with the exception that the CELO was no longer providing secretarial support and the WAA were seeking a replacement.

- 11.2 The second annual inspection had been carried out by Cllr Hanna and the CELO. Plot holders that had not been cultivating their plots had been contacted and advised that plots would be taken back unless there was evidence that work was progressing.
- 11.3 The high security padlocks were becoming increasingly unreliable and the opportunity would be taken to review their use when the new access road and reconfigured entrance was installed.
- 11.4 The Clerk advised that Craig Hoggeth (Head of Property Services at WBC) had contacted him about the new access road and had advised that the contractor Reds10, who would be building the SEND school and constructing the access road would make contact to discuss the proposal and details particularly in relation to the allotment garden.
- 11.5 Cllr Fishwick asked about the land between the British Legion Social Club and the allotments. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council had submitted an informal expression of interest to take on the land that could potentially provide addition allotment space and other recreational uses. The Clerk advised that he would contact Sarah Morgan (WBC) for an update.
- ACTION: CLERK**

12 CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 12.1 Cllr Wooldridge, as chair of the Building for the Future Working Group gave an update on the method and progress for finding out what facilities the community would like to see provided at the Community Centre/Bearwood Recreation Ground. A questionnaire was in draft form and would be sent to councillors as a pilot to test whether there were any issues with the design and/or questions being asked. Cllr Wooldridge expressed her thanks to the staff and Cllr Fishwick who had been investigating the use of Google survey forms as a means to potentially input and analyse the data.

13 CORRESPONDENCE: None.

14 ANY OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN: None.

15 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 7 September at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40.