



Winnersh Parish Council

Winnersh Community Centre
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Minutes of the Informal **RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE** meeting held remotely on **Tuesday 4 October 2022**.

Present : Cllrs: S. Hanna (Vice chair); K. Bradeepan; L. Doyle;.

Also in attendance: Cllr G Harper

In the absence of a chair Cllr S Hanna as vice chair, chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for absence.**
Apologies received from Cllrs R. Nicholson and J. Southgate
2. **Declarations of Interest.**
None
3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held on the 6 September 2022.

Winnersh Allotments

Item 7.1 - There is a waiting list for allotment plots, so if plots are vacated there are people to fill them. There could be other areas on site which could grow trees, especially as there already fruit trees growing on site. However, with the ongoing issue of thefts it may not be advisable to introduce the scheme as it would be unfortunate if any of Freely Fruity's produce goes missing. **Agreed; Cllr Harper volunteered to discuss with Freely Fruity.**

Item 7.2 - To consider a rent increase for the 2023/24 year. This was unable to be taken to Full Council on 13th September due to the period of national mourning. **It was recommended that rents are frozen for 2023/24.**

Item 7.3 – Update on work taking place in autumn 2022 by Highways England. (Item 6.2 on agenda)

Item 7.4 - To receive an update on thefts of produce on the allotment site. The CELO has emailed the Chair of the Winnersh Allotments Association to suggest research is done over the winter to potentially have equipment in place for the start of the growing season next year. Considerations will need to be made on whether this needs WBC approval. **The committee NOTED this item.**

Item 7.5 - Allotment Code of Conduct. There is a clause in the allotment tenancy agreement

where tenants must be 'no nuisance' to any other plot holders. It does not say anything specifically about a code of conduct in terms of behaviour. **The committee NOTED the update.**

Item 8 - Abandoned and unattended cars in the community centre car park: to consider measures to address the use of cars left in the community centre car park

A sign informing users that no vehicles must be left overnight would be approximately £50+VAT based on previous signage ordered for the community centre. The car in question has been parked in the car park since late May/Early June at the latest. Office staff have checked, it is taxed and has a current MOT certificate. The Interim parish Clerk has been liaising with WBC and a notice was placed on the car by WBC's Anti-Social Behaviour team on Wednesday 28th September giving the owner 7 working days to remove the car and then it will be towed. **The committee NOTED the update and recommended to purchase the sign.**

Item 9 – Secure store cupboard in parish office: to receive and consider a quote for a secure cupboard in the parish office to be built.

The only secure storage we have are filing cabinets. There is a large amount of documents which should be kept safe due to GDPR. One suggestion is that all office staff move their desks into the John Grobler Room and the current room where the CELO and APC sit, which is lockable be used as a secure storage room. This may involve costs with moving equipment and possible IT QED support but should be cheaper than Berkshire construction's quote.

The committee discussed this and NOTED that the John Grobler room is not DDA compliant and not let out to hirers, therefore the best course of action was to relocate all staff into the John Grobler room

Item 10 – Kenyan Festival: to consider request for the annual Kenyan Festival to go ahead next year. (see agenda item 7).

Item 11 – Playground inspection: to receive an update from the quarterly playground inspection.

The Assistant Parish Clerk (APC) has been in touch with the company about the playground repairs. The parts needed are expected to arrive in the middle of October and an installation date is TBC. ARD Playgrounds assured the APC that the engineers would be on site as soon as the parts arrive. **The committee NOTED the update.**

Item 12 – Wokingham Borough Council Playing Pitch Strategy Survey: the CELO completed this and sent it off.

Item 13 – Request from The Gate Church, Sindlesham: to receive and consider a request from the church to use the community centre for community events over the winter.

The CELO emailed The Gate Church. A response was received stating they now didn't have the staff to pursue the project. **The committee NOTED the update.**

Item 15 – The Budget for R&A projects for 2022/23 was £88,000. As of 21.09.22 £10,277 has been spent which has just been on the replacement doors for the community centre and parish office. **The committee agreed to review the budget and projects to ascertain what**

could be achieved this financial year.

4. **Public Session:** There were no members of the public in attendance.
5. **Berkshire Youth:** the committee received an update for funding a Youth Club (Annex A). **The committee agreed to recommend approval of the revised quote.**
6. **Winnersh Allotments:** to receive an update.
 - 6.1 Outcome of inspection and tenancy renewals.
(Annex B) – CELO report
 - 6.2 Summary - There were 9 tenants which R&A had previously agreed to terminate. One has returned the key. there are 4 which have asked to appeal the decision (38, 43, 75 and 79). The remaining 4, the CELO has not heard from as of 29th September.

(Annex C) – **Committee Recommendations.**

- 6.3 Update from National Highways.
National Highways are trying to find a solution after WBC did not provide permission for them to use the new access road currently being created at the allotment site. The Project manager attended a meeting with the Royal British Legion (RBL) about using their car park, and National Highways have approached WPC to use an allotment plot as a vehicular access from the RBL car park. There is a plot which may be suitable, but we are still in the process of terminating the tenancy.

Cllr Harper summarised the current situation and suggested the potential use of plot 28 to be used as the access for Highways England (HE). The HE had advised that 2 HGV's per day would be needed to set up and take away the site compound and normally transit size vans would be used. Highways England would repair any allotment roads.

It was agreed that we needed to resolve the outcome of the plots (Item 6) before Friday 7th Oct, before making a recommendation to Full Council.

7. **Kenyan Festival:** to consider request for the annual Kenyan Festival to go ahead next year.
Annex D

The committee discussed the issues around the Kenyan Festival this August **and recommended that whilst the Parish Council support such an event, it has outgrown the size of the Recreation Ground, caused a nuisance and danger to the community with considerable amount of broken glass left on the ground. The halls that are let out for hirer were left in an unsatisfactory state creating the extra work it creates for both the ground and office staff incurred a financial cost. The event charged the public to enter the recreation ground that must remain open to the public as it is public open space. Therefore, the committee recommends that the Parish Council would need to regrettably decline the event for 2023.**

8. **Replacement doors at Winnersh Community Centre:** to receive an update and consider quote for installing door holds.

The new doors have been installed. It has been requested by the caretaker and a couple of hirers that the doors can be able to be held open to ensure accessibility and help with the

ventilation, especially in the Sindlesham Room. Quote from Berkshire Construction.

The committee agreed to recommend that the quote for the front door be accepted but not the Fire doors at the rear as these must not be kept open.

9. Repairs to urinals in the community centre: to receive and consider a quote for repairs needed to the urinals.

The flushes in the urinals are not working correctly, **a quote for the repair was recommended for approval.**

10. Correspondence: to receive items of correspondence. - None

11. Any other matters considered urgent by the Chairman. - None

12. Date and time of the next meeting: Tuesday 1 November 2022, 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21:00.