



## **Winnersh Parish Council**

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Minutes of the Informal **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **Tuesday 7 SEPTEMBER 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)

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr J. Southgate.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.

### **3 BERKSHIRE YOUTH**

- 3.1 Gareth Mephram from Berkshire Youth (BY) attended the meeting and provided an update on youth service provision.
- 3.2 Youth service work had continued at Rainbow Park but as it was a little turbulent during lockdown, that reflected on what could be offered. BY continued to provide activities over the summer but these were relatively poorly attended with very little engagement.
- 3.3 Gareth had been in discussion with the Operations Director and CEO at BY about what could be offered to help support young people and to justify the investment being made by WPC. It was explained that BY have a Youth Bus that can be deployed to various locations rather than fixed regular times at Rainbow Park community centre. The opportunity could also be taken to consult with young people (possibly using SurveyMonkey) about what services/facilities would be attractive.
- 3.4 BY were looking at what provision there was in and around Winnersh (not just that provided through BY) that could be offered to young people. The aim was to link in with existing activities and to provide new opportunities.
- 3.5 Support would be sought from the Parish Council to help promote the consultation and that some of the funding could be used to help with that.

- 3.6 Gareth said that WPC would be very welcome to visit the bus and see how it was being used. The facilities and activities on-board included computer consoles, hot drinks, mini sports cupboard etc.
- 3.7 There would be stakeholder engagement with organisations including Thames Valley Police through the local neighbourhood teams/PCSO's.
- 3.8 Cllr Fishwick felt that targeting teenage youth through outreach work was a really good idea and WPC would provide a list of suggested locations. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 3.9 In summing up Gareth agreed to set out the plan in writing with the provision being added to the existing current agreement. The committee felt this was an excellent idea and looked forward to hearing more about how the outreach work was progressing.
- 3.10 Gareth offered to join the next few R&A meetings to update the committee and would be very happy for the committee to visit the bus when it was out at various locations.

#### **4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021 were approved.
- 4.2 Item 5.1/6.1 Damage deposits were no longer being taken, with the exception of parties that included alcohol, and deposits to regular hirers were in the process of being returned.
- Item 5.1/6.2 Some benchmarking of other facilities had been carried out to help inform a review of charges for community centre facilities in due course.
- Item 9.1 The public notice board for the Community Centre had been delivered and a quote for installation had been sought.
- Item 11.5 The Clerk advised that he had contacted Sarah Morgan and Craig Hoggeth at Wokingham Borough Council to reaffirm that the Parish Council was interested in the land between the allotments and Royal British Legion Social Club, possibly for an extension to the existing allotment garden or other open space/community use.

#### **5 PUBLIC SESSION:** There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **6 WINNERSH COMMUNITY CENTRE UPGRADES**

- 6.1 The Clerk advised that works had started on the extension to provide storage space. The foundations had been installed and the spoil arising from the excavations had been distributed at locations around the recreation ground to provide bunds to discourage unauthorised access.
- 6.2 Cllr Hanna asked that the locations of bunds be checked to ensure they didn't block any pedestrian access from New Road on to the recreation ground. **ACTION: CLERK**
- 6.3 Cllr Fishwick suggested that the bunds be planted with wildflower seeds rather than grass seeding. **ACTION: CELO**

- 6.4 The doors to the Sindlesham Room and Winnersh Hall hadn't been progressed as the Clerk was in the process of liaising with Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service about fire exits.

## **7 WINNERSH ALLOTMENT GARDEN**

- 7.1 The CELO explained that in order to apply any increase in allotment charges, 12 months' notice would be required for implementation in October 2022.
- 7.2 The committee considered that the rental should remain unchanged, given the potential disruption during the construction of the SEND School and new access road. The rental would next be reviewed in October 2022 for implementation in October 2023 and that recommendation would be put to Full Council on the 14 September 2021.

**ACTION: CLLR WOOLDRIDGE**

## **8 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT**

- 8.1 The committee discussed whether a Christmas event should be run in December 2021, possibly along the lines of previous events.
- 8.2 Cllr Hanna was supportive of running an event and if the council were to proceed that planning should start now. The event would have to be planned on the proviso that if there was a coronavirus lockdown in the Autumn/Winter, or if infection rates were increasing, the event may have to be cancelled.
- 8.3 Cllr Fishwick was also supportive and considered there were two options.
- Option 1 - would be to run a Christmas lights switch on along the lines of what had been provided in the past (at minimal cost); or
- Option 2 - to run some kind of enhanced event that may include traders and an improved lights display.
- 8.4 Cllr Fishwick emphasised the need to advertise the event at least a month in advance and that, from the good attendance at the fete, the community may well be in favour of having a Christmas event.
- 8.5 Cllr Hanna mentioned that we hadn't always used Bearwood Primary School and that we should extend the opportunity to Winnersh Primary School and Wheatfield Primary School.
- 8.6 It was considered that a Christmas market had potential and could be well supported if sufficient notice was given.
- 8.7 The CELO advised that a local florist had asked to run a wreath making class and to hire the Sindlesham Room for that on the same evening of Friday 3 December. The Winnersh Hall could be made available for a Christmas market and possibly carol singing.
- 8.8 Cllr Fishwick asked if Christmas lights could be extended on the site and the Clerk offered to look at the options including brighter and more robust lights.

- 8.9 The committee did not support a fireworks display, not just because of climate change but because they are loud and could cause disturbance to local residents and animals.
- 8.10 Cllr Wooldridge suggested exploring the use of drones with laser lights and whilst this may be an expensive option it would be worth exploring. **ACTION: CLERK/CELO**
- 8.11 The committee felt that refreshments including mulled wine, mince pies and hot drinks provided by the ladies from the local church should be provided.
- 8.12 A discussion also took place about Christmas trees/decorations in the community centre and the Clerk suggested that these needed to be updated as the existing decorations were in a poor condition.
- 8.13 Cllr Wooldridge would present the views of the committee to Full Council on Tuesday 14 September and seek agreement to proceed with a Christmas event along the lines set out.  
**ACTION: CLLR WOOLDRIDGE**

## **9 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 9.1 Email: AH Wills & Sons Ltd  
Subject: Quotation for drainage works at the allotments.
- 9.2 Email: ARD Playgrounds  
Subject: Quotation for backboards and hoops for basketball court.
- 9.3 Email: Wokingham Brough Council  
Subject: BC Sports Awards 2021 – Friday 26 November at 7.30 – invitation to attend.
- 9.4 Email: Wokingham Brough Council  
Subject: Building Control conditional approval for extension (storage) to community centre.
- 9.5 Email: Local resident  
Subject: Concerns about the bench in Jersey Drive attracting ASB.

**10 ANY OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN: None.**

**11 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 5 October at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40.